

# **November 25, 2013 - Joint Meeting with GA School Dist & Borough**

Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the  
ANTRIM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
GREENCASTLE ANTRIM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
and BOROUGH COUNCIL OF GREENCASTLE

November 25, 2013 6:00 PM

A joint meeting was held on November 25, 2013 in the Greencastle-Antrim Middle School Library located at 370 South Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, PA, with the following present:

Greencastle-Antrim School Board: Brian Hissong (President), Eric Holtzman (Vice-President), Kenneth Haines, Melinda Cordell, Joel Fridgen, Linda Farley (School Board member elect) and Greg Hoover (Superintendent);

Borough of Greencastle: Charles Eckstine (President), Wade Burkholder, James Farley, Frank Webster, Jr., Matthew Smith, Larry Faight (Councilman elect), Susan Armstrong (Borough Manager) and Robert Eberly (Mayor);

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

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Brian Hissong, the facilitator for the meeting.

Hissong called on Joel Fridgen to offer a word of prayer.

After a prayer, the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Hissong then called on Antrim Township to give a current update.

Graham gave the following report for the Township:

Concerning Exit 3-

- Roadway work is done for the season (10-15% to complete at the end of the bridge project).
- No more changes to traffic patterns.
- Signal work continuing (Goal to have them installed by the end of the year, but might not be operational until spring).
- Power/Communication poles were finally removed just last week, which was a major holdup during the project.
- Bridge work will begin late February/early March in 2014.

Concerning the Sewer Department-

- The Township applied for grants for two significant sewer projects that we are required to complete.
- The Township did not receive any grant money. According to Carl Rundquist, our Public Works Director, the state received 118 applications for PennWorks funding, of which 28 were approved, or 32.2%. Over \$300 million was requested with \$17 million available to award. This indicates that 5.67% of the money asked for was approved and 94.3% of the expenditures asked for were not approved.

Concerning the Township budget-

- The Township approved their preliminary 2014 budget at the November 19, 2013 Work Session.
- The budget maintains no property tax and no increase in other taxes.
- Due to the need to complete two significant sewer projects, the Township will be implementing a 17% increase in the sewer rates.

Graham mentioned that the Governor signed the Transportation Bill, which will help the local governments with prevailing wages and allow for more funding for roads and bridges. Graham closed with an update on the Township Building renovation project.

Armstrong gave the following report for the Borough:

- Work is complete at the intersection of Route 11 and Route 16. They will continue to “tweek” the signalization system for optimizing the lights with traffic flow patterns.
- A major storm sewer/utility upgrading project will begin in 2014 for East Franklin Street and surrounding streets. This project will be done in phases: 2014 the utilities and in 2015 the paving completed.
- The Borough did not receive county CDBG funds. However their CDBG application is now being forwarded into a competitive application process for state funds.
- The Borough anticipates a shortfall for 2013 of approximately \$35K due largely in part to a \$20K shortfall in anticipated Local Services Tax revenues.
- The Borough will adopt their 2014 budget at their December 2, 2013 meeting. Their budget will be a deficit budget and will require an increase in mills. The millage rate will go from 11 mills to 13 mills.

Hoover gave a slide presentation showing some key comparisons of how Greencastle-Antrim School District (GASD) rates against the state average in relation to: growth over the years, how much is spent per student, test scores and money received from state. Hoover stressed how GASD is out of physical room at their schools and needs to build. GASD is still receiving their funding from the state, as all school districts, based on the 1989-90 enrolment. GASD now has 963 more students than in 1989-90. Hoover went on to state other obligations that GASD must meet, such as the yearly pension deposit increases.

Hoover ended his update segment with stating that in order for GASD to gain the broadest and most productive tax base we, the governing bodies, need to be concentrating on Commercial Development.

After much discussion, it was decided that a meeting with one or all of our County Commissioners was a necessity, in order for them to fully understand our school district needs and how it is funded from the state. The hope is that the Commissioners will reconsider participation in the LERTA established by Antrim Township as well as other possible competitive packages to entice business to consider our area.

The 2014 Meeting dates were set for March 18 and September 16, at 6:00 p.m. Each.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Becknell

Township Secretary