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Middle Paxton Township

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2017

Call to Order

The July 18, 2017 workshop meeting of the Middle Paxton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman and Treasurer Jeffery Smith in the Township meeting room. Also present were Supervisor James Fisher, Vice-Chairman and Assistant Secretary; Supervisor Richard Peffer; Supervisor Wilbur Evans; Supervisor Larry Cooney; and Julie Ann Seeds, Township Manager, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Chairman Smith invited comments from those in attendance who were not listed on the meeting agenda. No comments were presented.

Agenda Items

Septic System Issue – 1051 Fishing Creek Valley Road (Salli Ewing)

Chairman Smith introduced Jil Strang, owner/operator of Robinson’s Excavating & Mulch LLC. Excavating services include on-lot septic system repair, system design and installation inasmuch as Ms. Strang is credentialed as a Pennsylvania certified Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO).

In response to questions addressed by Chairman Smith, Ms. Strang explained she had performed a probe of the soils in the front yard of 1051 Fishing Creek Valley Road on October 12, 2015 at the request of the homeowner to locate an alternate site for an on-lot septic system with the intent to replace an existing cistern with a standard on-lot septic system in preparation for selling her home at some future date. It was Ms. Strang’s understanding that the homeowner had not been experiencing any system malfunction nor had she observed any signs evident of a system malfunction while searching for an alternate site.

Ms. Strang reported she was accompanied by a soil scientist while searching for an alternate site for the on-lot septic system distribution field and, upon a hand dig to check the soil in the front yard, had determined that location could potentially be a suitable site for a distribution field. She further indicated that upon digging the required probe, she and the soil scientist concurred that the soil at that site appeared to be suitable for a distribution field.

Holly Greenly, the Township's designated SEO associated with Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc. performed a percolation test at that same site on October 13, 2015 and determined that site to be unsuitable due to an average percolation rate of 154.5 minutes/inch as indicated in the *Site Investigation and Percolation Test Report for On-Lot Disposal of Sewage* distributed to the Board. Ms. Strang said she questioned the percolation test results inasmuch as the reported weather condition on that date was rain within the last 24 hours and the soil condition noted as being moist at a depth of 12 inches.

The consensus of the Board was that the 2015 percolation test results were questionable based upon the weather conditions and additional information provided by Ms. Strang relative to the observed soil condition. It was further understood that the home owner could have been given the option at that time to cover the intended distribution site with soil for a period of 4-years before retesting that site for determination as a suitable distribution site.

Motion by Supervisor Evans to rescind the July 5, 2017 action of the Board approving a Component 3s Planning Module for the SFTF sewage system proposed for the Salli Ewing property at 1051 Fishing Creek Valley Road based upon additional information subsequently received from a certified SEO was seconded by Chairman Smith. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Motion by Chairman Smith directing Manager Seeds to contact the homeowner of 1051 Fishing Creek Valley Road and present an offer to perform another probe and percolation test of the front yard location by a certified SEO with the associated cost to be borne by the Township was seconded by Supervisor Cooney. *Motion passed with Supervisor Evans voting Nay.*

Motion by Chairman Smith to terminate the appointment of the Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEOs) currently retained by the Township under contract with Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc. effective immediately upon completion of any work in progress was seconded by Supervisor Cooney. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Motion by Chairman Smith to appoint Brian McFeaters as the Township's interim SEO providing his fee schedule is not in excess of the current SEO rate schedule adopted in Resolution 2017-01 was seconded by Supervisor Evans. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Informational Items

Manager Seeds reported she was offered admission to the Certified Public Manager Program (CPM) at Millersville University of Pennsylvania and has been determined to have met the requirements for the CPM Level I program based upon her completion of coursework with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. To earn the CPM credential, however, Ms. Seeds will need to complete all requirements of CPM Level II including the Capstone project.

Motion by Chairman Smith directing the Solicitor to prepare an agreement to reimburse Manager Seeds for tuition costs associated with her successful completion of the Certified Public Manager Program at Millersville University of Pennsylvania with funds being made available under the budgeted Meeting, Conference and Training Account 401.46 was seconded by Supervisor Evans.

The Board commended Manager Seeds for having been accepted into the Millersville University CPM program and having demonstrated the initiative to pursue continuing education opportunities to both enhance her skills and provide added value to the Township.

Executive Session

Not required.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM upon a motion by Chairman Smith, seconded by Supervisor Peffer. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Fisher, Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL ON AUG 7, 2017