

September 25, 2012 - Antrim Township Board of Supervisors

Minutes of the Antrim Township Supervisors

Regular Meeting

September 25, 2012 7:00 PM

The Antrim Township Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, September 25, 2012 in the Antrim Township Municipal Building, located at 10655 Antrim Church Road, with the following present: Chairman Fred Young, Vice Chairman Rick Baer, John Alleman, James Byers and Pat Heraty, John Lisko (Solicitor), Sylvia House (Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer), Lorraine Armstrong (Student Representative), and Jennifer Becknell (Secretary).

Visitors: See attached sign-in sheet.

Young called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and reminded the audience that our meetings are audio recorded and posted to our website.

Young opened the meeting with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Young opened the floor to Public Comment. Allen Piper said hello to everyone and commented that he has been following the controversy concerning prayer and wished us all well.

Tim Manaham asked about the schedule for Hykes Road and if it was the Townships responsibility, to which Young responded that it is the responsibility of the Township and that Hykes Road was our next big project on the horizon. Young said that the Township will be busy for the next few weeks with budgeting and Hykes Road is at the top of the list. Young said the Township had to hold off until Norfolk Southern had completed a lot of their projects and bridge work relating to Hykes Road.

A Byers / Heraty motion passed 5-0 to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from September 11, 2012, and the Joint Meeting minutes from September 18, 2012.

A Heraty / Byers motion passed 5-0 to approve the Treasurer's Report (Accounts Payables) dated September 25, 2012.

Visitor, Husam Obeid from P. Joseph Engineering, came forward to give an update and answer questions concerning the Martin Mills Bridge Renovation Project. Obeid started by stating the items completed: field survey, right of way, obtained approval from DEP, started on roadway plans, and worked on the structure by investigating the cost of using steel beams. The structure plans, which we received to review last week, are ready to be submitted to PennDOT District 8 in Harrisburg, PA. Obeid stated, in order to complete this project in 2013, there are three (3) items we need to get done before we can advertise and select a contractor:

- Utilities – non applicable as we do not have any at the bridge
- Right of Way Easement Acquisition – which Lisko said is in the works and will be addressed during tonight's Executive Session.
- Environmental Approvals – which Obeid said can be done in 2-3 months.

Young asked about the PennDOT funding, as he thought it would not be available until 2014. Obeid said that the PennDOT Project Manager will move up the release date of the funds to early 2013 if we get all of our approvals done. Byers asked if steel is really necessary, to which Obeid answered that it is the best recommendation. Our trusses are weak and crooked, the steel will straighten and give strength. The steel I-beams will be hidden and painted, looking natural as possible. It will hold 5-6 tons. Young

wanted a time line of events yet to happen. Obeid went on to say once we get the amended plans approved by January 2013, PennDOT will need 2-3 months to advertise/bid/select for a contractor. Now we are at April and the selected contractor would need 2-3 months to order the steel beams and supplies, thus by June/July begin work. Baer stated, and all the Supervisors agreed, that he would like all the wood, that is removed from the bridge when the steel beams are installed, be salvaged and left on site for the Township to utilize. Byers asked what the total cost is at now for the project, to which Obeid replied \$850,000. Obeid said they have a 10% contingency built in to cover some inspection work yet to be completed, but says the project will be closer to \$900,000. Byers asked about the bid process for contractors. Obeid said PennDOT has a list of approved contractors for this size job. Only qualified and approved contractors can bid for the project. Young, after asking the Supervisors and the audience if they had any further questions, said he was satisfied and asked the approval process to continue.

A Baer / Alleman motion passed 5-0 granting a modification from § 110-49, for well locations. This modification is for two (2) locations: 161 Paradise View Drive and 103 Pleasant Waters Road. The builder of these two homes, Cold Spring Builders, LLC, was not aware of the well regulation that requires a well to be 20' or more away from the home at the time he had the wells dug. Once the builder found out about the regulation, he brought it to the Township's attention.

A Baer / Byers motion passed 5-0 approving Resolution #246 for the North bound ramp traffic light at Exit #3, which allows ATAPCO to proceed with submitting their application/permit to PennDOT.

A Baer / Alleman motion passed 5-0 approving Resolution #247 for the South bound ramp traffic light at Exit #3, which allows ATAPCO to proceed with submitting their application/permit to PennDOT.

A Baer / Alleman motion passed 5-0 granting permission for the residents at 80 Mason Dixon Road to hook-up to the Washington County (Maryland) sewer, as it is most feasible. The Board of Supervisors followed the recommendation of the ATMA.

Sylvia House conducted a short ordinance review. The review covered Conditional Use conditions for R-2, CC, HC and I. House read the changes proposed and the Board of Supervisors did not have any questions. House provided the Board members a list of definitions that the Ordinance Review Committee has changed/deleted/added. House did not read each of these, but told the Board to review.

Lisko called for an Executive Session following tonight's Regular Session to discuss Real Estate matters.

A Byers / Baer motion passed 5-0 to approve Fire/Police coverage for a benefit motorcycle ride set for this weekend, Sunday, September 30, 2012.

Young announced that the current Board members will be signing the Supervisor's Pledge, which was created and adopted in 2008. The Pledge states the principles by which they provide service to the community. These principles include Integrity, Respect and Ingenuity. A copy of this Pledge will be given to each Board member and one will hang in our Township lobby.

A Baer / Heraty motion passed 5-0 approving the 2013 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Antrim Township Pension Plan (PMRS) as submitted by Secretary Becknell.

Becknell also informed the Board of Supervisors of the following: The Township received on September 21, 2012 the State Aid for Municipal Pension System in the amount of \$ 24,565.87; The Township received on September 21, 2012 our 2012 Fire Relief Association allocation in the amount of \$104,888.72; The Township received the letter from PA Department of Transportation that states our Estimated Liquid Fuel Allocation for 2013, which is \$412,660.61.

Baer brought up during New Business the fact that Robert Coladonato attended the last ATMA meeting

and wanted to know to what lengths the Board of Supervisors are willing to go to collect on delinquent sewer bills. Baer read the four (4) suggestions that Coladonato gave to the ATMA: 1) If the sewer is not being paid, and they have public water, disconnect water. 2) Place a lien against property. 3) Conduct a Sheriff Sale. 4) File a Court Case. Young answered Coladonato by stating that we are currently in the process of addressing the issue of delinquent sewer bills through our personnel committee and staff. Young says the Township is taking measures to be pro-active and more aggressive with the collections process. Young recognized that we are placing liens on many properties, but stated we cannot collect until the property changes ownership. Young said that the Township will be looking at the delinquent customers case by case, starting with the highest amount owed and most delinquent time wise first. Young said the Township will be re-establishing procedures, directions, and guidelines to follow during sewer collections. Young says the utility billing clerk will know why someone is not paying their bills once a phone call is made. Byers commented that the staff should be providing the Board of Supervisors a monthly status report, with recommendations. Coladonato says he has heard that in extreme cases, a municipality has installed a shut-off valve to the sewer, allowing sewer to backup into the home. Young stated that we do not want to go that far and said that the number of delinquent accounts have increased in the last couple of years and believes it is directly proportional to the economy. Lisko spoke to advise the Board members to do extensive research before a Sheriff Sale, to make sure there is enough equity in the home to cover cost/expenses related to sale as well as the amount they owe. Lisko also said the Township can hold a Sheriff Sale on personal property. Lisko advised not to go the route of filing a Court Case as it is very expensive and yields the same result as placing a lien on the property. Young called for a future Work Session on the subject of sewer delinquency and invited anyone to attend.

Young reviewed our current budget (Revenues and Expenses against budget) status with the Board of Supervisors. We are three quarters of the way through the year and this review is being done in order to prepare for our upcoming Budget Preparation meetings starting on October 2 at 7:00PM. Young explained the biggest overages and shortages. Both Byers and Baer agreed to encourage meetings between Board of Supervisors and the ATMA to discuss the Hykes Road project to ensure both are on the same agenda with the placement of water and sewer lines before paving. Young said Hykes Road will be a big budget item in 2013.

Young offered another Public Comment. Jay Lightfoot made a comment towards sewer collections. Lightfoot said that if you do not pay your sewer bill here in this Township and you move, then somehow make it where you cannot get your utilities turned on at your new location until you resolve your old sewer debt.

A Baer / Alleman motion passed 5-0 to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:15.

A Byers / Alleman motion passed 5-0 to adjourn the Executive Session, back into Regular Session at 8:30.

Young announced that Real Estate matters were discussed along with a suggestion on collections from Becknell. No action will be taken at this time.

A Baer / Heraty motion passed 5-0 to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Becknell

Board of Supervisors Secretary