

FORKS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Northampton County, Pennsylvania
WORK SESSION
APRIL 5, 2018

MEETING GENERALITIES:

The Forks Township Board of Supervisors met in a work session at the Municipal Building, 1606 Sullivan Trail, Easton, Pennsylvania. Meeting was called to order this date at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

John O'Neil, Chairman
Erik Chuss, Vice Chairman
Ed Moore, Supervisor
Dan Martyak, Supervisor
Robert Egolf, Secretary/Treasurer

Others Present:

John V. Cornell, Township Manager
Steve Kramer, Public Works Director
James Farley, Finance Director
Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor
Sean Policelli, Township Engineer
Greg Dorney, Police Chief
Tim Weis, Building & Zoning Office

Absent Were:

Barb Bartek, Human Resource Manager
Rachel Sulzbach, Parks Recreation Director
Chuck Gallagher, Fire Chief

Supervisor Comments:

Supervisor Chairman John O'Neil reported the board had met with State Trooper Seth Kelly and his Wife Township Police Officer Philomena prior to the meeting and remarked how well Trooper Kelly is recovering from his recent injuries from a shooting is miraculous. He lost 85% of his blood by the time he got to the hospital. He saved his own life by using a tourniquet that he carries with him, to stop the bleeding. Trooper Kelley was awarded the National State Trooper of the Year award.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. EZ MICRO, DAVE DOOLEY - Board of Supervisors electronic devices informal discussions

Dave Dooley is owner of EZ Micro and has been supplying our IT needs since 2007. Mr. Dooley asked the Supervisors what their needs and requirements are with regards to their electronic devices, so he can tailor a solution. There was discussion from the Board what their issues and needs were. The Supervisors agreed there was a need for their devices to be compatible and transparent with all the different applications that are currently being used, easy to use and access with security. Mr. Dooley said a solution would be the application Share Point and said the Township is due for an upgrade in the next year or 2. At that time, we would move to Office 365 which would give us Share Point. Mr. Dooley asked if the need is to access files for the Board or other files. Multiple user groups are to be accessed.

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1. EZ MICRO, DAVE DOOLEY - Board of Supervisors electronic devices informal discussions (continued)

Mr. Dooley suggested we start with Share Point and figure out the best way to do that and setup a document library. Continue communicating what else may be needed. Looking at the expense side and figure out if everyone needs it or just department heads. The Board proposed putting a plan document together and Mr. Dooley said he could also put a simulation together for us.

It was mentioned how helpful and patient E-Z MICRO's engineers were on the phone which is appreciated.

2. FORKS HISTORIAL SOCIETY LAND USE - Continued discussion

After reviewing various areas, the recommendation is the Public Works area which seemed to be the best place with plenty of space and growth for a 40 x 80 building. If in agreement we can work on particular and site on the property. Start with pole building.

Gary Sandt, President of Society ,was present and he thanked the Board for their time and is glad we are now going somewhere. A meeting room for the society would also be opened to the public for meetings.

Discussion continued on different locations within the park and the erection of a pole building to start and utilize. It was suggested that the plans be reviewed with the Recreation Board.

3. BUSHKILL CREEK RESOTRATION AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND GRAND FUNDING UPDATE

Letter from Kathy Altman, President of Bushkill Stream Conservancy explains what the Conservancy will be doing within the next year - year and a half. The Bushkill Creek as it is, is not a good fishing stream, that people are telling us they want. Doing restoration restore and enhance by creating fish habitats, improve stream structure, work on the flow that fish would come back in the stream.

The land that the stream flows through is Palmer and Tatamy. When it flows through Forks it is Lafayette land. We won't be involved in the granting operation. We will support the project, but we will not be involved in the funding. We went to the Conservancy stating we would like to do something to move this project on. Conservancy suggested Forks could help with the expenses of public notification of the upcoming work. Forks to provide the information aspect of what is going on in the creek by putting signs along the creek to inform people or send out flyer in utility bills and Forks newsletter. Not asking for money but support of these ideas. Contractor sites will be very minimal with equipment but will be viewed by individuals. We would work with all the entities, Palmer and Tatamy to get the word out. Cost of flyers should be feasible but will get back with prices.

Question regarding 3 or 4 years ago a gentleman came and showed us a video they were going to fix the stream. Yes, it's a long history of trying to get this right. There are all kinds or approvals we have to go through DCR, Going Greener, Trout unlimited. A clear benefit for Forks.

Question asked if this would include the taking out of the dams throughout the creek. It was clarified the dam project is a separate project.

4. FIRE LANE LISTING UPDATE – Resolution #20180405 discussion

New fire lane areas included 2 new entities - Country Meadows and Weis. Resolution #20180405 needs to be passed. Asked if it wanted to be passed this evening. Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor advised it didn't need to be advertised, it was part of our agenda and could be voted on this evening. By Motion made to pass the resolution 20180405.

Vote 5-0 passed.

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5. SULLIVAN PARK APARTMENTS – Informal Review

Apartments to be built on Mecco Road. Plans and drawings what they are going to look like and representatives for the apartments present to answer questions – Tony Ganguzza, Developer

Planning Commission voted to approve these, some items were changed like sidewalks to make them more pedestrian friendly, the way the buildings are facing the street, roadway, parking area and landscaping. Layout changed, what are the changes?

Mr. Ganguzza - Property originally made up of 4 parcels and was originally commercial. How many apartments 102 - (3) 24 unit buildings and (1) 30 unit building. This is a new concept for the township.

How many parking spaces is there? Ganguzza - 204 – 2 per unit no parking in the building. Is there a common area? Ganguzza – Yes pointed the common area out on the drawing. No community building. Ganguzza – they have heavily landscaped the borders, went well above what was required for a buffer. Additional shrubs behind buildings, Lafayette Drive and Mecco Road. Developer went through drawing showing the landscaping and berms. East side of the property was an issue with the neighbors with regards to buffering and landscaping and that has been addressed and is heavily landscaped.

Parcel will include a mix of 1 and 2 bedrooms for a total of 204 apartments with 50% of 1 and 2 bedrooms. Mr. Chuss noted that there is a storage of 1-bedroom apartments for older residents. Board questioned if we considered a school bus stop and where it would be for the development. Painting lines for the school bus it will be incorporated with other items to be addressed on Mecco Road.

Questions from the public – A neighbor was present and stated the berms and trees have been completed. A little concerned they aren't staggered. Ganguzza said they will be staggered. Neighbor did comment how nice everything looked.

Ganguzza - There was a traffic study done and completed. Required timing adjustment be made to signals at Sullivan Trail at 2 locations. As opposed to us going through that process and knowing the township is doing a study and evaluation along Sullivan Trail, Developer suggested to the Planning Board that Developer would contribute towards the study \$15,000 towards the traffic study with an additional \$15,000 for future growth. For a total of \$30,000 in contribution. Required timing adjustment

Mr. Chuss suggested the Board not rush the final approval to make sure nothing has been missed. Developer stated the neighbor participated in meetings and have listened to the neighbors and made changes. Not many open issues left. Mr. Chuss suggested again the Board not rush the final approval. It would be a month delay for final approval to evaluate everything.

Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor – most plans for Fork are straight forward and nothing to review. The Planning Commission has seen it numerous times and on agendas.

From the audience:

Jean DeJolie 229 Silverage Lane – what is on the inside of the buildings? These are issues for building permit. Township hasn't gotten to that phase. Other concern is there going to parking on Mecco Road. Yes, it's a public road. Concern regarding Stonebridge will be getting more traffic and maybe there should be a light at Richmond.

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6. RENTAL, RESALE INSPECTION – Informal Review

Robert Vargo, 1609 Arrowwood Drive, Ramblewood Development

Homeowners complained about rental house in their neighborhood with 13 individuals living in the house, cars on street and lawn, trash not in trash can in plastic bags and large flames from fire pit. Homeowners asked if there was an ordinance for renters. There is no renter's ordinance. Mr. Weis, Building & Zoning Official asked homeowners to contact his office with the address and he would follow through and send a letter to the homeowner of the rental property. It was also suggested that the ordinances would be looked at to see if anything can be changed to apply to renters.

7. PARK HOUSE 708 Zuckesville Road – Lease discussion

Township to lease Park House to an employee. Discussion of some items that should be part of the lease – improvements to the house need approval by township, security deposit, list of number individuals living in house.