

September 25, 2014 - Joint Meeting: TWP-BORO-GASB

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 25, 2014 6:00 PM

A joint meeting was held on September 25, 2014 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, Eric Holtzman, Tracy Baer, Mike Still, Jim Winslow, Lura Hanks and Greg Hoover (Superintendent)

Borough of Greencastle: Charlie Eckstine, Wade Burkholder, James Farley, Frank Webster, Craig Myers, Susan Armstrong (Borough Manager) and Robert Eberly (Mayor)

Antrim Township: John Alleman, Fred Young, Rick Baer, Brad Graham, and Jennifer Becknell

The joint meeting was called to order by Greg Hoover.

A prayer was given by Mayor Eberly followed by a group recited Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Greg Hoover began the meeting by stating that he commends all three entities for coming together twice a year to dialogue.

Mr. Hoover distributed a handout which shows a 20-year enrollment history for Greencastle Antrim School District. Hoover explained that although the enrollment figure for the 2014-15

school year was down by 34 students, a decrease has only happened for the second time in the past 20 years. Due to the projected enrollment growth, the GASD has decided to expand some areas to be better positioned to accommodate the extremely large 1st thru 3rd grade classes that will be coming through the system and will need the additional resources/space at the middle school and high school. The GASD has decided to put their original building project on hold, utilize the Facilities Development Committee to devise a 10-year plan to take care of the before mentioned enrollment increase. Hoover also added that GASD will need to address the issue of replacing some AC (air conditioner) units and boilers, as they are quite aged.

Ms. Armstrong began a recap of the activities that the Borough of Greencastle has been involved with and what is projected in the future. Armstrong stated the following:

- 2015 draft budget is being compiled by Finance Committee for the council to review.
- Borough will back off from Capital Improvements for a while to focus on Road Maintenance that affects the General Fund. The only road maintenance that was being conducted was concerning the items that affect the Sewer and Water Fund.
- Working on Capital Improvement plan to make maintenance repairs to Water Plant over a 5 to 7 year span, as much of the equipment has a good amount of age. This plan is estimated to cost 8.4 million.
- The utility improvements have been completed in the area of Franklin Street and S. Carlisle, along with the storm/sewer upgrades to include water main and laterals.
- The paving portion of the before mentioned project area of Franklin Street and S. Carlisle Street will

be completed in 2015. The cost for the entire project is an estimated 1.2 million. The scope of this project includes storm drain, water and the paving work.

- Looking to hire an Assistant Zoning Officer the first week of November 2014. Officer will be uniformed and will also address property maintenance issues. The position will report to Borough Manager on zoning issues and Police Chief on downtown issues.

Mr. Graham presented the following update information on behalf of Antrim Township.

- The bid was awarded for the replacement of the sludge press at the sewer plant and work should begin in a few months.

- Bids for the Shanks Church Road sewer bypass project will go out early next year.

- Aggressively pursuing collection of delinquent sewer accounts. Enacted sewer ordinance to disconnect sewer customers for non-payment and have hired a collection agency.

- Antrim Township Municipal Authority met with Greencastle Water Authority to discuss the idea of becoming a bulk water customer.

- Hykes Road was widened and paved this summer, which included several sewer repairs to eliminate infiltration into the sewer system.

- Supervisors agreed to fund a portion of the renovation costs of the Martins Mill Bridge, as funds available from the grants received were not sufficient.

- Working with local business to try to correct a huge problem of truckers that are utilizing their GPS units to locate the business are heading down Williamsport Pike in error. When the truckers are trying to turn around, the results are damages to personal property and creating some very unsafe situations.

- Zoning staff has been working very hard to update our Ordinance book and make it more cohesive.

- Two new businesses that has recently opened: Sheetz at Exit 3 & Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs.

- The bridge deck at Exit 3 is scheduled to be complete October 15, 2014.

The floor was opened next for a general discussion regarding initiatives for encouraging and fostering economic development. The Township stated they are actively seeking commercial businesses to grow the tax base, without adding a burden to the school district. It was stated that a one size fits all approach to attracting business to our township/borough will not work in all cases. Some serious efforts will need to be made to try to remain competitive with other states and municipalities.

The idea was given to check into a "payment in lieu of tax" campaign to generate revenue for the School District. For example, if an area business is enjoying the fact that the Township is not taxing, maybe the business would be willing to pay something towards the "fund drive" to keep the taxes from being implemented.

It was reiterated that residential development directly impacts the School District and every entity should be cognizant of this fact when making decisions within their organization. Mr. Hoover mentioned that the three main issues facing the School District are as follows:

- the Hold Harmless rate amount per pupil from 1989-90 year that the school is being held

(this is the basis for the amount the state assists each school with yearly)

- enrollment growth

- community development

There was a consensus that each entity should be writing letters to our legislators encouraging them to

overhaul the figures used for Hold Harmless and for pension fund reform. Also, we should be educating the general population when we can of these situations and asking them to take a few minutes to also write letters to our legislators.

Many questions were asked between all the entities, with responses shared. The final topic from the agenda for discussion was concerning the quality of life and the possibility of a retirement development. There was much discussion concerning how do we as a community bring our grown children back to our area after higher education or how can our community support our grown children in a production field. Having a retirement development would not impact our school system, but could potentially bring in professional buildings.

Many in attendance stated they would like to see the downtown area expand to incorporate a night life that is family friendly and encouraged maintaining our area's traditions such as Old Home Week and carnivals.

Mr. Hoover adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Becknell

Township Secretary