

HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
102 Fisher Street
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:07pm followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - Supervisors Bechtel, Bruner, Schreffler, McBurney are present along with Engineer Frank Lentz, Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky, Roadmaster Corey Stazewski, and Secretary Wendy M. Wentzel. Absent was Supervisor Paul.

RECORDING MEETING – In addition to the Recording Secretary, Fox 43, PennLive, CBS21 is recording the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held prior to the monthly business meeting from 6:30pm until 6:45pm to discuss personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Chairman Bechtel instructed Solicitor Warshawsky to open the public comment period with an overview of the boat launch and access road. The Solicitor started out by commenting that the Township is receiving public comment this evening whether it should consider taking over the road from State Route 147 to the Fish and Boat Launch at the Susquehanna River. The launch has been closed since mid-September, 2016. There was a meeting held on December 12, 2016, in which representatives from the Fish & Boat Commission, the Department of Transportation and Halifax Township participated in that meeting. It would require a cooperative and significant effort by all parties involved to re-open the boat launch. The Township's participation in re-opening the boat launch, noting that it's a critical factor and being the Township's willingness to accept that as a public road, that without the Township's willingness to accept the road, the efforts to re-open the boat launch will fail. It was also noted that there are significant costs that the Township or other parties would have to incur in order to open that road as a public road. One of those costs is the cost of acquisition. There are private landowners who have rights to reach the river from Route 147 and those rights would either have to be purchased by agreement or taken by eminent domain. Additionally, the Township would have to have the road improved to Township specifications as any Township road would have to be done. There are costs relating to improvements at the intersection of Route 147 and the access road which PennDOT would insist on and there are costs imposed to improve the railroad crossing, of which is unknown for improving it for PUC and for the public right-of-way. All of these things would have to occur, but the Township would have to agree take over the road. Once the Township takes over the road, there are additional ongoing costs; the maintenance of the road, snow removal and improvements at the intersection would be the responsibility of the owning party, being Halifax Township. The Township would also have an ongoing maintenance responsibility for any improvements at the crossing and for continued operation of the crossing in accordance with the PUC. The estimated time to potentially re-open the boat launch would be measured in years, not weeks or months. The Township was not willing to consider this question of taking it over without the solicitation of public input. Michelle Jacoby of the Fish and Boat Commission was present to help answer and questions from the public.

From the Public: Gary Shultz – Expressed that the Township should not incur great expense to take over the access, but is glad to see the Township in this process early. He shared that he hopes that the Township looks at a pro-active compliance, looking at people's futures and safety as a whole and we make it as good as it can be made and believes that that the burden of the expenses should not be placed solely on the Township. Mr. Shultz thanked the Township for allowing the public to speak.

Donna Rode – Was hoping to hear more information before she spoke, but mentioned that by throwing millions of dollars toward somethings doesn't mean that it's going to be safe. Safety cannot be guaranteed. As a taxpayer and serving on the School Board, she stated that she is very conscientious about what taxpayers are paying in this community for taxes. Among PennDOT, The Fish & Boat Commission and Halifax Township, Halifax Township

stands as the poor guy. Whenever monies are needed, everyone has a tendency to come to the poor guys to dig deeper in their pockets. Ms. Rode expressed her opinion by agreeing that the Township should work with the other entities but not be the financial source. She also thanked the Township for allowing her to speak.

Flo Mallonee – Stated that Halifax Township is the largest municipality in the School District and that anything that whenever something happens, it falls back on the Township. Halifax Township has had no growth for the past 20 years. She agreed that safety is a big issue and is unfortunate that someone was killed before action is taken. She shared that Halifax Township has the 5th highest school tax in the County. Flo used Fort Halifax Park as an example where the Township incurred the cost for the park and most of the people that frequent and want monies for the park are not residents of the Township. She asked the public to think and consider whether they would chip in out of their pockets if this was in their municipality.

Don Hale – Asked if the Township puts all this money into the road, is the Fish & Boat Commission let the public use the boat launch? Chairman Bechtel conveyed to the Fish & Boat Commission that the Township will not spend the money for any process. The processes include traffic studies, and construction. The Township will not be expending Township money for any of these processes. The Township feels they are in the similar place as where they would be with a housing development. With a housing development, the streets are put in to Township specifications to meet the safety requirements of Halifax Township and PennDOT. Chairman Bechtel stated that this project would have to be a cost neutral for Halifax Township. Chairman Bechtel continues to say that even being cost neutral with the process, there will still be costs for the Township due to the Township having to be involved in numerous meetings involving our Township Engineer and Township Solicitor, therefore it will not be cost neutral. The Fish & Boat want the launch open, but the only way it will be is if the Township agrees to a Deed of Dedication, and the only way the Township will enter into a Deed of Dedication is if everything is done to Township, PennDOT and Norfolk Southern safety specifications. The PUC will also have to be involved in this because of the railroad. Chairman Bechtel told the public attending the meeting not to be misled, stating that this process is going to take 4-6 years due to funding and everything associated with it.

Dave Faber of Jackson Township, Chairman of the Ned Smith Chapter of Ducks Unlimited in Millersburg stated that this particular boat launch provides a lot of recreational area for kayakers, boaters, fishermen and hunters that use that launch. He contacted the Fish & Boat Commission and asked for some numbers that he could take back to Ducks Unlimited for monies towards this launch. He shared that this is the only Fish & Boat launch owned by the Fish & Boat Commission between Fort Hunter and Sunbury and this particular launch is needed.

Jack Trometter – No comment.

Pat Ciesnolevich of Wiconisco spoke and shared that he has used the boat launch for 35 years. He felt that it would be very unfortunate if the boat launch stayed closed and understands that there is a lot of money and work involved. It's his understanding in talking with Representative Sue Helm's office that will be available. Mr. Ciesnolevich is willing to volunteer some time and offered his assistance if any way possible.

Norma Shearer spoke on behalf of the Friends of Halifax Park and stated that they favor the Township is taking over the access road so that the boat launch can continue to be a recreation amenity to the Township. They are cognizant of the costs but feels it draws people to the Township and is good for the economy of Halifax Township.

Frank Wilmarth favors the Township in taking responsibility for Susquehanna Trail Drive and making it a public road. He is hoping that through negotiations with the railroad, the speed limit of the trains coming through the Township will be reduced to below 40 mph.

Mr. Hale asked if there were any public monies available for this project. Chairman Bechtel stated that there are monies available that was discussed at the meeting held. Monies that were available need to be applied for and that there was a ranking system for some of it per the importance of the projects. Mr. Hale asked if reaching out to Cabela's and Bass Pro would be of help. Chairman Bechtel stated that if this could be floated with the Fish & Boat Commission, the Township would be interested in hearing about what other organizations could contribute toward the cause. Chairman Bechtel reiterated that it will be a significant cost. The cost identified at the meeting that took place

was approximately \$500,000. The issue is about making this a SAFE access. The Township cannot accept something that cannot be engineered and constructed and made as safe as possible. The Township is concerned about how it comes back at the Township.

Michelle Jacoby, Bureau Director of Engineering for the Fish & Boat Commission explained that the Fish & Boat Commission is not coming to the Township for money to fund this project. They are coming to the Township as a partner because they own adjacent property and want to be able to re-open the boat launch as safely as possible. She stated that there are many mechanisms in place to apply for grant monies, but to apply, the Fish & Boat Commission must partner with the Township to be eligible to apply. The Fish & Boat Commission is asking the Township to Dedicate the roadway.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Paid Interim Bills – Motion was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to approve the paid interim bills thru January 9, 2017. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0. **Current Unpaid Bills – Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to pay the unpaid bills as of January 9, 2017. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0. **Minutes – Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to approve the meeting minutes of December 12, 2016. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0. **Minutes – Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to approve the meeting minutes of the Re-Org on January 3, 2017. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0. **Financial Report** – Placed on file for audit at a later period.

EMC REPORT – None

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION – Chairperson Flo Mallonee submitted her report for the Planning Commission for the month of January, citing the Re-Org and the regular meeting. She was voted in as the Chairman for 2017, Fred Ford as Vice Chair and Dwight Hoffman as Secretary. Since there were no new items for the agenda submitted for review, the meeting conducted was used to discuss subdivision and private road written clarifications for the SALDO. Chairman Bechtel suggested that written ideas be submitted to the Board prior to the Board voting on it to give the Board time to review the changes.

ENGINEER REPORT – Engineer Lentz provided an overview of his report dated December 20, 2016 with the Board of Supervisors for services during the month December. Chairman Bechtel inquired about Tim Miller's farm. Mr. Miller wants to put a building up but is asking for a waiver for a Stormwater Management Plan. Engineer Lentz went and inspected Mr. Miller's farm and found that Mr. Miller's situation does meet Option 3 requirements which is not currently part of the Ordinance for Stormwater. It was recommended that Mr. Miller be required to complete the Stormwater Management Plan Application along with the application fee. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to conditionally approve the waiver for a Stormwater Management Plan provided Mr. Miller submits a Stormwater Management Application and the application fee. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Solicitor Warshawsky presented his report dated January 5, 2017 for services during the month of December. **Brother Nuisance** and the **Ziegler Nuisance** hearings have been scheduled for January 19th, 2017 before District Justice Johnson. **Lehman Stormwater Management Violation** – at a prior meeting there was discussion about an agreement between the Lehman's and Halifax Township which the Township would receive a mutual release. Mr. Lehman had agreed to such an agreement at that prior meeting. As of this meeting, Mr. Lehman has changed his mind on signing any agreement. **Brown/Hoover SEO Violation** – DEP had given the Brown's 10 days to correct the issue of sewage leakage on the Hoover property. The Brown's had to cap and pump the cesspool to resolve the issues. This was done on January 3rd. There is also a property dispute in the Court System. A possible resolution is currently under discussion. **Employee Handbook Revisions** – on the agenda for next meeting.

ROADMASTER REPORT – Roadmaster Stazewski submitted his report for December. No action was taken. The report will be placed on record. **Matamoras Road** – the culvert is failing underneath. A plate has been temporarily placed until repair can be made. The Township has received several quotes from USG to repair the culvert or to replace it. A representative from USG will be invited to next month's meeting to explain the process of repairing the culvert.

SEO REPORT – Report dated January 3, 2017 for November and December activities was received and placed on record.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Secretary/Treasurer Compensation – This item was missed during the Re-Org meeting on January 3, 2017. **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to approve the following compensation for the Secretary/Treasurer for 2017:

Annual Salary: \$29,744
Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday along with a half hour floater each day
12 days paid vacation leave
Attend Supervisors' Meetings/Special Meetings
Attend Planning Commission Meetings upon request from PC Commission Chair or Vice Chair
Meet with auditors as needed
Attend Budget Meetings
Paid Holidays
Reimbursement for mileage on banking and errands at approved Federal rate.

Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Tobias Road Bridges – Engineer Lentz reached out to Wilson Consulting Group and they have sent a package with the fee being \$2,700 to proceed with the rating of the Tobias Road Bridges. There was a motion approved at a previous meeting to proceed with the rating of the bridges by Wilson Consulting, but they have resubmitted their appraisal with a change in some fees – mileage reimbursement being reduced according the Federal Rate and field work will begin in 4 months of receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

Snody Complaint – Chairman Bechtel informed the Board and the public that he had visited Mr. Snody's property after the November meeting. Mr. Snody took him around the property to view what he was concerned about. His observation was regarding three items on Mr. Lebo's property – 2 metal stairs (tree stands) and a wooden deck. Mr. Snody invited Chairman Bechtel into his home and showed him slides of stormwater around his property. If there is a stormwater issue, it is a private issue until some additional information is produced to lead the Halifax to a different conclusion. Mr. Snody's property surrounds Mr. Lebo's ten acres. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Bruner to have the Secretary send Mr. Snody a letter requesting photographic evidence and a formal written complaint for the records and to note that the Township will not be sending Corey out to obtain pictures due to results of the past attempt made by Corey to obtain them. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Corrective Action Plan Schedule – Halifax Area Water and Sewer – Fred Ford, Chairman of the Halifax Area Water and Sewer Authority stated that their engineer had been fired two weeks ago, and the Corrective Action Plan Schedule had been put on hold to acquire a new engineer and to review the plans for a new sewage plant. He said the Township will be kept apprised of where HAWASA is in the process. DEP was made aware that the Township is in charge of the 537 Plan. A meeting will be scheduled with DEP in the future between DEP and HAWASA.

Appointed Auditor Resolution – placed on next month's agenda.

Boat Launch Access/Railroad Crossing – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to agree to accept Susquehanna Trail Road as a public road in the future subject to three conditions: 1. Cost neutrality; 2. Dependent upon the Township's understanding what the maintenance costs in particular to the railroad crossing; and 3. The Township must be satisfied as to the safety requirements. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

Letter of Support – DCCD – after discussion of the request, no action was taken.

Rocket Flying at Halifax Festival – The Southern PA Area Association of Rocketry has requested permission to fly rockets at Fort Halifax Park during the Fort Halifax Festival on May 6 and again on August 5th, 2017. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to grant permission for the rocket flying to take place on May 6th, 2017 and August 5, 2017. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Employee Handbook
Matamoras Road
Appointed Auditor Resolution

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COG Meeting – January 19, 2017 at 7:00pm; refreshments at 6:30pm
Planning Commission meeting – Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:00pm
Township Board of Supervisors Monthly Business Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor Paul to adjourn at 9:50pm. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy M. Wentzel
Secretary