

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 10, 2013

Supervisors Present: Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey, Rob Zisko and John Oehler
Also present: Chief McDonald, Rich Schilling (Township Manager) and Jason Wager (Secretary/Treasurer)

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Township resident Karen Bedics has made two calls to PennDOT and a phone call and email to Paul Clymer's office about having the weeds trimmed on Richlandtown Pike between State and Gruversville Roads because of the increased traffic from the Route 412 bridge detour. She said they have not come out and done anything yet and she was wondering if anything could be done about it. She also stated she had read in the paper about the Board discussing lowering of speed limits and speed humps and she was wondering which roads the Board was entertaining doing this on.

Governmental Matters

(1) Richlandtown Pike Task Force – Richlandtown Borough Mayor Carl Raub read a letter describing the issues with large truck traffic on Richlandtown Pike and his hope to create a task force of local townships and municipalities along the Richlandtown Pike corridor. Barbara Lindtner gave a briefing on what the Board learned from PennDOT at the previous Board Meeting and the safety concerns created by the Route 412 bridge detour. She suggested the Mayor join the Township's task force. Rich Schilling gave a recap of the meeting with Township residents and PennDOT. Township roads could be used for the detour, but they would need to meet PennDOT's specifications. He was also told the steel bridge off of Route 212 and Bridge Road was going to be bid out in the next few months and would be closed. The PennDOT officials hoped the Board of Supervisors would ask the county to defer this so that three bridges wouldn't be closed at once. The group was also told that PennDOT's equipment was down and couldn't perform the roadside maintenance. The Board inquired about the Township's Road Department doing the roadside mowing on the state roads. John Oehler called Grace Industries and PennDOT called him back stating that the communication should go through PennDOT. John was contacted by PennDOT representative Tim Penrose and was told there were some issues about the Walking Purchase monument. No definite dates and timelines were given, but they expected things to move forward within the next week. John stated he could check in with Mr. Penrose regularly and see where things are in relation to the project. Mayor Raub would like to try to move truck traffic to Route 309 because of the safety concerns along Richlandtown Pike. He stated the State Police has increased speed checks and Richland Township was not receptive to his request. He said that PennDOT will thoroughly investigate and research what can be done and he's hoping to have a united front from all municipalities to discuss the issue. Rob Zisko stated he understood the issue, but the trucks have to go somewhere. The consensus of the Board was to support moving large truck traffic to Route 309, but not at the expense of other township roads getting increased traffic and they would want to be represented at the table for the discussion about this concern.

Old Business

(1) Route 412 Bridge closure traffic impact to the community – Barbara Lindtner thanked residents for their letters and comments and that these would be forwarded to PennDOT. She stated that regular weekly meetings should be held to try to get PennDOT officials, residents and business owners to meet and continue to find solutions to the problems of the detour. The Board did not have the impression that the project would be done this year, but still hoped it could be accomplished although one of the main issues of the project is when the contractors have to be out of the stream to comply with DEP. The additional enforcement approved by the Board been helpful, but this is only at peak hours. Rich Schilling and Chief McDonald confirmed some of the signs have been fixed, but not all of them. John Oehler asked if PennDOT had driven the route to review the signs and their placement, which Rich said has not happened with a Township representative. Barbara Lindtner suggested a shared detour with the Township Road bridge detour to help alleviate some of the confusion of the detours and take away the multiple detour signs causing some of the confusion. Township resident Steve Smith suggested signage with a map or diagram of the detour on it could help give drivers an idea where they are supposed to go. Township resident Laura Gardiner asked the PennDOT officials about cooperating with the county and she was told that doesn't happen. Rich Schilling stated he talked to Joe Bush, Bucks County Director of Special Projects, about posting Slifer Valley Road for no trucks and was told he would look into it since trucks could be rerouted onto Route 212 and 412 through Springtown. John Oehler inquired about weight restrictions on the bridges on Slifer Valley Road. The residents living on Slifer Valley Road asked about speed reduction on their road, which would need to be requested to the state since it's a state road. They also wished some of the many unnecessary signs could be taken away. Barbara Lindtner recommended a small group of residents who would meet regularly representing the business community of Springtown, Slifer Valley Road, Richlandtown Pike and Peppermint Road headed by John Oehler to discuss some of the logical things that the Township would like to happen during the detours and keep the Board in the loop about the progression of the project. Township resident Bob Monach didn't think meeting weekly would be necessary if the group could be communicated by email about the project moving forward. The Board asked John Oehler to set up a meeting with PennDOT to discuss the signage issue, truck weight restrictions and other issues caused by the detour. John said he would set up a meeting within the next few weeks. Rich Schilling said there was no status update on the Township Road bridge project other than the job was awarded to Clearview Construction per the conversation he had with Joe Bush earlier today. Rich said he talked to a representative of Clearview Construction and they said the contracts would be in the mail, but the county had given no start date. The consensus of the Board was to request the county to defer the bridge repair project between Bridge Street and Route 212 to avoid a third detour within the Township. Bob Monach, Township resident and Springtown business owner, relayed a thanks from himself and other business owners for the Board's offer to promote the business's in Springtown during the detour.

John Oehler stated that residents he has been in contact living on and around Peppermint Road was in favor of speed humps. John said he gave information on the positives and negatives of the proposed speed humps on this road. Rich Schilling stated that Upper Bucks Regional Emergency Services were okay with speed humps being put on this road and the fire company wanted to know what the dimensions of the speed humps were before giving their response. John Oehler stated depending on where the humps were placed, he wasn't as concerned about the speed of the fire and ambulance vehicles because they wouldn't be able to go 60 mph up Peppermint Road, but he was concerned about the police driving in their vehicles. Chief McDonald confirmed there would be very little effect since they would be able to slow down quickly. John Oehler suggested that the residents living by the speed hump locations sign something that they agree to have the speed humps put in. The consensus of the Board was to install one permanent set of speed humps and for John to work with Township Road master Rich Pursell and Township Engineer Bob Wynn on the placement of the speed humps on Peppermint Road and come back to the Board with a proposal. Township resident Karen Bedics asked why Peppermint Road was selected for speed humps. John Oehler stated that with all of the detours, people were not using State Road, but were hauling down Peppermint Road. John said with the increased traffic, residents living on Peppermint Road were in danger because of the speed at which people were driving and the two blind hills on Peppermint Road. Karen Bedics stated that was recalled from Board discussions in the past that speed humps were problematic as far as plowing snow and damage to equipment per Rich Pursell. John Oehler stated there were plenty of townships that have speed humps and they don't have those issues. Karen asked which rural townships had speed humps. The Board responded with Hellertown, Riegelsville, Quakertown borough, Tinicum or Nockamixon and that this was not a new concept. Karen stated

she was concerned about a precedent being set with other residents in the Township which the Board said they had discussed at prior meetings and was one of their concerns. Township resident Jim Nielsen verified since the last meeting he had noticed the increased traffic on Peppermint Road.

New Business

(1) Fee Schedule – The Board reviewed and discussed the information and proposed changes to the fee schedule provided by Rich Schilling and Jason Wager. The Board decided to table this discussion for the next meeting to provide more time for the Board to review the proposed changes, primarily the sewage monitoring and maintenance fees and escrows.

(2) 2014 Budget – The Board was presented the 2014 budget worksheet and 2012/2013 budget/actual comparison through August 31. Rich Schilling stated the Board would be presented a 2014 draft budget with 2013 projections at the October 8 meeting.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the correspondence from Richlandtown Borough Mayor Raub and Slifer Valley Road residents.

Public Comment

Township resident Jim Nielsen stating he was having problems with the insurance company for the church and cemetery located on Pleasant Hollow Road that had damages from a tractor-trailer. Officer Sepulveda told him a police report was not available. Chief McDonald disagreed and stated that police accident reports were available for a \$15 charge. John Oehler **moved** to waive the \$15 fee for the police report requested by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Supervisor Comments

There were no Supervisor comments.

Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m., John Oehler **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason A. Wager
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: September 24, 2013
Approved: October 8, 2013