

Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2010

7:00 pm

The Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors held their regularly scheduled meeting on October 4, 2010 beginning at 7:00 pm, at the Municipal Building located at 783 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown, PA 17057.

Present

Ronald Kopp, Chairman
Anna Dale, Vice Chairwoman
Daryl Lehew, Member
Andy Doherty, Member
William Kametz, Member
Stephan Letavic, Township Manager
Jim Foremen, Zoning/Codes Officer
John Kesler, Public Works Director
Mike Johnson, Golf Course Manager
Deana Corrigan, Treasurer
Beth Graham, Office Manager
Peter Henninger, Solicitor
Andrew Kenworthy, Engineer

Citizen's Input - None

Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2010

Daryl Lehew motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Anna Dale, motion approved.

Manager's Report – Steve Letavic

Budget Update

Mr. Kopp asked for open discussion of scenarios on the budget from the Board members and citizens present. He informed everyone that action is not required at this time. Scenarios to discuss:

No Tax Increase - layoffs, no road work at all, no replacement of equipment, no capital infrastructure.

Minimum Increase – Would get the township through 2011, no increase in service.

3 Mill Increase – Would allow for capital infrastructure and equipment funding.

Mr. Kopp noted the work that Mr. Letavic has done in recent years bringing significant savings to the township by re-structuring departments, restructuring debt, renegotiating health care and improving the golf course revenue. He also stated that this area, and this country, is hurting financially so they are not taking this decision lightly. Mr. Kopp asked for input from each member.

Andy Doherty said that they have seen this coming, we have not raised taxes. Would like to take the most conservative approach with a 1 Mill increase and then revisit it next year.

Anna Dale stated that being a small municipality we have very limited resources. We are appreciative of the volunteers in the Fire Company and the services they provide

(fire, ambulance, fire police). She agreed with Mr. Doherty to be in favor of a 1 Mill increase and revisit next year.

Bill Kametz said that 14 years with no tax increase is a good run and that taxes should go up only when absolutely necessary. Bridge repair is new to the budget and is a safety issue. There is a real need for an increase now. If something were to go wrong (with a bridge, etc.) then it would become an emergency and there would be no time to think and prepare. Mr. Kametz is in favor of an increase, the amount needed is his concern.

Daryl LeHew said that Londonderry Township currently has a .07 millage rate, Lower Dauphin School District is 14-17 Mills. Public safety is our responsibility. We have over 1 million dollars in bridge repairs, DEP and Federal requirements must be met and they cost money. He stated that a 1 Mill increase is not his choice and that his term ends in December 2011 and he won't be on the board in 2012. He said that he would like to see the new member have the choice of raising taxes or not. He said that he would be in favor of a 1.5 mill increase.

Ron Kopp finished up by stating that from a business standpoint it's not fiscally responsible to run a business into the ground. He said there is no alternative but to raise taxes. He stressed that he would like to hear from residents to get an understanding of what people are thinking. Mr. Kopp thanked Mr. Letavic and Deana Corrigan for their work on preparing the budget.

Mr. Doherty asked how it was recognized which bridges needed repaired? Mr. Letavic informed the board that HRG's Bridge Specialist examined all 13 bridges, provided a report and an estimate of repairs. The bridges were constructed in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's.

Mrs. Dale asked how many miles of road are in need of repair and the cost of completing the work? Mr. Kesler stated that about 6 miles total on Roundtop Rd., Steinruck Road and Geyers Church Rd., costing approximately 2.5 million dollars.

Bart Shellenhamer, Fire Chief, informed the board that fundraising is getting worse year after year. Bingo is failing. He stated that the fire company could use .5 mill to help balance the budget.

Mr. LeHew responded to Mr. Shellenhamer by stating that the board would be willing to look at raising taxes to support the fire company but if they go through with it the board would ask for some concessions from the fire company.

Mr. Doherty said that the board appreciates the services provided by the volunteers of the fire company. He added that a wage freeze of township employees is necessary. Mrs. Dale agreed.

Mr. Kopp noted that Londonderry Township has the only 100% volunteer fire company in Dauphin County, they do a great job and their services are appreciated. He also said that he was not in favor of balancing the budget on peoples backs, the township has good employees and we want to keep them.

Mr. Letavic gave a breakdown of costs to homeowners annually for millage increases as well as the revenue generated to the township based on per \$100,000 of assessed value of home:

1 mill = \$77.30 cost to homeowner, \$262,000 revenue to township
2 mill = \$154.60 cost to homeowner, \$525,000 revenue to township
3 mill = \$231.90 cost to homeowner, \$787,000 revenue to township

Mr. Letavic informed the board that the budget must hang for 20 days before the board can formally adopt it, so they do have some time yet to provide direction to him.

Mr. Kopp said that he would like to provide every opportunity for residents to call or stop into the township office and provide opinions and ask questions before they move forward with the budget. No action was taken.

Conewago Creek Initiative

Mr. Kopp reported that he and Steve Letavic are both members of the group of 20 men and women who are working on a solution to stop the degradation of the Conewago Creek. There will be a public meeting at Londonderry Elementary School on Sat., Oct. 23rd from 8:30am – 1:30pm. The Conewago Creek is 1 of 4 impaired streams that lead into the Chesapeake Bay and federal money is funding the project.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Corrigan requested permission to pay invoices in the amount of \$65,919.81 General Fund; \$74,830.43 Golf Course Fund; \$1270.30 Escrow Fund, \$49,356.97 Liquid Fuels Fund.

Mr. LeHew motioned to pay invoices, seconded by Mr. Doherty. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

Code/Zoning – Jim Foreman

Don's Diner, Rte. 230 - Update on its Closing

Essam Haggag informed him that the gentleman who had been running the diner couldn't make a go of it and Mr. Haggag will be re-opening it himself as a buffet soon.

J & B Schnoor Assoc. – Richard Alwine, Planning Commission

Mr. Alwine spoke on behalf of the Londonderry Township Planning Commission presenting the board with their recommendations to the Minor 6-Lot Subdivision Plan for Thistle Road, Elizabethtown.

Mr. Doherty motioned to waive the pre-plan and sheet size and to defer curbs and gutters, Mrs. Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Mrs. Dale motioned to deny the waiver request of the Storm Water and the E&S Plan, Mr. Doherty. Motion approved.

Mr. Doherty motioned to deny the waiver request for the fee in lieu of, Mr. Kametz seconded. Mrs. Dale voted no. Motion approved.

Edgewater Zoning Amendment

Mr. Doherty motioned to schedule a Public Hearing relative to the Edgewater Zoning Amendment on November 1 at 7:00pm, Mrs. Dale seconded. Motion approved.

AT&T

Mr. Henninger informed the board that the Public Hearing is set. No action required.

Golf Course – Mike Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that Sunset is one of the few courses that is up this year. He also reported the following:

- The Better Ball Tournament of Partners is scheduled for October 16 & 17. The \$5000 in prize money is sponsored by the Londonderry Fire Company.
- Customer Appreciation Day is scheduled for October 22nd.
- Live Music is scheduled for Oct. 7 & 14 with Jeffrey J. Walker. If people continue to come out we will continue to book him.
- The NFL Ticket is available every Sunday (weather permitting) throughout the 16 weeks.
- The Daddy-Daughter Dance is scheduled for Oct. 8th.
- Doe Night is set for November 27th.
- 53 outings booked & confirmed for 2011 at this time.

Mr. Johnson also reported that Sam Risteff has made irrigation repairs, airifying & seeding the greens, transferring water to ponds because of dryness. Thanks to the fire company for their help with the water. He used 3.4 million gallons of water in June, July & August – the highest amount ever.

Sam Risteff, Paul Schmidt, Mike Deiter, Butch Retherford, Matt Naples & Tyler Rabuck attended a required tree vitalization seminar in State College as part of the Tree Vitalization Grant received.

Public Works – John Kesler

Mr. Kesler presented a written report to the Supervisors.

Solicitor – Peter Henninger

Mr. Henninger reported that the Comcast Agreement and the Family Farm Ordinance will be coming up for discussion in the future. Cell Tower Regulations were just received. Mr. Henninger will review them and report on his findings.

Old Business - None

New Business

Trick-or-Treat Night

Mr. Doherty motioned to adopt Trick-or-Treat night on the same night as Dauphin County from 6:00pm-8:00pm, Mrs. Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Mrs. Dale motioned to adjourn at 8:55pm, Mr. Kametz seconded. Motion approved.