

LOWER FREDERICK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes
Supervisor's Work Session

January 31, 2017

Lower Frederick Township
Municipal Building
53 Spring Mount Road

Meeting called to order by Mr. Bob Yoder, Chairman at approximately 7:00pm

Board of Supervisors

Bob Yoder, Chairman – Present
Ron Kerwood, Vice Chairman – Present
Terry Sacks, Supervisor – Absent

Township Staff

Tamara Twardowski, Manager - Present
Carol Schuehler, Engineer - Present
Tom Keenan, Esq. – Present
Tom Manning, Road Master – Present
Paul Maxey, Police Chief - Present

Technology, Server Upgrade

Representatives from Stratix Systems presented a proposal for upgrading existing Server and Technology needs of the Township. The presentation addressed services they provide to maintain the firewall, server, workstation and backup components of our computer system.

Sunrise Mill Trail Project

Mr. Yoder, member of Sunrise Mill Trail Project Steering Committee and witness to the public meeting held at the Township Building January 12th, 2017, sent the following statement to the Montgomery County Planning Commission, *"Personally, I do not support a foot trail thru private property. I feel that a trail up the Swamp Creek Valley floor from Delphi to the Sciota Creek should be removed from the map. I continue to encourage the County to maintain and develop its own property on the old railroad bed along Gravel Pike from Schwenksville to Delphi, begin to maintain the Old Gravel Pike Bridge for historical purposes and to maintain and develop the Sunrise Mill Property. I am open to a foot trail on public properties and I believe the bike lanes can help promote safety."*

Mr. Kerwood said the Board of Lower Frederick unanimously agrees there should be no taking of property and easements for the Sunrise Mill Trail Project and would oppose any attempt to do so.

Public Comment

Jim Rupert (117 Yerger Road): Wanted it to be known that had it not been for the anonymous letter he received informing him of the meeting held on January 12th, he would not have been in attendance. He expressed concern over the lack of notification from Montgomery County to the homeowners living along the Swamp Creek and the possibility of losing property by Eminent Domain. He feels the best way to preserve this greenway would be to leave it the way it is and not run a public trail right thru it. He asked the Board to discuss the proposed project and prepare an official position in support of or opposition to the trail.

Ranier Keown (Gravel Pike): Stated his opinion that trails are a good but it has to be the property owners' choice to participate. Condemnation of property should not be an option. He reminded the Board of Lower Frederick Township's Open Space policy which states that no trails will be placed upon private property without the permission of the landowner. On a personal note he feels that once a property owner denies the request for trail access, all future requests should cease. He also read a resolution that he was going to ask the LFT planning commission (of which he is a member) to consider adopting.

Loren Detwiler (Gerloff Road): He owns property on both sides of Swamp Creek. When he and his wife purchased their property they were looking for privacy. A trail would take that privacy and security away and he is opposed to the trail.

Outsource Mowing

Mr. Manning presented a proposal to outsource mowing for parks and open space in the Township, it was roughly \$40,000. The supervisors will review the proposal, no decision made at this time.

Material and Equipment Bid

A motion to send out The Material, Equipment and Chip Seal Bids.

Motion: Mr. Yoder Second: Mr. Kerwood

Request for Parking Restrictions

Ms. Twardowski had a request for parking restrictions on Second Avenue. He is having difficulty getting out of his driveway with his truck when cars are parked there. Chief Maxey, who was asked to provide input into this situation, does not see this as being a necessity at this point. There are several homes in that area that do not have driveways and either park in their front yard or on the street along Second Avenue. Placing parking restrictions would prove a hardship on residents living there. The supervisors do not want to revise the ordinance to create additional parking restrictions on Second Avenue.

Summer Concert

The Park Board is seeking permission to have the group “Elastic Karma” perform a concert this year. The cost would be \$1,800. There is \$6,000 in the park event budget this year. The supervisors approve this expenditure.

Tax Collector

There was discussion to change the way the tax collector is paid. Currently the tax collector is paid on a percentage basis. Under this structure, should taxes be increased for a specific reason (roads, sewer, police etc...), there would be an associated increase of the tax collectors salary. The Supervisors are not in agreement with this payment structure. Several options were discussed and Mr. Keenan will draft a Resolution and present it at the next Supervisors Regular Meeting February 7, 2017.

-Joe Zlomek, from the Schwenksville Post -asked if the tax collector was considered an independent contractor? No he is not.

Ms. Twardowski will notify Mr. Embree, Township Tax Collector, that the Board is looking to change the payment structure of his position.

NPDES Permit for Colonial Park

Ms. Schuehler has completed the application for NPDES Permit to remove the excess fill generated by the sewer plant collection system construction and deposit it at Colonial Park. The fill will be graded into a 320' X 200' athletic field. The site will also be used for 76 parking spaces, which includes 3 for handicap. The overall design for this area was discussed.

A motion to authorize submittal of the permits along with the associated fees in the amount of \$3580.

Motion: Mr. Yoder Second: Mr. Kerwood

MS4 update

Ms. Schuehler gave an update on the feedback she had received from the state regarding our requested that Lower Frederick be removed from Appendix E. She asked for guidance on the next step. She will send out the original report and feedback received and it can be discussed next week.

With no further items the Work Session was adjourned.