

# **September 18, 2012 - Antrim Township Board of Supervisors**

Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the

ANTRIM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,

GREENCASTLE ANTRIM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

and BOROUGH COUNCIL OF GREENCASTLE

September 18, 2012 6:00 PM

A joint meeting was held on September 18, 2012 in the Greencastle-Antrim Middle School Library located at 370 South Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, PA, with the following present:

Greencastle-Antrim School Board: Eric Holtzman (President), Kenneth Haines, Mike Still, Melinda Cordell, Greg Hoover (Superintendent), and Jolinda Wilson (Business Manager);

Borough of Greencastle: Charles Eckstine (President), Harry Foley (Vice President), Wade Burkholder, James Farley, Matthew Smith, Frank Webster, Jr., Robert Eberly (Mayor), and Ken Womack (Borough Manager);

Antrim Township: Fred Young (Chairman), Rick Baer (Vice Chairman), John Alleman, James Byers, Pat Heraty, Brad Graham (Administrator), and Jennifer Becknell (Secretary).

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:02 by a representative from each entity: GA School District, Mr. Holtzman; Borough Council, Mr. Eckstein; Township Supervisors, Mr. Young.

There was a Moment of Silence offered, followed by the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Each entity introduced their newcomers to the audience.

The floor was opened to Public Comment, at which time Fred Young invited Brad Graham to offer a word of prayer.

There was no other Public Comment, so we advanced to our listed agenda items.

The first topic on the agenda was a LERTA UPDATE. Brad Graham informed the audience that the Township and the School Board has adopted the LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance) program in hopes of bringing in new businesses to our area. Graham announced that the County Commissioners did not vote in favor of adopting the LERTA program, but did see the reason why the Township and School Board did so. Graham said the next step is to get procedures (documents) in place for potential businesses to use to apply for LERTA.

Fred Young addressed the audience to state how pleased he was with the process by which the Township and the School Board worked on to pass the LERTA program. Young went on to say the two bodies worked really well together and are sending a united message that Greencastle-Antrim is open for business. Young said that it is great to say that the LERTA passed by a 7-0 vote with the School Board and a 5-0 vote with the Township Supervisors. Young is hopeful that the County will reconsider their decision because Greencastle is in direct competition for business with the areas located off of I-81 to the South, because they have already enacted tax breaks. The Borough spoke to say that there is talk that they might want to adopt a LERTA program.

Ken Womack, Borough Manager reviewed the Borough's Renegotiation of the Cable Franchise Agreement. Womack said that after much negotiation, a twelve (12) year agreement has been reached with Comcast Cable and he feels it is a pretty good deal. The agreement comes with a \$28,000 Grant

for education and governmental uses. Womack said that at their last meeting they voted to spend the grant money in the following manner:

- \$8,000.00 to Lilian S. Besore Memorial Library in 2012
- \$8,000.00 to Lilian S. Besore Memorial Library in 2013
- \$5,000.00 to GA-MAX Campaign
- \$5,000 .00 to Jerome King Playground
- \$2,000.00 to Old Home Week in 2013

Womack said the other benefit from the Comcast agreement is that the School District will be given a Public Access Channel to use. It cannot be used for political or for profit organizations, but we will be able to use it for public service announcements, local taped games, advertise up- coming local events, etc. Superintendent Hoover said that they will need to work out who will be in charge of this project, the location of the equipment, etc. Womack said that there is a stipulation to this benefit that if we do not utilize the access channel within an allotted time, Comcast will take it back and we are not sure if we will be able to gain it back again.

Brad Graham spoke next on the Joint Water Committee. Graham said that a committee has been formed to discuss bringing the two water systems (ATMA and GAFCWA) together. The committee is made up of two (2) people from each of the following entities:

- Borough Council
- GAFCWA (Greencastle Area, Franklin County, Water Authority)
- Township Supervisors
- ATMA (Antrim Township Municipal Authority)

Graham explained that the purpose of the Joint Water Committee is to discuss and find the quickest and most economical way to bring these two water systems together as one, thus having the strongest infrastructure to present to the potential developers who want to locate here.

Greg Hoover mentioned that all three boards wanted to meet, and obviously all think it is a good idea, but not a lot of items were put on the agenda to discuss. Hoover encouraged everybody to speak up if they had something to bring to discussion.

Robert Eberly, Borough Mayor, wants a committee to be formed to push through the Comcast agreement items, especially the access channel activation. There was some discussion about the service area for the access channel, since the Township has not yet renegotiated their agreement with Comcast. It was decided that a representative from Comcast would have to be contacted to answer some of these questions moving forward. James Byers said that there will be administrative costs associated with this access channel and should be considered. Hoover said on the plus side that equipment/software for this type of program is not as expensive as it was just a short time ago. (ex: editing equipment, cameras, cables) Holtzman mentioned that a club could be formed around this project and have students do most of the work.

Frank Webster asked if the autumn leaves could be brought up to the school's environmental center this year. The answer was given that they could be, but the drop location is now in a gated area and that you first would have to coordinate a time with the center's director.

After covering all topics on the agenda, calling for final public comments and hearing none, the meeting was called into Executive Session to discuss Land issues.

Once Executive Session was called to an end, each Board called their meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Becknell

Township Secretary