

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on April 1, 2009. Chairman Maloney called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Ms. Appelson called the roll.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors: Matt Maloney, Chairman
 Ron Smith, Vice Chairman
 Teri Appelson, Secretary
 Pete Stainthorpe, Treasurer
 Greg Caiola, Supervisor

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
 David Truelove, Township Solicitor
 James Majewski, Township Engineer
 Kenneth Coluzzi, Chief of Police

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joe Sundeen, Environmental Advisory Council, advised that on Saturday, April 25 they will hold the third annual Global Warming Conference at the Township Building with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the lecture beginning at 9:00 a.m. He stated the subject will be what residents can do to save energy in their homes. The Agenda is posted on the EAC page on the Township Website. This also includes a sign-up form for those interested in receiving periodic updates from the EAC.

Mr. Chris Lanberger, stated the Township is in an excellent position to receive stimulus funds. He stated the Department of Energy announced there is \$2.6 billion in energy efficiency and conservation block grants, and the deadline to submit for these grants is May 26. He stated the Township was the first Township to join the Cool Cities Program, and the EAC has already completed the greenhouse emissions report which indicates where energy is consumed in the Township and what areas should be targeted. He stated 48% of the energy is consumed in 12,000 homes; and the upcoming Township Global Warming Conference will focus on specific home improvements and residents can learn specific things they can do in their homes and how to qualify for energy rebates, tax, and utility benefits. Mr. Lanberger stated 39% of the energy in the Township is consumed in transportation, and one of the specific activities authorized by the conservation blocks is development of non-highway transportation infrastructure such as bike lanes and pathways. He suggested that the Board re-prioritize the Township's Bikepath Master Plan and make a submission prior to May 26. He stated one of the top priorities in 1998

was the connection of the Township complex to Macclesfield Park, and he would recommend that this be placed up front. He stated he is still working with Mr. Fedorchak and the engineers on paving the last 65' of sidewalk across the culvert. He stated the engineers have agreed to forward the specs to Mr. Fedorchak, and he feels they should get this done while the contractor is still in the area.

Ms. Maryanne Wolf, Dukes Court, stated she will present this evening a Petition to the Board of Supervisors regarding the deer management problem. She stated she feels something must be done to address the over-population. She stated the study completed by Mr. Shissler indicated that there are too many deer in the area. She stated she believes that a controlled hunt by trained marksmen would be the best way to bring back the balance of nature as there are no longer any natural predators. She stated she is concerned about deer/car collisions, impact on landscaping, and potential for Lyme disease. She stated the Petition has 160 signatures, and she collected these in only one and a half weeks. The Petition was presented to the Board this evening. Mr. Maloney stated this matter will be put back on the Agenda for the April 15 meeting.

Ms. Gail Whitman, Falls Township, urged the Board of Supervisors to consider doing the study with the Grant from Penn State to look into other options for controlling the deer population. She asked that the Board of Supervisors also discuss this issue with the Falls Township Supervisors because of the proximity of Falls Township to the Five Mile Woods. She stated she lived in Cumberland County, and during hunting season, it was difficult to control where the deer run. She stated if they are going to have a hunt, she feels the use of local hunters would be better as opposed to spending so much money for professional hunters. She stated she also feels they should publicize that deer meat could be made available to local residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Appelson moved, Mr. Caiola seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2009 as corrected.

DISCUSSION OF STOOPVILLE ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2188 – PENNDOT APPLICATION TO INSTALL AND OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT WASHINGTON CROSSING ROAD AND STOOPVILLE ROAD

Mr. Eric Kauffman, Gilmore & Associates, stated they were hired to do the Stoopville Road traffic calming project which goes from Lindenhurst Road to Rose Field Drive near Wrightstown Township which is slightly less than five miles. He showed on the Plan where the project starts at Lindenhurst Road; and at that intersection, they will install

decorative crosswalks across Lindenhurst along with a slight upgrade of the intersection which will result in cars being able to get through the intersection with less delay. He stated there is an existing walking path which goes from Lindenhurst to Highland. They will signalize the intersection at Highland Road and also put in decorative crosswalks. The decorative crosswalks will be similar to what was installed at Washington-Crossing Road, Route 532, and Taylorsville Road.

Mr. Kauffman showed on the Plan a walking path along 532 and stated this will be installed in Phase II of the project as they could not get it in Phase I due to the time needed for an archeological review.

Mr. Kauffman showed the intersection of Route 532 and Stoopville Road where there will be a slight re-alignment of Stoopville Road across from the driveway at the Village Market. He stated currently they have designed crosswalks at all four sides of the intersection; and under the current scope of the project, they will leave the spur road in, and it will be stop controlled at its intersection with Stoopville Road. All the crosswalks will be decorative at this intersection. Mr. Maloney asked if the westerly flow on Stoopville Road will have the right-of-way; and Mr. Kauffman stated the eastbound traffic will be the through movement, and the westbound spur will be stopped. Mr. Maloney stated he is referring to the westbound traffic coming from northbound Washington-Crossing Road, turning left at the signal onto Stoopville which will have the right-of-way beyond the traffic controlled by the stop sign from the spur; and Mr. Kauffman agreed that if they are making a left, they will not have to stop, and will just continue through otherwise there would be too much queuing from the signal.

Ms. Appelton noted the walking path from 532 that goes from Lindenhurst to Stoopville, and Mr. Kauffman showed on the plan that the walking path continues through the length of the project area and ultimately it will go all the way up to Rose Field Drive where they currently end it; but this will be in Phase II of the project.

Mr. Kauffman showed on the Plan the various landscaped medians throughout the project which will be planted with perennials. All of these new medians that require widening of the road will be part of Phase II of the project due to the time needed for the archeological and historic resource review.

Mr. Kauffman noted the location of Creamery, Linton Hill, and Stoopville Road which meets warrants for a four-way stop; and they will install flashers that will be set up so that when signal warrants are met, it can be converted to a signal. He noted on the Plan a number of existing and future walking paths to be installed in the area. He showed on the Plan Creamery/Linton Hill, and Linton Hill Chase and noted an area on the Plan where they will put landscaped medians. He stated they are using the transition lane tapers that are existing, and they will build the medians on top of them. Since this requires no widening, PennDOT has allowed this. He noted on the Plan a number of other

landscaped medians. Mr. Kauffman stated the next signal is Eagle which is already a four-way stop, but they will be updating this from the span wire design to a full mast-arm design that can be converted later to a signal.

Mr. Maloney stated they are most concerned with the intersection of Washington-Crossing Road and Stoopville Roads.

Ms. Appelton asked why all the four-way stop signs are being converted to signals, and Mr. Kauffman stated they are only setting them up so that they can be converted in the future when they meet warrants.

Mr. Maloney stated the spur has been re-introduced into the project; and it is his understanding that the compromise of this was that the stop sign would be placed on the western bound traffic, and Mr. Kauffman agreed. He stated the stop had to be introduced if they were keeping the spur. Mr. Maloney asked if anyone has had any concerns with the current design, and Mr. Kauffman stated they have not.

Mr. Stainthorpe moved and Mr. Caiola seconded to approve Resolution No. 2188.

Mr. Steve Santarsiero, South Ridge Circle, stated there are two phases for this project and they will go forward as close to contemporaneously as possible. He stated the reason the project had to be divided into two phases was because of the Federal stimulus money. He stated there is \$1.7 million coming from the Federal Government, and that money must be obligated within 120 days. He stated the problem was the fact that a large part of the traffic calming proposal involves the medians placed on Stoopville Road and this requires the road to be widened. He stated to do this you also have to do a cultural study which usually takes 120 days. He stated if they allowed that piece of the traffic-calming measure to go forward at the same time as the rest, there was a good possibility that they would not have been able to obligate the entire project within 120 days and the funds could have been lost. He stated it was decided in conjunction with Newtown, Upper Makefield, Congressman Murphy's office, and his own office that the project would be segregated into these two phases. The first phase as explained will include the crosswalks and the signalization and can be obligated within the 120 days so the \$1.7 million will go toward that. Mr. Santarsiero stated the rest of the funding will be earmarks and will be used for the medians because that can be done at a more leisurely pace. He stated they do hope that most of this will happen contemporaneously so that there will not be much of a delay in getting the entire project done.

Mr. Santarsiero stated with regard to the spur, if it is kept in, they will have a stop sign. He stated the latest information he has heard is that there is a possibility that the landowner at the juncture of the spur has objected to the spur because it has an impact on his driveway. Mr. Kauffman showed this location on the plan. Mr. Santarsiero stated it is not clear whether he will insist on taking the spur out as a condition of allowing the

right-of-way along the rest of his property for the project. He stated it may ultimately result in the spur coming out. Mr. Santarsiero stated he understands that the spur is shared by Upper Makefield and Lower Makefield. He stated at this time the way it is being designed is in such a way that if it has to come out, this can happen easily. He stated PennDOT has a preference for the spur not to be there, but he does not feel they will involve themselves in this. Mr. Caiola asked if the spur has any impact on the funding, and Mr. Santarsiero stated it does not.

Mr. Stainthorpe asked if all of the \$1.7 million will be spent on just this one piece – bikepaths and lights; and Mr. Santarsiero stated this issue has come up and his understanding that it will either be the full \$1.7 million or something close to that will be spent on the lights, the crosswalks, and the other work. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he felt at one point in time there was discussion that Toll Bros. was going to pay for the signalization at the Village Market, and Mr. Fedorchak stated his understanding was that it was going to be Toll Bros'. responsibility to re-construct that intersection and install the traffic signal as well. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he hopes that someone will be getting something from Toll Bros. in the future if they are now paying for this with stimulus money. Mr. Santarsiero stated there is a streetscape that Upper Makefield was looking at for the Dolington Section as well so there is a possibility that money could be used for that, although he is not sure.

Motion to approve carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EXTENSIONS FOR NORMAN AND PATRICIA O'ROURKE AND LOTUS TRACT

Ms. Appelson moved, Mr. Caiola seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve extensions for Norman and Patricia O'Rourke Minor Subdivision to 7/21/09 and the Lotus Tract Minor Subdivision Preliminary/Final Plan to 7/7/09.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Mr. Caiola stated there are a number of candidates for the openings on the Citizens Budget Commission. He stated Mr. McCloskey will be putting something together for the Board of Supervisors in the near future relative to the 5% set aside. Mr. Caiola stated the Historic Commission met with HARB and the Veterans Commission to discuss the development of the monument in Edgewood Village. He stated the Historic Commission will hold their House Tour on May 2. Mr. Caiola stated the Bucks County Performing Arts Council has held a number of concerts, the most recent with more than 200 people in attendance. He stated they will be working on providing talent for Community Day.

Ms. Appelton reiterated the date of the upcoming Global Warming Conference will be held on April 25 at the Township Building from 9 to Noon. She stated the Sewer Authority met and are continuing to work on the 537 Plan which they will present to the Board of Supervisors in a few months.

Mr. Maloney stated there is a new individual involved with sales and marketing at the Golf Course and he is actively exploring options for hosting weddings at the Golf Course.

Mr. Smith stated the Special Events Committee is currently planning a spring event to be a movie night. He stated the Elm Lowne Committee is continuing to work on language for special overlays with regard to the possible sale of the Elm Lowne property, and they are awaiting the appraisal. Mr. Fedorchak stated he is working on this. Mr. Smith stated the Veterans Committee had a kick-off event at the Continental Tavern which was well attended, and they raised money for the proposed monument. They will hold other events throughout the year to raise additional funds.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the Disabled Persons Advisory Board will be conducting another survey this year in an effort to identify disabled persons in the Township, and this information will be passed onto the Township emergency personnel so that if there is an emergency call, they would be aware of any special situations. He stated they are also looking into finding better transportation options for disabled persons, particularly those who are wheelchair bound. He stated SEPTA does have para-transit, but you must live within a certain distance of a SEPTA bus line, and there are none in the Township. He stated they are going to work with TMA, the State, and Congressman Murphy's office to try to develop some opportunities.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated last evening he attended a meeting of the Southeastern Association of Township Officials which is a group that meets two to three times a year and is made up of officials from Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware Counties. He stated they discussed the fact that because of the condition of the economy and the stock market, the pension plans have taken a "huge hit," and the Township is responsible to make up for those losses over a certain period of time. He stated each year they must come up with a minimum Municipal payment; and one of the items discussed which he feels the Board should pursue with their State Representative and State Senators are the length of time they have to make up for pension losses. He stated currently he feels it is fifteen years which makes the yearly payment larger; and if this were extended out to twenty to thirty years, it would be more beneficial for the Municipalities. He stated this would have to be a State law. Mr. Maloney stated on the National level they just changed this for companies, reducing it from thirty years to seven years.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the other issue which came up is that Pennsylvania has been declared an energy grid right-of-way along with Maryland and New Jersey; and as efforts are made to upgrade the energy grid, there is a Federal mandate that they can run power lines anywhere they want, and they do not necessarily have to follow existing rights-of-way for power lines. He stated the fear is that places that have been successful in preserving open space including farmland would be open land that does not have to be cleared and it would be easy to put poles and towers on these properties and the Township would have no say. He feels they should be pursuing this issue with their Congressman and U.S. Senators to see what types of remedies the Township would have.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF JOHN DEERE 4520 TRACTOR FOR MAKEFIELD HIGHLANDS

Mr. Jeff Dancott was present and stated they had a transmission failure on one of the tractors last year and repair estimates are from \$6,000 to \$10,000 on this five year old piece of equipment. Mr. Maloney asked if John Deere is aware of this transmission failure since their trade-in price was so much higher than the others, and Mr. Dancott stated they are aware of this and are comfortable with the number they provided.

Mr. Caiola moved, Mr. Stainthorpe seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a John Deere 4250 tractor for Makefield Highlands from Detlan Equipment, Inc. at the State Contract price of \$18, 535.

AWARD BIDS FOR SALE OF USED TOWNSHIP VEHICLES

Mr. Fedorchak stated the Public Works Director wants to sell three dump trucks he no longer needs, and they were put out to public bid. He read the high bids for the three vehicles. Mr. Stainthorpe moved, Mr. Caiola seconded and it was unanimously carried to award the bids for sale of used Township vehicles as noted by Mr. Fedorchak.

Mr. Stainthorpe asked about the other vehicles on the list for which they did not get minimum bids, and Chief Coluzzi stated these are Police vehicles, and they will be re-bid.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Caiola moved, Mr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Carole Barocca to HARB.

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There being no further business, Mr. Caiola moved, Mr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Appelson', written in dark ink.

Teri Appelson, Secretary