

April 14, 2011 - Antrim Township Board of Supervisors

MINUTES of the ANTRIM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, the GREENCASTLE – ANTRIM SCHOOL DISTRICT and the BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2011 6:00 p.m.

The Antrim Township Board of Supervisors held a joint meeting with the Greencastle-Antrim School District and the Borough of Greencastle on Thursday, April 14, 2011 in the Greencastle-Antrim Middle School cafeteria, 370 South Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, PA, with the following present: Antrim Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Sam Miller, Supervisors Curtis Myers and Fred Young III. Others attending for Antrim Township included Brad Graham, Township Administrator and Mary Klein, Township Secretary; Greencastle-Antrim School Board Members Kristy Faulkner, Joel Fridgen, Eric Holtzman, Melinda Cordell, Bill Thorne and G-A School District Superintendent Greg Hoover; Borough of Greencastle Council Members Craig Myers, Paul Schemel, H. Duane Kinzer, Matthew Smith, Charles Eckstine, James Farley and Harry Foley. Others attending for the Borough of Greencastle included Ken Womack, Borough Manager and Robert E. Eberly, Borough Mayor.

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The meeting opened with a word of prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss issues from the Borough Council. Borough Council member Mr. Eckstine addressed the Antrim Township Board of Supervisors and asked what they would like to achieve by this meeting because it seems like we don't establish or accomplish anything. Supervisor Young responded and said at the last meeting we accomplished a couple of things: the Comprehensive Plan, Bypass/Connector Road, Mr. Myers addressed sidewalk issues and we discussed the Shared Use Trail. The Comprehensive Plan will show all of these items. Mr. Eckstine mentioned the Joint Police Department and the fact that the Township has not made any commitment for this and is not contributing to the numerous calls that the Greencastle Borough Police Department responds to in the Township. Mr. Eckstine also commented on the School Resource Officer and the fact that the residents of the Borough are funding police services for the Township. Mr. Eckstine mentioned BJ Roberts, who was a former Township Supervisor, and the fact that you knew where he stood on issues. Mr. Eckstine brought up the recent decision about the water system and the fact that the Supervisors put the interest of ten residents above the residents of the whole community. Mr. Eckstine also mentioned concern about throwing Mike Ross off the team by their actions.

Supervisor Curtis Myers responded to Mr. Eckstine and said that on January 11th everyone was under the understanding that we had a deal. Myers also mentioned that in July 2008 the state passed a law that if there was public water then the residents would not have to connect and then the GAFCWA changed the deal. Mr. Eckstine responded that we appoint them (GAFCWA) and we don't tell them what to do. Myers responded that Item 10J in the agreement says mandatory connection and when those ten people, the Hykes Road and water tower residents would sell their property then they would connect. Township Chairman Sam Miller commented that in ten years they could connect at a reduced tap rate and we agreed on five years. Miller also added that when he made the motion to sell the water system, he never intended the Hess Development to be exempt. Mr. Eckstine addressed Supervisor Young and addressed the representation of the Township on the GAFCWA and stated that he wants people on the Water Authority who have experience with it. Chairman Miller added that the GAFCWA would be willing to exempt everyone that the Township has exempted and he called Mike Ross who told him that he is negotiating on how to pay the \$1.25M grant back. It was noted that the merger was not discussed until

late 2008/early 2009 and with the upgrade that was done at the Township's water plant, it would have a capacity of 850,000 gallons. Mr. Eckstine added that we need a broader tax base and more commercial business. He added that they have a great system but not a good distribution system and he is disappointed that we can't work together. Supervisor Young commented about that we were trying to contribute to the Route 11/16 intersection project but we could not find a way to do it legally. Ken Womack, Borough Manager added that they are trying to get a Council of Governments together so this could be accomplished. Supervisor Myers commented that we are going to make a sizeable contribution to the library. Borough Council member Paul Schemel added that he thinks we should revisit the Route 11/16 project because he thinks there are opportunities here to work together. He also made mention of the water facility. Chairman Miller said that he believes we are going to need a police department and we need to join together for the better of the residents. Miller also added that we have negotiated a reasonable deal for the water sale and the residents in question could buy their tap fees now and hook up later. Supervisor Young said we signed a deal and sent it back to the GAFCWA and then they changed it.

There was a discussion at this time regarding Shared Services. Greg Hoover, GASD Superintendent said the school has used the Greencastle Police Department to assist with sporting events and it has worked out very well. Mr. Hoover also brought up about borrowing equipment from either the Township or the Borough if they would have a need for a heavy piece of equipment. Brad Graham, Township Administrator said that the road department already does this to an extent with the Borough. Mr. Graham and Ken Womack, Borough Manager both agreed that they would not have a problem lending a piece of equipment to the school district if they needed it.

Mr. Hoover gave an update on the school farm at this time and said the Board has approved an endowment fund but he has not gotten all the information yet on the registry.

Brad Graham, Township Administrator gave an update on the Exit 3 project. Mr. Graham noted that Norfolk Southern has received all the necessary approvals from the State, have supplied copies of their plans to the Township and have responded to comments. They expect to award bids in May and hope to start construction in June 2011 and hope to be completed within 18 months in 2012. They won't have a full start-up until early 2013 and are receiving \$45M in State funds for the project. ATAPCO is working on an Indemnification Agreement with the Township for work that needs to be done at the Commerce Avenue/Rt. 11 intersection and has put a base course of asphalt down on Armada Drive. They will tentatively be installing Antrim Commons Drive this year and will be beginning discussions with property owners for Right-of-Ways for the interchange work. They expect work to begin in 2012 at Exit 3 and they have three proposals out and there is one they are really excited about. Mr. Graham noted the funding that ATAPCO is receiving: \$3.4 M Federal Transportation money, \$2.4M in PA Infrastructure Bank Loan at a low interest rate, \$1M IFP Grant and they are waiting to hear about a \$1M RACP Program Grant. Mr. Graham also mentioned that Penn-Dot came across \$2M in their Maintenance fund that they will be using to replace the deck and sidewalls at the Exit 3 Bridge; which will result in the closure of the bridge. Penn-Dot also agreed to take over the Exit 3 project which has released the Township from the administrative responsibilities of the grant. They originally were going to close the bridge to all traffic but they are reconsidering this to keep one lane open. A traffic study was done and showed that Exit 5 would fail if Exit 3 was closed off totally. The one lane closure would only allow northbound traffic and southbound traffic would still go on I-81 to Exit 1.

Ken Womack, Borough Manager gave an update on the Rt. 11/Rt. 16 Intersection project. This project involves paving from Commerce Drive to Franklin Street and was supposed to be bid in December; however Penn-Dot has said the Right-of-Way's are the Borough's responsibility. They will have to follow Penn-Dot's Right-of-Way acquisition procedures so it will take a little longer than they expected. Mr. Womack also mentioned the Right-of-Way at the underpass on Route 16 was thought to

be a 60 foot Right-of-Way but it is only 50 feet. Womack is convinced that it's still a good project.

Greg Hoover, GASD Superintendent gave an update on the school district at this time. He gave some interesting facts from 2008 – 2009 data (which is the most recent data available):

Out of 500 School Districts – GASD is the 187th largest school district (62.6%)

Out of 500 School Districts – GASD is the 12th lowest in student expenses (2.4%)

Out of 500 School Districts – GASD is \$10,169.34/student in expenditures

The lowest school district in expenditures is \$9,272.81/student and the highest is \$30,161.13/student and the average is \$13,843.59/student. The GASD staff ratio is 17.1 and the state average is 13.2 and they need 52 more staff members. Big Spring school district did a study and they showed GASD as having the lowest budget and they are above the state average in PSSA scores. Three years ago GASD was 6 out of 14 in aid ratio and they are the 155th wealthiest district. In summary, Mr. Hoover stated that GASD is above state average in size, wealth and scores. Mr. Hoover gave some statistics on student population at this time and noted that most kids are coming in at middle and high school level. He also noted dual enrollment is up due to the State cuts. Mr. Hoover also mentioned that at the April 21st meeting, the school board will be voting to halt the building project at this time and will wait until 2015 – 2016. Mr. Hoover also said the school district is in the budget process and had their initial budget prepared in January and they will approve the final budget by June 30th. Initially they had a \$3M deficit but they have cut some of that in half already and they did not include federal money in the budget. Supervisor Myers asked when the teacher's contract is up. Mr. Hoover responded that the teacher's contract is up in 2012 and will expire on June 30, 2012. Borough Council member Craig Myers asked if the economy wouldn't have taken a down turn, where would the school district be at this point. Mr. Hoover responded that they'd be in pretty good shape but they would have had to add on by now. Mr. Hoover also answered a question about the drop out rate and stated that it is at 4%. Mr. Hoover also stated that the absentee rate is about 7 days/year and the percent is in the high 90's.

There was a discussion at this time regarding considerations for economic development. Supervisor Young stated that he would like to see if there is anything we can do to attract developers. He said he would like to see what kind of incentives we could give to bring businesses in to alleviate the property taxes from residents. School Board member Eric Holtzman thinks we should give incentives to current businesses instead of new businesses that are coming in. Mr. Hoover responded that we would have to look at each business individually. Supervisor Myers mentioned the Food Lion tower and said don't we want businesses to try to cut their expenses. Supervisor Myers also mentioned that Berkley County gave Macy's a good deal to come there. Borough Council member Craig Myers asked if we considered going to a wet Township. The Supervisors responded that they really wouldn't have any say in this; the residents would have to decide this by a referendum on the ballot. Supervisor Young also added that there's not much we can do as a Township since we don't have property taxes to give incentives. Young also added the Exit 3 project with ATAPCO and that the Township wouldn't have the authority to give a tax break but the school district would be the ones who could do this. He thinks we need to try to work with developers. Chairman Sam Miller added that he contacted Chick-Fil-A about possibly putting a restaurant here but we don't have the population to support some businesses and we need an anchor store. Miller also added that we don't have the infrastructure and the ability to accommodate and facilitate to cause them to come in and it's vital that we work together. Supervisor Myers said that we have accommodated ATAPCO. Supervisor Young said the school district should have a dialogue with businesses that would be interested in coming here. Supervisor Young also commented on the meeting about the athletic fields and said that Tuscarora school district came up with another way to do it and he doesn't feel that everyone should be taxed for something that will benefit only a few select people. He

thinks the school district should look at fundraising and donations. Mr. Hoover responded that they are starting a capital campaign to help pay for the stadium.

The Boards asked for public comment at this time.

Pat Fridgen, reporter for the Echo Pilot asked if Antrim would have gotten the grant for the water plant if Mike Ross didn't back it. Brad Graham, Township Administrator responded that he was not here at that time so he does not know. Chairman Sam Miller responded that FCADC did back the grant with the help of Mike Ross. Borough Council member Duane Kinzer asked if money was made available to the residents in the Hess Development if that would sway the Township's decision. Borough Mayor Robert Eberly said he remembers back in the 80's that there was terrible fighting amongst the Boards and he fears the papers tomorrow are going to reflect the dis-unity of the Boards. He addressed all the Boards and said they have to respect each other and get over this bickering.

School Board member Joel Fridgen commented on the athletic fields and said they tried for two years to fix the problems with the fields. He said the Boards decision was that they weren't going to fund this through the taxpayers and they had a 6-1 vote and he respects those who didn't vote for it. He feels the Board did their due diligence and he would expect the respect from both the Township and the Borough. Supervisor Young said he was just relaying what he has heard from taxpayers in the community. Mr. Fridgen responded that he is committed to not funding this by increasing taxes.

With all agenda items being addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary A. Klein

Township Secretary