

**Amity Township Board of Supervisors**  
**Meeting Minutes**

April 18, 2018

Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

The April 18, 2018 meeting of the Amity Township Board of Supervisors, held at the Township Municipal Building, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Kim McGrath. The following were in attendance:

**SUPERVISORS**

Kim McGrath, Chairperson  
Dave Hackett, Vice Chair  
Paul Weller  
Terry Jones  
Kevin Keifrider

**STAFF**

Brian Boland, Kozloff/Stoudt Attorneys  
John Weber, LTL Consultants  
Troy Bingaman, Manager  
Patrick Moore, Public Works Maintenance Superintendent  
Corporal Chris High  
Pamela Kisch, Township Secretary

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. McGrath announced the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State Extension are looking for *volunteers to help band trees* to help control the Spotted Lanternfly population. Anyone interested in the tree-banding program should contact the Penn State Extension for Berks County. This information has been listed on the Township website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

None

**MINUTES**

Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve the minutes of April 4, 2018. Motion passed 5-0.

**FINANCE**

Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the disbursements as follows:

\$ 114,376.68	General Fund
\$ 9,423.88	Fire Fund
\$ 270,913.73	Sewer Fund
\$ 30,432.33	EDU Fund
\$ 93,076.59	Recreation Fund
\$ 16.45	300 <sup>th</sup> Committee Fund
<u>\$ 106.26</u>	<u>Liquid Fuels Fund</u>
\$ 518,345.92	Total

Motion passed 5-0.

The Board reviewed the Overtime by Department and Treasurer's reports and had no questions.

## **REPORTS**

**Fire Companies** – Chief Mike Zomolsky reported Amity Fire Company will hold its annual *Fireman's Carnival* from May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Jones asked to revisit the disbursements, specifically the check for **\$11,235.70 payable to Telco** for damages due to an auto accident. Mr. Jones stated the Township should not settle for a partial payment and instead should pursue full payment for all damages. Mr. Bingaman stated the driver involved in that incident had only \$5K in property damage coverage; therefore, the Township insurance coverage would be used to cover the difference. Mr. Weller asked if using the Township's insurance would have any impact on the premium. Mr. Bingaman stated he believed it would not, as the ratepayers are part of a pool and would be a minor claim.

Assistant Chief Robert Kline reported Monarch will hold their **Chicken BBQ** on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Redner's parking lot from 10:00AM until sold out.

**Planning Commission** – Mr. Bingaman stated there were no new action items. The Auto Zone Final Plan was approved last July. Mr. Bingaman stated plans must be recorded within 90-days of being approved. Mr. Boland stated he spoke to counsel for Auto Zone and they are still working on obtaining bonds.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Boland reported on the **police grievance** filed regarding the creation of a 6:00AM until 2:00PM shift. The case was withdrawn and resolved. Mr. Boland sent a letter stating the Township intends to adhere to the contract.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Weber submitted a letter recommending **Escrow Release No. 2 for Dollar General Land Development Plan**. Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Hackett to authorize Escrow Release No. 2 for Dollar General Land Development in the amount of \$67,935.25, per the LTL letter dated 4/13/18. Motion passed 5-0. **Dollar General** had scheduled to open on May 1<sup>st</sup> but had postponed paving until this week due to weather. The 18-month maintenance period for **Woods Edge Phase 3B** will expire in June. Mr. Weber stated he will be issuing a punchlist of items to be completed. THP is pursuing NPDES permits for the **remaining lots in Pond View**. Mr. Bingaman stated the Township will not allow work to commence without a new Letter of Credit (LOC) on file. Mr. Stitzel has requested his LOC be returned. Mr. Weber asked if THP was aware of that, to which the Manager responded, yes. Mr. Boland stated the Stitzel LOC covers damages by truck traffic during construction. The Township will not issue building permits until a new LOC is in place.

Mr. Bingaman stated the **Auto Zone Final Plan** will need a new date if the Board wishes to allow the developer more time to record the plan. There was discussion the plan may not be ready for recording in the next 90-days. Mr. Boland advised the plan could be reaffirmed multiple times. Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to reaffirm the Auto Zone Final Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2018 Road Projects** – The Board reviewed the summary of road projects. Phyllis Cooper, Limekiln Road, questioned why Valley Road is being oil and chipped versus being paved. Mr. Moore

responded that Valley has limited traffic and is considered rural. Valley Road is being oil and chipped as recommended by the Township's PennDOT representative. Mr. Jones stated Worman Road is bad from the s-bend down. Mr. Moore stated he agreed but the representative assured him that there would not be issues if the base repairs exceeded the projected amount. Mr. Weber asked if the Escalator Clause applied. Mr. Moore affirmed. Mr. Weber explained that the cost of asphalt varies. If the work done exceeds a 10% increase, the Township pays the Escalator Clause. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Hackett to authorize advertisement of the 2018 Road Projects as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

## **EMPLOYEE/OFFICIAL REPORTS**

### **Manager's Report**

***Leaf Creek Interceptor*** – Construction has been scheduled to begin the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

***PS2 and PS4 Modifications*** – Staff continues to work with the contractors and Entech in preparation for this project.

***Reed Bed Cleanout*** – This project was completed. Synagro has restored the disturbed areas.

***Limekiln Road Low-Pressure Sewer System*** – Ebert Engineering provided an estimate of \$563,167.55 for this project, including permanent paving. PennDOT plans to repave Limekiln Road in the future. Mr. Bingaman stated the Township may save the paving costs if this project is coordinated with PennDOT's plans to repave. After discussion, the Board asked Mr. Bingaman to confirm what, if any savings could be realized if the projects were coordinated. Mrs. McGrath asked how this project was being funded. Mr. Bingaman stated the Township borrowed \$1.6M for the construction of the Leaf Creek Interceptor. Having come in under \$1M, the remaining monies could be used toward this project. There are 35 possible connections along the proposed sewer line; 10 of which will connect immediately following construction. Mr. Jones stated there should be stubs placed at each property for future connections. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Keifrider to authorize staff to move forward with the project. Mark Slaybaugh, Limekiln Road, asked when the project would be completed. Mr. Bingaman stated there's no timeline at this point. The project needs to be put out to bid, awarded and a schedule set for construction. Mrs. McGrath stated the project would be completed around the end of 2018, at the earliest. Motion passed 5-0.

***SR0422, N. Monocacy Creek Road, and Monocacy Creek Road Intersection*** – As a result of the meeting, PennDOT representatives agreed to do the following: upsize the speed limit signs closest to the intersection to 48"x60" with an orange triangle on top; add a "reduced speed ahead" sign between BlackJax and Valley View Estates; install 48"x48" "watch for stopped vehicles ahead" signage; and relocate some of the existing speed limit signs which were determined to be at incorrect locations. Protected, prohibited phasing for left turn lanes was also discussed at this meeting. PennDOT stated they do not have the ability to fund the project, but agreed to issue an HOP for the Township to make the safety improvements, which would include removal of the concrete island, reducing it to a 4-foot median down the remainder of the highway, repaving, extending the left turn lane as much as possible and striping the remainder. Mr. Bingaman obtained a quote from McMahan Associates, as they have done traffic engineering in the past for the Township. McMahan's cost would be \$32,650.00 for design through construction. The estimated cost of the project was \$121,100.00. Mr. Bingaman stated there may be ACT 209 funds that could be utilized, as well as two potential grants, which may need engineered plans for a best chance of receiving funding. Mrs. McGrath asked what the deadline was for the grants. Mr. Bingaman stated they are annual programs. Mr. Weller asked if this intersection was listed as one of the intersections identified in the ACT 209 study.

Mr. Bingaman will research and report back to the Board. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Keifrider to move forward with the McMahon Associates base proposal dated 4/18/18. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Jones asked if PennDOT provided detail and a schedule of when the improvements would be completed. Mr. Bingaman stated PennDOT brought a plan with them to the meeting but did not leave a copy behind.

**Status of Grant Applications** – The 902 Recycling and Lake Drive Park Rehabilitation grants have been submitted.

**Monocacy Hill Eagle Scout Project** – Eric Linsenbigler, Troop #597, constructed a park bench and picnic table from recycled lumber at Monocacy Hill on March 30<sup>th</sup> as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Linsenbigler and members of his troop cleaned the sign and picked up trash as well.

**Satiro Sewer Reduction Request** – Ed and Maria Satiro purchased 824 E. Ben Franklin Highway, the former Charlie's restaurant. The restaurant has six EDU's. When the Satiro's purchased the business they realized they were over a year from re-opening due to necessary improvements and renovations and submitted a request for relief from quarterly sewer bills. Mr. Bingaman stated the Township is not permitted to stop billing, due to the Ordinance and recommended reducing the billing to one EDU until after they open when usage could be monitored. The Board agreed to follow the Manager's recommendation.

**Insurance Dividend** – Mr. Bingaman reported receiving a dividend check in the amount of \$100,075.75 for 2017 property, liability and worker's compensation which will be deposited into the Capital Funds. New premiums increased 1.2% overall, which equates to just over \$1,100.00. The increase in premium was less than what was budgeted.

**Commendation Request– Marinus “Dutch” Schrap**, Firethorn Drive, is being inducted into the International Santa Claus Hall of Fame on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Dutch has been a Professional Santa Claus for 27 years, is known all over the country as “America's Favorite Santa” and is the Official Santa Claus of the 6abc/Dunkin Donuts Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade. Mr. Bingaman received a request from Dutch's wife for the Township to recognize her husband for his service, dedication and rare award he will be receiving. Mr. Boland recommended that the Board also consider recognizing an Amity Township dentist for his heroic actions which helped save a man's life at a basketball game at Brandywine Heights Middle School earlier this year. When a 44-year old father of one of the basketball players collapsed, his heart had stopped. Several people came together that day and became heroes, including Amity Township's own **Dr. Shawn R. Habakus, DMD**. One of the basketball coaches administered CPR and Dr. Habakus used a defibrillator. By the time the ambulance arrived the man had a pulse and was taken to Lehigh Valley Hospital where he received three stents. Mr. Keifrider moved, seconded by Mr. Hackett to present commendations to Marinus “Dutch” Schrap and Dr. Shawn R. Habakus, DMD. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Police Chief**

Corporal Chris High attended the meeting on behalf of Chief Kensey who was on vacation. Cpl. High distributed a proposal to **purchase a new Ford Taurus Interceptor** for \$36,065.49. The new vehicle would replace a 2013 Ford Explorer. There may be additional costs to purchase a rifle rack, because they are not universally fit from an SUV to a sedan. Cpl. High stated he had a quote for an SUV and a truck, if the Board wished to review it. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve the purchase of a 2018 Ford Taurus Interceptor at a cost not to exceed \$36,565.49. Mr. Bingaman stated the vehicle replacement was budgeted at \$36K in the Capital Fund. Richard Cooper, Limekiln Road, asked what mileage was on 26-6. Cpl. High stated 26-6 had approximately 121K miles.

Motion passed 5-0. Cpl. High will attend the *roundtable meeting for Chiefs of Police* on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Berks County Intermediate Unit. All police officers have been accessing *Leads Online*, an online investigation system used to track transactions from pawnshops and secondhand dealers. The Township should receive the first invoice for this service in May or June.

### **SUPERVISORS**

Mr. Jones stated he would like an *executive session* for personnel, without need for return. Mr. Keifrider passed along the sad news that the first and only honorary Mayor of Amity, *Mavrik John Laxton*, passed away. Services will be held Thursday evening and Friday morning. Mr. Keifrider suggested the Township show respect by sending a police escort for the funeral procession. Corporal High stated Sergeant Smith was in contact with the family. The escort will make it necessary for 2-3 hours of police overtime, as having two officers out of the Township would not permit those officers to respond to calls. Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Hackett to authorize two to three hours of police overtime as requested for coverage during the police escort. Motion passed 5-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Cooper asked if the police are pressed for office space, have they considered stationing an officer(s) at the middle school. Mr. Jones stated the police had recommended a School Resource Officer but the school was unwilling to pay for the officer. Mr. Keifrider stated Pottstown Borough had located an officer in their school at one time. The distance from the office to the parking space was fairly far and created an issue when responding to calls. Mr. Jones stated there were other logistics to consider, such as limited hours.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:05PM, with there being no further business, Mr. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hackett to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters, with no need to return. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Kisch  
Township Secretary