

**MINUTES OF THE
THE EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

June 19, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gary Volovnik who led the Salute to the American Flag. Also present were Supervisors David Nyman and John Cressman, Solicitor John Rice, Esq., Engineer C. Robert Wynn, P.E., Township Manager Anne Klepfer, and members of the press and public.

Item #1 Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mr. Cressman, **seconded** by Mr. Nyman, to approve the minutes of May 15th, 2007, **approved 3-0.**

Item #2 Payment of Bills

Mr. Nyman **moved** to approve for payment the bills list dated June 19, 2007 totaling \$449,382.09 and advance the Treasurer funds for utilities and payroll, **seconded** by Mr. Cressman and **approved 3-0.**

Public Comment I

Jim Nietupski of Route 313 reported that the 2007 Budget was missing from the website. Mrs. Klepfer said she would look into it.

Item #3 Manager's Report: Anne W. Klepfer

Blooming Glen Road Traffic Study: Mrs. Klepfer introduced Mark Roth, the Traffic Engineer from McMahon Associates responsible for the traffic study the Township requested to evaluate the possibility of restricting traffic across Moods Bridge on Blooming Glen Road to northbound traffic from Branch Road to Fifth Street.

Mr. Roth summarized the Traffic Study. He indicated that the Board of Supervisors became aware that the reconstruction of Moods Bridge was imminent and that the bridge will remain one lane. To address these concerns, the Board asked that a feasibility study be done to determine if restricting traffic to one direction across the bridge to improve safety.

McMahon Associates looked at the impact on parallel streets, taking traffic counts during AM Peak Traffic Hours (7AM-9AM) and PM Peak Traffic Hours (4PM-6PM) and then based on existing traffic patterns, plus projected additional traffic from the CVS proposal and the Community College Expansion proposal, they project traffic volumes

and patterns at the parallel street intersections. The results indicate that the operation of the intersections studied would not be adversely impacted, that the level of service each intersection would continue to function satisfactorily.

He made a recommendation that Blooming Glen Road be restricted to north bound traffic only from Branch Road to the entrance to the shopping center with appropriate signage posted at the entrance to the shopping center. He said that if and when the Community College adds an additional entrance south of the Shopping Center entrance that the restriction and signs could be pushed back to the new entrance. The road would need to be re-stripped on the approach to the bridge and the one-way signs would need to be added.

Mr. Cressman asked if 6:30 AM Bus traffic was counted. It was not, but Mr. Roth indicated that had it been counted it would not change the recommendation. Mr. Cressman said he counted 16 Buses before a car could make it over the bridge one morning.

Mr. Cressman asked if it would be okay for the Township to move the one-way operation down to the Park Entrance. Mr. Roth indicated that the Township could do that but that he had reservations about drivers getting that close to the bridge and not being able to turn back or causing a safety issue at the park parking lot due to using it as a turn around spot. He indicated that his recommendation is also based on the character of the road in the location of the bridge.

Mr. Webber, Blooming Glen Road, questioned why the restriction is proposed from Branch to the shopping center instead of the other way around. He would prefer the one way restriction to be in the other direction. He feels it would reduce traffic especially due to the additional traffic he anticipates from the CVS and College.

Mr. Roth indicated that the recommendation is based on existing traffic patterns and volume and his projection of what might inconvenience people the least.

Mr. Volovnik asked Mr. Roth if he has ever designed a bridge, or knows of anyone who has ever designed a bridge similar to one on Route 212 that had iron columns and a cross bar installed to restrict traffic to 8'5" and could that be done here. Mr. Roth said that he could check with the Bridge Design Engineers at McMahon Associates. He clarified that while that design modification might reduce the volume of traffic over the bridge by restricting the height, it would not address the sight distance problem or lane width change. It is his professional opinion that making the bridge one-way as recommended will protect the integrity of the bridge by reducing the likelihood of frequent accidents and increase the safety of the traveling public.

Mr. Volovnik thanked Mr. Roth for his study. The Board agreed that the study was complete. Mr. Volovnik opened the meeting to questions from the floor regarding the traffic study. Mr. Nietupski asked if Mr. Roth has ever seen a traffic light used to control traffic flow instead of a lane restriction. Mr. Roth said that traffic lights can be used but that would place a modern light in front of a historic bridge along a rural portion of road and would not be in synch with the character of the area.

A resident from the corner of Branch Road and Blooming Glen Road stated that traffic frequently comes to a stand off on the bridge as drivers try to get the other driver to move first. She has seen it happen with buses too. She feels that the Township does need to do something about this.

Another resident commented that the one-lane bridge is scary and said a bridge similar to the one installed on Callowhill Road should be installed. Mr. Cressman told her the decision to rebuild the historic covered bridge was made a long time ago and is not being debated now.

The Board will take the study under advisement while Moods Bridge is closed for reconstruction.

Lake House Inn Noise Complaints – Mrs. Klepfer said that she obtained a proposal from qualified sound technicians to measure sound coming from the Lake House Inn and determine whether or not there are violations. She indicated that the Inn owner, Mr. Stevens has indicated that he is taking the matter seriously and that he is moving forward with plans to sound proof the tent and is willing to share the cost to facilitate compliance. The Board reviewed the proposal and found it to be complete and the consultant's credentials to be in order.

Doug Foulke of 1548 Elephant Road said he lives 500 feet to 1,000 feet from the Inn and the noise does not bother him. Mr. Volovnik said that he is happy to learn Mr. Stevens is taking the matter seriously because the problem needs to stop. Mr. Rice recommended approving the proposal subject to an agreement with Mr. Stevens for him to share the costs.

Mr. Nyman **moved** to approve the proposal from Valley Forge Laboratories subject to Mr. Steven's sharing the cost, with the cost sharing to be worked out with Mrs. Klepfer. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Cressman and **approved 3-0**.

The PBA Easement through the Park: This item is still on the agenda because PBA is still looking for the signed easement so they can proceed with their water line extension. Mr. Wynn and Mr. Rice indicated that the legal descriptions and written easement document are for the most part ready to execute. Mrs. Klepfer said the final two details were with regard to the method PBA would employ to pave the park entrance drive and

resolving the walking path issue. The Board asked Mr. Wynn to submit a written analysis and recommendation regarding the walking path based on his inspection of the proposed route earlier in the day.

DCNR Grant Approval: Mrs. Klepfer announced that East Rockhill Township recently learned that it was awarded a \$207,000.00 grant from DCNR towards the conservation of 56 acres of ground along Three Mile Run. Mrs. Klepfer said that receipt of the grant will allow the Township to move forward with the negotiations with the property owner to finalize the conservation easement. The Board thanked Heritage Conservancy for the assistance.

Transportation Funding: Mrs. Klepfer indicated that she received a request from PSATS to contact our State Senator and Representative regarding proposed legislation to increase transportation funding and to urge them to approve legislation that will improve local government's fair share of all transportation funding. She prepared letters and if the Board so desires she can send them to Senator Wonderling's Office and Representative Clymer's Office. Mr. Nyman **moved** to authorize Mr. Volovnik to sign the letters and send them to East Rockhill Township's state representatives. Mr. Cressman **seconded** the motion, which was **approved 3-0**.

Mr. Nyman **moved** to approve the Manager's Report. Mr. Cressman **seconded** the motion, which was **approved 3-0**.

Item #4: Planning Commission Report – Anne Fenley

Mrs. Fenley reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the Kracht Minor Plan, The Village at East Rockhill Land Development Plan, the Pileggi Planning Module and the Keelersville Club Conditional Use application.

It was noted that extension for time to review plans were received for the Buck Subdivision, Creekside Independent Living Land Development, Kracht Minor Subdivision, and the Draper DBS Land Development

Mr. Cressman **moved** to approve the Planning Commission Report. Mr. Nyman **seconded** the motion and it **carried 3-0**.

Item #5 PWTA Report – John Cressman

Mr. Cressman reported that he met before the regular meeting of the Pennridge Waste Water Treatment Authority for the Administration and Finance Committee. They are still reviewing pump reports to analyze utility water flow to determine whether or not additional EDUS should be made available.

Mr. Volovnik **moved** to approve the PWTA Report. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Nyman and **approved 3-0**.

Item #6 PACC Report – David Nyman

Mr. Nyman reported that the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee is still working on implementation of the Pennridge Water Resource Protection Plan. The member water authorities are working on source water protection standards, a basin in West Rockhill Township is planned to be retrofitted for best management practices. The other communities are working towards following East Rockhill's lead in adopting the plan as an amendment their Comprehensive Plans.

Mr. Cressman **moved** to approve the PACC Report. Mr. Volovnik **seconded** the motion which **carried 3-0**.

Item #7: Engineer's Report- C. Robert Wynn

Engineer, Mr. Wynn indicated he recently inspected the Jacoby Subdivision because the maintenance period is almost expired. With the exception of removing guide wires and stakes from the trees, all the improvements have been completed satisfactorily and he recommends the Board accept the improvements and close out the escrow. Mr. Nyman **moved** to accept the Jacoby Subdivision improvements subject to the stake and wire removal. Mr. Cressman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

Mr. Wynn also asked the Board to approve a construction voucher for \$921.45 for the School District project. Mr. Cressman **moved** to approve the voucher for \$921.45. Mr. Nyman **seconded** the motion which **carried 3-0**.

Item #8: Solicitor's Report – John B. Rice, Esquire

Mr. Rice reported that he prepared a Resolution, No. 2007-14, to authorize the Township to finalize the acquisition of a conservation easement on 26 acres of a 40 acre property known as the Clymer property on East Rock Road. Mr. Nyman **moved** to adopt **Resolution No. 2007-14**. Mr. Cressman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

The Solicitor's Report was approved by **motion** of Mr. Nyman, **seconded** by Mr. Cressman and a **3-0 vote**.

Item #9 Emergency Services Report

Mr. Nyman acknowledged receipt of reports from Perkasio, Sellersville and Dublin fire companies. He also thanked Perkasio Fire Company for including East Rockhill Township in their Housing of the new equipment festivities, which he attended.

Item #10 Other Business

Mr. Nyman indicated that he had a real estate item to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Francis Weylan of Ridge Road alerted the Board of Supervisors to a severe gypsy moth caterpillar problem this year and asked for their assistance to help get a program together at some level of government to help address the problem. The Board said they would speak with the County Commissioners, Representative Clymer and Senator Wonderling's office about it.

The Board answered questions from News Herald Reporter Patrick Cobb regarding the Noise Measurement proposal, the DCNR Grant and funding for the Easement.

Item #11: At 8:10 PM Chairman Volovnik **moved** to recess for five minutes before beginning the Conditional Use Hearing Application for the Keelersville Club and an Executive Session immediately following the hearing. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Nyman and **carried 3-0**.

The next Regular Meeting – July 17, 2007, 7:00 PM. .

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Klepfer
Secretary/Manager

Date Approved