

**Halifax Township
Act 537 Planning Meeting
January 21, 2009
5:00 PM**

At 5:00 PM Chairman Shearer called the Halifax Township Act 537 Planning Meeting to order with the following members being present: Norma Shearer, Linda Ruff, Carol Eppley, Gary Shultz, Ken Hoover (5:15PM), Jim Eppley and Justin Kuhn.

Opening

Norma Shearer addressed the public about the deferral of public comment and cited Sunshine Law Sec. 710.1. She also said the 537 Plan Public Hearing will be widely advertised and suggested that the public please plan to attend.

Public Relations Information Piece

Justin Kuhn mentioned DEP has an abundance of information. He specifically mentioned a video tape is available called "Down The Drain". He also mentioned that there may be an electronic option. Justin will research the option.

Jim Eppley asked if there is a time requirement for adoption of the plan by the Township. Justin responded that he doesn't believe there is as long as progress continues and the DEP is kept informed.

Jim Eppley and Justin Kuhn came up with a Question and Answer option to be inserted into a newspaper. They will develop an article/advertisement piece. General discussion took place with the board members, Justin Kuhn and Jim Eppley.

Norma Shearer distributed several educational pieces. She said DEP offered a peer network group who offers assistance in the process.

Linda Ruff voiced concern that she understood that the USDA said the Township doesn't qualify for grants. Justin said individuals may qualify however, there is a program called H2O PA that has grant monies available but the applications are due by February 13, 2009. Discussion ensued regarding the H2O PA grant. After discussion the grant idea did not seem feasible.

Medium

After some discussion, a question and answer newspaper article and a direct mail piece was decided as the best options.

Public Meeting

February and March dates were considered. March 23, 24 and 26 were blocked in order to select the best date. The time of 7:00 PM was set.

The panel should include the Township Supervisors, Fred Ford, Bob Kissinger, John Borland of DEP, Justin Kuhn, anyone available from the peer network group, a representative from RUS and Mike Brown SEO.

Meeting Format

Panelists will be on stage and have microphones. Two microphones will be on the floor for the citizens to use to ask their questions. Consider possible use of a projection screen for information display as Justin Kuhn presents answers to the issues.

Miscellaneous

Put an article in the newspaper advising the Public that the 537 Plan is on the Township Website.

Justin Kuhn shared surrounding Municipality 537 Plan adoption/update Status; Upper Paxton Township 4/16/07, Jackson Township 5/1/08, Wayne Township 10/19/04 and Middle Paxton Township 6/15/87.

General discussion ensued regarding the various options for the Township after the public meeting which include approve the plan, deny the plan or table it. The ramifications of not approving the plan were discussed.

Adjournment

At 6:36 PM Carol Eppley motioned to adjourn. Linda Ruff seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W Hoover
Secretary