

**EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
8848 Jonestown Road, Grantville, PA 17028
July 19, 2011**

The meeting of the East Hanover Township Board of Supervisors was called to order with the pledge to the Flag by Chairman Keith Espenshade at 7:00 P.M. Present were Supervisors Dave Marshall, John Nelligan, and George Rish. Tom Shutt was absent.

Scott Wyland, Solicitor; Norm Ulrich, engineer; David Smith, Codes and Zoning; Charles Longreen, Director of Public Works; and Deborah Casey Secretary/Treasurer were also present.

The meeting was audio taped. The tapes are strictly for the use of the Secretary-Treasurer for clarification during preparation of the minutes.

The bid opening for the Screening Facility Project has been moved to August 2nd at 7:30 PM

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 5, 2011

Mr. Nelligan made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 5th meeting. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expenditures:

General Fund	\$ 38,799.48
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 9,227.10
Gaming Fund	\$ 19,483.28 – includes 3 rd Qtr to SCEMS
Park and Rec	<u>\$ 5,291.74</u>
Total	\$ 72,801.60

Mr. Marshall made a motion to pay the bills as submitted. Mr. Rish seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Receipts

General Fund	\$ 12,384.75
WWTP	\$ 33,054.20
Park and Rec	\$ 1,540.00

Available Funds

General Fund	\$ 415,983.81
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 197,541.77
Street Light	\$ 9,131.26
State Fund	\$ 534,632.53
Gaming Fund	\$ 792,563.68
Park & Rec Fund	\$ 95,781.93
Public Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 3,386.91</u>
Total	\$2,049,021.89

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence is listed as a handout and is available for review during regular office hours.

REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – CHARLES LONGREEN

- The bridge on Crooked Hill – Hopefully the plans and bid specs will be available in the near future for the Board's approval.
- The John Deere loader is having problems. Plasterer Equipment looked at it and the maximum cost for repairs could be between \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. It will cost \$900.00 just to transport it. Mr. Longreen spoke with Mr. Kriner and they would like to take it apart and try to repair the loader in house. The problem could be a seal in the transmission but we won't know until it is apart.
- Mr. Marshall suggested we might want to look at a good used transmission. Mr. Longreen noted Plasterer indicated a rebuilt transmission would cost \$20,000.00.
- By consensus, Mr. Kriner has permission to try to fix the loader.

CODES AND ZONING – DAVID SMITH

- Mr. Smith noted on July 5th the Board was provided with copies of the Zoning, UCC, and SEO reports. They are available at the municipal building for review.

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE – DAVE MARSHALL

- The main issue on the agenda was the sewer project. It seems to be going well with the exception of the electric being hooked up to the pump stations. There appears to be a problem with Met-Ed. Mazzuca is anticipating the system will be complete on the 29th of August, but electric may not be available until October.
- The screen did go out for bid. The bid opening had to be postponed because of an error with the design. That is corrected and the contractors have been provided with the correction so they can provide an accurate bid.
- Some citizens at the meeting were concerned about grinder pumps and they wanted the Township to pay for grinder pumps for 8 residents. The Board will have to determine what it wants to do.
- Everything should be done for Act 57 for the tapping by the August Sewer and Water Committee meeting and ready to set the tapping fee at 2nd meeting in August. As soon as the information is ready, he would like it put onto the website.
- Solicitor Wyland spoke about the Met-Ed situation. He received a call from LTL and it appears from Met-Ed's perspective that it needs 2 additional right-of-ways over private property to get the lines in. Met-Ed had sent requests to the property owners but have not heard back. Met-Ed felt the Township might want to get involved to help with the easements. Solicitor Wyland is checking into whether Met-Ed needs a private easement to access the pump stations. If they do need the private easements perhaps the Township would want to get involved. Met-Ed and the Township have the power to condemn to get the easements if that is the only thing holding up the power to the pump stations.

- Mr. Marshall commented he would like Solicitor Wyland to contact the property owners.

ENGINEERS REPORT – NORM ULRICH

- The engineer's written report was provided at the last meeting.
- Bridge over the Manada Creek on Jonestown Rd. – the bridge is now open. There are some punch list items LTL is working on with the contractor.

CLEARWATER PAYMENT NO. 5

- LTL is recommending a release of \$230,261.61. That number comprises \$126,260.60 for estimate No. 5 with no retainage withheld. The contract had a 10% retainage to keep the contractor on schedule. \$114,001.01 was the retainage for estimate No. 4 that was being withheld. That also represents a minus \$10,000.00 that the Township is still holding to make sure the contractor finishes up the punch list items.
- Chairman Espenshade asked if there was any contact with West Hanover as to the project being complete. Mr. Ulrich noted e-mails were sent out to everyone that was notified the bridge was going to be closed indicating it was now opened. Certified letters were also sent out. As far as the repairs to the road on the West Hanover side, he has not yet been in contact with them. He will contact them to make sure they are satisfied with the work.
- **Mr. Marshall made a motion to pay Clearwater Construction \$230,261.61 for the bridge. Mr. Nelligan seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

ERIC EPSTEIN

- Mr. Epstein noted Mr. Rish and others planned to have a meeting WITH Representative Marsico but did not know if that happened.
- There was a meeting with the Tri-County Planning Commission and CAT regarding public transport and a possible Park and Ride scenario. The initial study will look at South and West Hanover; however, East Hanover is still in the plan but it may be several years down the road. It looks like the next circulator will include Hummelstown, the Medical Center, Hershey Meadows Marketplace, Hershey Outlets, Skyline Drive and West Hanover. That is based on needs and population now. East Hanover is in the study, but the Board needs to keep in touch with the TCRPC regarding the study. Lebanon Public Transit has the Casino in mind and has a stop at the Casino. Mr. Epstein commented he indicated to the TCRPC if there is retail development on Rt. 22, workers will need to come out, there are hotels in the Township, and there is the Casino. One of the primary issues for a Park and Ride is the location. East Hanover is actively being considered, but not in the next route that goes out. TCRPC knows the Township's desire and interest and are monitoring the growth.
- The MOU meeting was postponed and Mr. Epstein is scheduled to meet with the IDA on July 20th. Harrisburg's Act 47 would take \$2 million from the Casino funds and Mr. Epstein will emphasize where the Casino is located at and some revenue needs to be returned to the Township.

- State Police Issue – Mr. Epstein would still like to go through the appropriations to see if Township funds will be reduced.
- Mr. Marshall asked if a Park and Ride could be on private property would there be a lease, and are they looking at 7 days per week or 5 days. Mr. Epstein did not know the answers. Mr. Marshall noted the Jehovah Witness Hall was located next to his property and has a large parking area. It might be possible to use that lot for the Park and Ride if they would agree. Mr. Epstein commented they might be sensitive about the liability issue. Solicitor Wyland noted you would have to look at it contractually to see if something could be worked out. Discussion continued.

ANDY STEIN

- Mr. Stein was not present at the meeting. The Board did have a report in its packet for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SHIRK CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT

- Solicitor Wyland noted he spoke with Mr. Shirk's attorney who drafted the agreement. There was some previous miss-communication between the parties involved. The agreement was submitted to the bank which held the agreement for a long time but approved it. Discussions were held with the various parties and the agreement was accepted, however, the Township did not receive the attachments to the agreement and the corrected agreement with signatures. Solicitor Wyland noted the agreement has been reviewed and can be approved without the grammatical changes. If the agreement can be signed with the changes, that would be better. Solicitor Wyland noted he would like to see the attachments before the final agreement is submitted. He recommended approving the agreement contingent upon the solicitor's review of the attachments and the final signatures. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Rish asked if Solicitor Wyland had seen the exhibits that describe the the properties. Solicitor Wyland noted he has not seen the exhibits and would like to review them before final approval. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Shirk noted the exhibits pertain to each deeded lot that would be divided off. The exhibits would describe wetlands on the properties. He noted the exhibits would be provided and the agreement needs to be signed off by the financial institution, the attorney, the Township, and himself. In order for him to submit this, along with the general permits to begin the process of approvals so we can come back and bring the permits to the Township for final approval. Each exhibit pertains to each lot.
- Solicitor Wyland noted the agreement explains what the restrictions are but only the exhibits can help the Township understand to what portions of each parcel it applies. He would like to confirm the deeds would show the appropriate areas for the wetlands.

- Mr. Rish asked if the easement agreements would continue with the properties if they were sold. Mr. Shirk noted they would be and would be transferred with the sale of a property.
- **Mr. Marshall made a motion to approve the Shirk Conservation Easement Agreement subject to Solicitor Wyland's review of the attachments. Mr. Rish seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

H2O CONTRACT WITH HAWKE, MCKEON & SNISCAK AND JOHNSON DUFFY

- Solicitor Wyland noted this is a contract required by DCED for anyone who is paid out of grant funds. This would apply to his firm and also Johnson Duffy who has done some legal real estate title work for the sewer project. Both contracts are the same.
- **Mr. Marshall made a motion to approve both H2O contracts for legal work, one with Johnson & Duffy and the other with Hawk, McKeon & Sniscak. Mr. Nelligan seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

NEW BUSINESS

CAMPBELL – RELEASE OF LETTER OF CREDIT

- Mr. Ulrich noted the final inspection was done and there are no issues.
- Chairman Espenshade commented the release is in the amount of \$14,200.00.
- **Mr. Nelligan made a motion to release the line of credit on the Campbell property for the stormwater permit in the amount of \$14,200.00. Mr. Marshall asked if the engineering fees in the amount of \$394.26 are being retained out of the letter of credit. Mrs. Casey noted Mr. Campbell did a letter of credit vs. an escrow. Mr. Nelligan amended his motion to release the letter of credit after payment has been received for the \$394.26. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and amended motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

ROCKVIEW LLC – REDUCTION OF LETTER OF CREDIT

- Chairman Espenshade noted the Solicitor provided a letter with his recommendation.
- Solicitor Wyland noted this request was brought to the Township a while ago and there were some discrepancies. Those issues have been worked out; however, there is still one outstanding issue which is they used the wrong paving material in the one area. It has been made clear that they need to correct that or prove they had approval in the past, come and seek approval from the Board, or tearing out the material they put in and put in the appropriate material. They have also tried to reduce the 10% hold back from the Township. Solicitor Wyland has spoken with Mr. Ulrich and they both agree that the hold back should be 10% of the total amount of the improvements. There is the opportunity for the Township to add a 10% increase annually to the holdback, which the Township has not elected to do. Discussion continued. Solicitor Wyland asked if the LOC's were

combined, would the 10% be covered by the 2 remaining LOC's. Mr. Ulrich noted he would have to look at what needs to be done before he could answer the questions. Typically what we have done in the past is not to reduce the 10% contingency which is the Township to use if the contractor went under and the Township had to finish the project.

- Chairman Espenshade asked if the July 15th letter from Rockview showed the appropriate figures. Solicitor Wyland noted they were.
- Solicitor Wyland noted the Letter of Credit No. 91 is going to be reduced by \$468,348.63. The new letter of credit balance will be \$279,287.53. Letter of Credit No. 158 will be reduced by \$134,219.73 and the new letter of credit will be \$139,092.87.
- **Mr. Marshall made a motion to reduce Rockview letter of credits in the amounts read by Solicitor Wyland. Mr. Nelligan seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

SCEMS - GRANT

- Chairman Espenshade noted this is a letter requesting that we be co-applicants in a Municipal Share Application in the replacement of a 16 year old ambulance in conjunction with South and West Hanover Townships. This would be a standalone project. This would be a grant request in support of South Central.
- Mr. Nelligan noted he would abstain from voting.
- **Mr. Marshall made a motion to support and provide a letter of support for the grant for an ambulance for EMS. Mr. Rish seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3 in favor, Chairman Espenshade, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Rish; 0 opposed; 1 abstention, Mr. Nelligan.**

MAZZUCA AND TYNDALE PAYMENTS FOR THE SEWER PROJECT

The amount for Mazzuca is \$319,465.80 and Tyndale is \$20,456.14.

- **Mr. Marshall made a motion to pay Mazzuca in the amount of \$319,465.80 and Tyndale in the amount of \$20,456.14 for the sewer project. Mr. Nelligan seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

There was no other business from the Board.

Mr. Epstein noted his comments regarding the public transportation were speculation. It was his take from the meeting.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Richard Schock commented it is nice to have the bridge over the Manada Creek opened and felt they did a good job.

Mr. Schock provided a statement and concerns about the decisions made to close N. Faith Rd. at Rt. 743. Mr. Schock's full letter is available at the Municipal Building for review.

- On July 18, 2011, there was a meeting with Rep. Ron Marsico, Supervisor George Rish, Lindsey Ewing, Paul Herr and Mr. Schock.
- Mr. Schock is interested in keeping N. Faith Rd. open since he was once an active member of the Faith UCC and made many trips to the church. His wife has 50 plus years at Faith UCC and makes many trips to the church for services, stocking shelves at the Food Pantry, etc. Closing the road will add 1.3 miles to her trip and will cost more in fuel. Mr. Schock spoke to the second Pastor at Faith and he indicated the issue should be challenged. Mr. Schock is opposed to closing the road.
- At the July 18th meeting, Rep. Marsico seemed to believe that the Board of Supervisors approved the PennDOT plan to close the road which was its 2nd plan since the first was to close N. Faith at Rt. 22 and make no changes at the intersection with Rt. 743. Mr. Schock could find no record of the vote or who was involved in the approval of the plan. At the meeting, 2 rough drafts were presented of other suggestions for the intersection. He provided copies to the Board. The first would involve construction of a deceleration lane on northbound 743 and ramp onto Faith Rd. to eliminate the bad condition that exists now. The other part of the plan is to move N. Faith Rd. north to a point where vehicles traveling south on Rt. 743 would have better visibility.
- The second draft shows an overhead sign across the southbound lane north of the intersection with blinking lights, a warning that vehicles may be stopped and a recommended speed.
- Rep. Marsico expressed the possibility of checking to see if money would be available for PennDOT to correct the problems. That would take care of the problem on Faith Rd. and the stacking of vehicles on Rt. 743
- Mr. Schock considered PennDOT's idea to close N. Faith Rd. to through traffic because it is used as a shortcut ridiculous. He told Rep. Marsico that he understood what had happened was PennDOT gave the Township an ultimatum that the road would be closed to through traffic
- Mr. Schock had a list of questions for the Board. The first was is the word ultimatum in this case. Did PennDOT give the Township an ultimatum? He noted he had 9 questions.
- Mr. Epstein asked if Mr. Schock represented to Rep. Marsico that it was an ultimatum, but was not sure of it. There was no ultimatum given. Discussion continued. Mr. Epstein noted he would be happy to meet with Mr. Schock regarding the issue.
- Chairman Espensahde asked Mr. Schock to present his questions and the Board would respond after the complete list is presented. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Schock presented his questions. His questions and letter will be attached to the minutes.
- Mr. Epstein noted he has attended most of the HATS meetings and asked if Mr. Schock asked PennDOT the questions he posed to the Board. Mr. Schock noted he did not. Discussion continued. Many conversations were going on at the same time and much of the discussion was not discernable.
- Chairman Espensshade noted he was not at any of the meetings with PennDOT so he cannot provide answers as to what was said or not said.

- Mr. Marshall commented he was at one of the meetings. We made no decisions ever to recommend any closures here. Some suggestions were made, but no decisions were made. We were not given the opportunity to make any decisions. The only decision made on this Rt. 22 project was to write a letter, which was voted on at a public meeting, to put a traffic light at Sand Beach Rd. and Rt. 22. PennDOT has since decided to not put a light there. At the meeting he attended, PennDOT presented plans to close N. Faith and S. Faith Rd. at Rt. 22 so you could not cross. The problem we saw at the meeting and relayed to PennDOT is if they close Faith Rd. at Rt. 22 there would be a problem with trucks that would be leaving the feed mill to make a turn. The first suggestion at the meeting was to take the hill off. PennDOT refused to do that. Adequate sight distance would be provided with that solution. PennDOT suggested, along with the Supervisors that this could be a possible plan. They never submitted it to us for approval. We saw the final plan when everyone along Rt. 22 got a flyer stating of what they were doing on Rt. 22. This intersection is part of the Rt. 22 project. If you can't go out of Faith Rd. south and make a left hand turn on Rt. 22 with a truck, it's suicide if you do on the north.
- Mr. Schock asked why they would consider the first plan. That was poor planning. Mr. Marshall noted Mr. Schock is asking the wrong people.
- Mr. Nelligan noted he was at the first meeting with Mr. Marshall, he agrees with Mr. Marshall's recollection. It was PennDOT's decision as to how this would work.
- Mr. Schock felt PennDOT has made many mistakes with projects. He knew of somewhere where they got something corrected because the Board got involved. Mr. Schock continued his discussion.
- Mr. Marshall noted there was one question he did not address. At the meeting he attended, PennDOT told us if they close either one of the ends of the roads, they would be revoking our permit to enter the roads. Discussion continued. Mr. Epstein noted he would provide his notes from all the meetings he attended on the issue. The questions Mr. Schock raised, the Township raised at the meetings. Mr. Schock noted if it was a public meeting, there should have been minutes. Mr. Nelligan commented that it was an informative session and only 2 or 3 Board members were present, there were no decisions made. Discussion continued.
- Chairman Espenshade noted funding is not the issue for the project. PennDOT is not allowing it to be done. Representatives of the Township have met with Mr. Bachmann and made suggestions. PennDOT is not allowing the Township to make changes.
- Mr. Marshall commented the 1st option Mr. Schock presented will not happen since PennDOT will not allow the Township to enter onto Rt. 743 as Mr. Schock has drawn it. PennDOT will not issue a permit for it. If Mr. Schock can get PennDOT to sign off on the plan, the Township may support it.
- Chairman Espenshade noted PennDOT controls the plan; all the Township can do is ask. Mr. Nelligan commented the Township made it clear that it could fund leveling the hill, they said no.

- Mr. Schock noted Rep. Marsico seemed to indicate that he would check into seeing if there was money available to correct Rt. 743 issues. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Epstein noted funding was not the issue. The Township has said they would supply the funding; however, if PennDOT doesn't authorize it, it can't be done.
- Chairman Espenshade commented his colleagues attended the meetings and not him. He indicated to those that attended the meetings to see if they can do anything with the intersection. We have a grant to deal with this intersection and others to see if we can correct them. PennDOT will not allow the Township to do what it wants.
- Mr. Schock noted John Bachmann indicated at the July 5th meeting that one of the considerations by the Township was that it would be less maintenance. Chairman Espenshade noted he could not speak for Mr. Bachmann. When his colleagues went to the meetings, this intersection, Kelly Court and Villa Rosa's driveways were issues the Township put on the table with PennDOT. The intentions of the Board were to correct the problem.
- Mr. Schock discussed the law, entrances onto State Roads and felt there could be exceptions.
- Chairman Espenshade commented the Township put in for a grant for improvements on Laudermitlch Rd., Kelly Court and Faith Rd. and received it in the amount of \$270,000.00. Funding is not the issue. The approval is the issue. The only thing the Board could do is write a letter indicating funding is available. Discussion continued on the issue and Mr. Schock's interpretation of ultimatum. Chairman Espenshade noted the project has been let out. He did not know if there was anything that could be done outside of writing a letter to investigate the changing of the intersection. He did not want to spend money if PennDOT will not allow the Township to change the intersection.
- Paul Herr of Herr's Feed Mill commented he is surprised. He was told by Mr. Bachmann at a meeting that the Board is in denial. He should approach the Board and convince them to keep the road. Mr. Bachmann told him that the Supervisors are against keeping the road open. There are many tractor trailers coming into the feed mill and 99% are coming in off I81 and it will be a mess to come in another way outside of Rt. 743 onto Faith. Mr. Bachmann told him that if the Supervisors get together with PennDOT they could change the closing of the road. Discussion continued on the issue and using the road as a short cut. Mr. Herr had concerns about traffic coming through Grantville if the road closes.
- Mr. Epstein felt the Board could get to the bottom of the issue if Solicitor Wyland sends a letter to Mr. Bachmann verifying the Township's position.
- Chairman Espenshade commented he did not have an issue with the road staying open as long as the intersection is improved. He felt it is also the Boards position since it went after funding to get the intersections improved. He did not want to do the intersections unless they are done right.
- Mr. Schock agreed with the Chairman. He noted he had a meeting with John Bachmann at Faith Church and he is adamant about using that road as a shortcut. Discussion continued. Chairman Espenshade commented he sees the intersection as dangerous and it needs to be improved. He felt the Board also

felt it is a dangerous intersection. If Mr. Herr is correct with Mr. Bachmann 's statement, if the Township can get something in writing that says if the Township does the engineering work and provide a proposal, we will allow you to do it if it meets our regulations.

- Mr. Marshall commented if the Township decides to write a letter to Mr. Bachman, and is going to get involved with fixing the intersection the right way, he does not believe it would be fixed 100% the right way. It was expressed at the meeting he attended, with closing Faith Rd. it eliminates a danger at the end of Faith Rd. It doesn't eliminate any danger at the traffic light at Rt. 743 if you go southbound. That is a concern all the Supervisors had. If we are going to fight to keep this open and if we are going to put some money into this, what needs to happen is to bring Faith Rd. to the south so when it comes out onto Rt. 743 it comes out square. Then 743 needs to be cut down to the height of that road and he does not believe PennDOT will allow us to do that. Discussion continued.
- Chairman Espenshade asked Mr. Longreen what the process would be to put up a sign. Mr. Schock noted putting up a sign would be the responsibility of PennDOT. Chairman Espenshade noted if the sign was necessary, it would already be there. We can suggest putting a sign up but PennDOT has regulations for those signs and PennDOT is the one who is going to have to give permission. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Schock commented John Bachmann has been the persuading person for the project.
- Chairman Espenshade noted he did not have a problem sending a letter to PennDOT but it is the Board's decision. What he would want is some sort of approval from PennDOT for the Township to proceed in fixing the intersection.
- Mr. Nelligan noted he attended all the meetings and has heard all the comments tonight. He has never heard any of the comments Mr. Bachmann has been alleged to have said. He would like to put it into a letter and put it on the table. He would like to have Mr. Bachmann attend a meeting to talk to the Township personally. He would like to understand what is happening.
- Mr. Marshall suggested Mr. Epstein draft a letter since he has been at all the HATS meetings, address all the intersections involved and express the Boards desire as to how the intersection at Faith ad Rt. 743 should be done.
- Chairman Espenshade suggested Mr. Epstein contact Mr. Bachmann to see what is going on. Mr. Epstein noted he would do so and explained that HATS prioritizes projects. The project has already been let out and if you delay the project with changes, it might not get done. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Nelligan felt the project in total is much more important that just one road issue. There are dangerous crossroads that need to be closed and lives will be saved. He did not want to slow down the project because of one intersection.

Dave Smith commented where he lives in Williamstown, there is the 131st Transportation Company. Members of that unit were deployed to Afghanistan and 2 nights ago, the unit was attacked and 3 members were killed. He asked that the Board and residents keep those gentlemen in their thoughts and prayers.

Lloyd Binkley noted his land is zoned Commercial Recreation. The lots beside him that are for sale are Highway Commercial. His back line is 80 feet away from the Highway Commercial property. He asked if he could build a hotel on his property or would he have to have his property rezoned.

- Mr. Smith suggested Mr. Binkley speak with him after the meeting to answer his questions.

Mr. Nelligan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Casey

cc: Keith Espenshade
John Nelligan
Dave Marshall
Thomas Shutt
George Rish
Hawke, McKeon & Sniscak
Curt Cassel

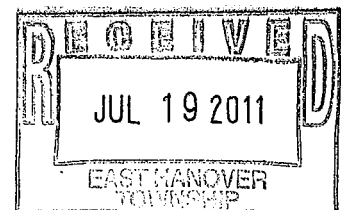
Charles Longreen
Planning Commission
Light-Heigel & Associates
Posted
Zoning Hearing Board
LTL Consultants
Eric Epstein

This is a statement and questions about my concerns about a decision or decisions to close N. Faith road at Rt.743.

Yesterday, Mon. July 18, 2011, there was a meeting with Rep. Ron Marsico. The Supervisors were invited to that meeting and only Supervisor Rish. attended. Others present were Rep. Marsico, aide Lindsey Ewing, Paul Herr, and I. I want to thank Rep Marsico and Supervisor Rish for showing an interest in this situation and attending that meeting.

Some may ask why I am interested in keeping N. Faith Road open. In the 30+ years I was active at Faith UCC, I made many trips to Faith Church, and sometimes under extreme conditions. One time we called on the state to use their snow blower that was working on Rt.22 to open the road so temporary repairs could be made to the church. That path was Rt. 743. My wife has 50+ years and to this time makes many trips above and beyond the church service on Sundays, such as stocking shelves at Food Pantry, choir practice, fund raising projects, etc. etc. At an extra 1.3 miles per trip, the mileage and fuel used would be great. I talked to the second Pastor at Faith, and when I explained what was proposed his response was: "I'd fight it". Knowing and serving with the people that were involved with site selection and building Faith Church, I doubt very much they would be in favor of closing N. Faith Road and I try to imagine the extra mileage and fuel involved if they had to do what is now being proposed. For these reasons I am adamantly opposed to the closing of N. Faith Road.

At yesterdays' meeting, Rep. Marsico seemed to believe that the BOS approved the PA DOT plan to close N. Faith Road at Rt. 743, which was apparently DOT's second plan, since the first plan was to close N. Faith Road at Rt.22 and make no changes at the intersection with Rt. 743. I know of no discussion, advertising, record or minutes, of a meeting or meetings, and who was involved and what statements or decisions were made and by whom.



At yesterday's meeting, I presented two rough "drafts" imposed on a Google map just to show possible improvements at the Rt.743 and N. Faith Road intersection. The first and I believe preferable fix would involve construction of a deceleration lane on northbound 743 and ramp onto Faith Rd. to eliminate the bad condition that exists now, so it can be used by fire equipment and tractor trailers. The other part involves moving N. Faith Rd. north to a point where vehicles traveling south on 743, wishing to turn on to Faith Rd, and have to stop for oncoming traffic, are visible to following vehicles. I would build a concrete island between these ramps just as you see used at many intersections.

The second rough "draft" shows an overhead sign across the southbound lane at the appropriate distance north of the intersection with blinking amber lights and a warning that vehicles may be stopped and recommended speed. The DOT recommended speed presently is 25 MPH on a sign just south of the traffic light at Jonestown Rd. This would require no changes to Faith Rd.

At yesterday's meeting Rep. Marsico expressed the possibility of checking to see if money would be available for DOT to correct the problems on 743. If that were to happen, that would take care of the problem with Faith Rd and the stacking of vehicles on 743, which is a real danger presently. Left turn lanes on 743 and 22 will help the stacking problem, but it WILL NOT eliminate that problem. Yesterday about 5:00 p.m., southbound traffic was stacked back over the hill to about half way between the crest of the hill and the light at Jonestown Rd.

Personally I consider DOT's idea to close N. Faith Rd. to through traffic because it is used as a shortcut as asinine as John Bachman's idea to take class 1 soil to build a swamp on his US22/322 RIVER ROUTE DAUPHIN TO SPEECEVILE project!

Yesterday at our meeting I told Rep. Marsico that as I understood what happened here was that DOT gave the township an “ultimatum” that N. Faith Rd would be closed to through traffic.

1. Is the word ultimatum an appropriate word in this case?
2. Did Dot state in writing, or verbally, they could revoke the permit for Faith Rd.
3. Did DOT state in writing, or verbally, they would revoke the permit for Faith Rd?
4. DOT engineer John Bachman stated at a meeting with Rep. Marsico on July 5, 2011, that a consideration by the township to close Faith Rd. was, less maintenance on Faith Rd. Was that a consideration by the Board?
5. In light of the way things are today where it is a long and very expensive procedure to obtain a permit from the Commonwealth,--Is it prudent or appropriate, to make a decision such as closing a township road without involving the affected people that use the road, and the businesses that will definitely be affected by ingress and egress to those properties?
6. Did the BOS take into consideration the extra traffic into and through Grantville including tractor trailers and horse trailers?
7. Did the BOS take into consideration the possibility of improvements to the roads in Grantville, and the cost of those improvements to the township at a future time?
8. Did the Township consider funding improvement of N. Faith Rd with money we receive from the Hollywood Casino, which we are due because we are host township to the Casino?
9. Did the Township, BOS, or agent for the Township, implicitly or explicitly, verbally, or in writing, indicate approval to anybody at the DOT, to close North Faith Road to through traffic?