

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 25, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building, 1112 State Street, Longswamp Township, Mertztown, Pennsylvania, 7:00 p.m., prevailing time as previously advertised and posted.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL

Officials Present: Michael Sacks, Chairman; Randy Sicher, Vice Chairman; Joyce Marin, Supervisor; Pete Eisenbrown, John Yoder, and Bob Wuerth representing LTL Consultants were in attendance.

Steve Wyka, Operations Administrator; Jennifer Wassell-Bonser, Secretary/Administrator; David Fatzinger, Treasurer; Jill Nagy, representing the Solicitor; and Jill Smith, representing the Engineer were absent from the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Sacks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced there is no Agenda since the meeting is for informational purposes in order to provide an update on the Township's Act 537 Plan affecting property owners on Valley Road, north of the Valley View Mobile Home Park and that notifications were previously mailed out. Mike concluded by stating that the Board and representatives of LTL Consultants will provide answers regarding any concerns.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

None at this time.

SEO REPORT

Pete Eisenbrown reviewed the history of the Act 537 Plan and outlined details of the current Plan as well as the guidelines of the Consent Agreement executed between the Township and DEP over the past ten years. Pete explained details of concern relative to areas of the Township designated as "High Needs Area" as well as the various types of on-lot systems of most concern to DEP. Pete also reviewed details of the implementation phase of the Act 537 Plan and noted the five-year deadline is approaching within in the next 3 ½ years.

Pete explained that properties that are listed as “Fix On Your Own” (FOYO) will not be required to connect to a public sewer system, but would need to construct a new on-lot septic system in the event of a malfunction. Pete reviewed various acceptable options that will be available to property owners which included the Township providing a suitable location for malfunctioning sewer systems to hook-up and that property owners will be notified if they are affected and required to hook-up. Pete confirmed that at this time there are 8 properties that will need to be replaced their individual on-lot septic systems on Valley Road and 4 properties that will need a replacement system on Jefferson. It was noted for the record that those residents will be notified in the coming days via certified mail. Pete reviewed the requirements of the permit process for those properties that will need to replace their systems and confirmed that the Township will conduct the required testing but property owners will be required to establish a \$1,500.00 escrow fee with the Township for permitting in addition to covering construction costs for their new system, as well as for abandoning the old system, and land acquisition costs. Pete encouraged property owners to consider working with one contractor for designing and constructing as a cost savings factor. Pete noted that the Township has been researching grant opportunities that may also be available to the Township to help off-set costs to property owners in addition to low-interest rate loans.

Bob Wuerth reviewed details of recent discussions between DEP and the Township relative to properties with cesspools and malfunctioning systems. Bob also confirmed that the Borough of Topton does not have capacity to receive any sewage from the Township and holding tanks are not DEP-acceptable. Bob reviewed details regarding insurance policy options that will be made available to property owners during the process. Bob also reviewed testing requirements used to identify a suitable area for a new septic system on individual properties in the event it is necessary to replace their system due to a malfunctioning system or having a cesspool.

Joyce Marin reviewed details regarding significant fines which will be incurred to all tax payers through-out the Township in the event of non-compliance of the Act 537 Plan. Chairman Sacks confirmed that the Board of Supervisors may not have all the answers but the Township guarantees it will acquire the land with the required testing complete and have it available for property owner’s future use if and when it becomes necessary. Chairman Sacks concluded that the Township does not have a plan at this point in time for re-couping any of the costs associated with land acquisition for the project but guarantees that areas will be available for systems when the need arises.

Bob and Pete confirmed that no farming practices will be allowed on the Township-acquired land once piping is installed for the hooks-ups.

Steve Wyka expressed his concerns regarding the financial burden onto Township taxpayers, stating that East Penn Manufacturing would have been a major contributor to help off-set costs if the opportunity for their previously-presented proposal would have been able to come to fruition.

ZONING AND CODES ENFORCEMENT

None at this time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None at this time.

RECREATION REPORT

None at this time.

ROADMASTER REPORT

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Joyce Marin made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser
Township Secretary