

Maidencreek Township Joint Meeting
Board of Supervisors and Authority
October 13, 2010
7:30 PM

Present: Claude Beaver, Joseph Rudderow III, Robert Shinn, Earl Rothermel, Patricia Hecker, Donald Keim

Professionals: Patrick Donovan – MTA Manager, Gregory Under – MTA Engineer, Robert Hobaugh, Jr. – MTA Solicitor, Diane Hollenbach – Township Manager

Claude Beaver called the Joint Meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Communication

The Supervisors asked that there be better communication between the Boards. The Authority will provide the Supervisors a copy of their monthly board meeting book.

Esbenshade's Greenhouse

The Authority Board is concerned about the water table and the effect drilling a well has on it but does not know when or how a well will harm it. Other businesses may try the same thing if Esbenshade is successful in using a well. The Authority currently has no documentation to support their concerns but can supply water use history of local greenhouses on public water.

Industrial Park Water and Sewer Line Dedication

The Supervisors asked the Authority Board about their progress of the dedication of the water and sewer lines in the Excelsior Industrial Park. The Authority discussed their meetings with land owners and the proposed agreement. Greg Unger of SDE stated that improving the fire flow by looping the system would provide better fire protection as well as get rid of a standpipe and metering valve on the Schlough property.

The Supervisors reminded the Authority that the original discussion during the James Hardie Plan review was to exempt the freight terminal property from connection to the water and sewer system in exchange for dedication of existing lines. The Supervisors questioned who repaired the water and sewer lines the Authority does not own. The Authority has a duty to serve with the taxpayer in mind and was cautioned against anything that might be perceived to disrupt that. The Supervisors did not want the Authority giving up service area or engaging in any future expansion of the service area.

Berks County Planning Commission Survey

All agreed that regionalization may not always be good for the Township because we may be asked to support other municipalities financially, and it may be next step in going to County controlled Government.

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Legal Counsel

The Supervisors felt that the Authority should not hire separate counsel because a developer does not want to work with their current solicitor. The only time to hire special counsel is when your solicitor tells you there is a conflict of interest or you need the specialized service he can not provide.

New Members

Joe Rudderow would like the MTA to provide the Township with the information given to new board members. The information should include their role and responsibility to the taxpayer. Mr. Rudderow stated that the Authority Board makes the decisions not the manager, engineer or solicitor. There should be better communication between the two entities managers. All Board members agreed that they should hold a joint meeting once per year. Bob Shinn suggested putting Diane Hollenbach back on the Board to aid in communication.

Action

A motion was made by Earl Rothermel, seconded by Pat Hecker, to authorize the Solicitor to get an appraiser of real estate. All members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Earl Rothermel, seconded by Don Keim to adjourn the joint meeting of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors and Authority. All members voted, "Aye." Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Recording Township Secretary, September 15, 2010

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Eugene Orlando, Solicitor
Thomas Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Inc., Township Engineer
Planning Commission
Park & Recreation Board
Zoning Hearing Board and Alternates
Paul Herbein, Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor
Maidencreek Township Authority
Patrick Donovan, Maidencreek Township Authority General Manager
JoAnn Schaeffer, Maidencreek Township Authority Secretary
Robert Hobough, Jr. Esq., Stevens & Lee, Authority Solicitor
Greg Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Inc., Authority Engineer
Barbara Hassler, Tax Collector
Daniel Miller, Blandon Fire Company Chief
Chief Scott W. Eaken, Northern Berks Regional Police