

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TOWNSHIP BUILDING, OLD ZIONSVILLE, PA 18068  
JULY 02, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

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**ATTENDANCE:** Supervisors; George DeVault, Daniel Mohr, Robert Sentner; Township Manager, Daniel DeLong; Asst. Township Manager, Timothy Haas; Solicitor, Marc Fisher

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 P.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Resident, Phil Casey asked if the Township derives income from doing trimming trees around the utility lines. He also asked if the utility companies are compensating the Township for trimming trees around utility wires.

Supervisor Sentner answered, "No."

Resident, Phil Casey asked what is the justification for utilizing Township resources, both equipment and manpower to performing that type of work.

Supervisor Sentner asked for Casey to provide an example.

Resident, Phil Casey answered, "Acorn Drive." He continued to commend the Township Public Works Department for being fantastic people who do an excellent job. He asked why the Township's resources are being used to manage the trees in utility Right-of-Way. He is a business man and he is looking at dollars and cents. The utility company that parked their vehicles on the Township parking lot for three (3) months could have done all of that work. He concluded by asking what priority does Acorn Drive have as opposed to other roads like Bleiler Road, which looks like tunnels and the trees are actually growing from side to side.

Supervisor Sentner answered that he doesn't know but that the Board will look into it.

Resident, Phil Casey mentioned that he is looking at dollars and cents and he is aware that it is approaching crunch time for the budget and he is looking at dollars and cents.

Supervisor Sentner again answered that the Board will look into it.

Resident, James Krippe asked who issues the permits for solicitors.

Manager DeLong answered that the Township Office issues the permits.

Resident, James Krippe asked what are the permitted hours for soliciting. Last night he came home at 8:30 P.M. and there was an individual insisting to walk into his house. The individual would not disclose what they were selling, however, they told him everything they were not. He asked the individual if he had a permit. The Individual said that he did and that that the person from the Township said he was okay to do it. The individual refused to vacate his property. He contacted the State Police and by the time the Police Officer arrived to his residence from Jasper Park the individual "high-tailed it" and he doesn't know where the individual came from. While the individual was walking up and down the front of his house he was telling him that he had a right to be here and he can't tell him where he can and can't go. The individual told him that he had an Upper Milford permit, so it wasn't like he even guessed.

Supervisor Sentner said that you'd have to see the permit and if you don't know who the person is then the Township will have no way of checking if the individual does have a permit.

Resident, James Krippe said that the individual did not even identify himself as to why he was there.

Supervisor Sentner told Krippe that he did the right thing by calling the Police.

Resident, James Krippe mentioned that the State Police told him that they sporadically receive a list of permitted solicitors from the Township. The Police Officer told him that he doesn't have any solicitors listed currently. Krippe asked if the Township has specific hours to which solicitors are allowed to operate. If so, someone from the Township needs to ensure that an individual approved for soliciting is told what the hours are. He again praised the State Police by summarizing that the Police Officer arrived within minutes after he had called, they did a fantastic job.

Chairman DeVault and Supervisor Sentner answered that they aren't aware of the hours but they will find out.

Chairman DeVault asked if he had filed a Police report.

Resident, James Krippe answered that he did file a Police report. This individual refused to stop walking. Someone has got to explain to them when and where they are permitted to solicit. He did everything he could to find out who this individual was representing, but the person would not disclose that information.

Supervisor Mohr shared a story surrounding vendors at the Vera Cruz Halloween parade. Vendors simply show up and sell things. The community association approaches them and asks if they have a permit from the Township. If they don't have a permit, which they are required to hold on them at all times, they are kicked out.

Resident, James Krippe said that he did that. This individual didn't have anything in his hand, not even a brochure.

Supervisor Mohr asked if this individual told him what he was selling.

Resident, James Krippe answered that this individual expressed that he was not, but he didn't say who he was or what he was there for. 8:30 at night is not normal. Krippe asked if the Township could list the permitted solicitors on the Township website.

Chairman DeVault told Krippe that it would be a good idea to add that to the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1.) Posting Weight Limitation Signs on Kings Highway South.

a. Memo from Assistant Manager, Tim Haas.

Assistant Manager Haas summarized the concerns of the Township regarding the future integrity of Kings Highway South. The road is under much more stress due to increased truck traffic. If the Township wants to post weight limitation signs on the road, an engineering study must be completed at the Township's cost. PennDOT only covers an engineering study for portions of road that are owned by the State. If the engineered study indicated that weight limitation signs are necessary, prior to the installation of any sign, the Township would also be required to adopt an Ordinance to enable the signs to be enforceable.

Supervisor Sentner reminded the Board that this topic has been discussed before in relation to increased truck traffic on the Kings Highway South as well as the possibility of additional truck traffic created by the potential quarry located in Lower Milford Township. He asked if the engineering study would only cover the road and/or the bridges.

Assistant Manager Haas answered that the study would cover both.

Supervisor Sentner asked Manager DeLong if certain restrictions already exist for four (4) digit numbered State Routes.

Manager DeLong explained that Kings Highway South is not recognized as an official truck route. The information that Haas provided would be the next logical step in moving forward to have the ability to prohibit trucks on the road. Additional criteria involved in the study includes: intersection design, grades, alignment, bridges and culverts. The road base may not be able to handle certain weights, but a study would provide that information.

Supervisor Sentner asked if this is a Request for Proposal, or should the Township use Ott Consulting.

Manager DeLong answered that it is not a Request for Proposal. He would ask Ott Consulting to see if they are qualified to do such a study and, if not, he recommends to seek out Benchmark Engineering.

Supervisor Sentner asked if once the study and forms would be completed and submitted is it something that PennDOT can deny.

Manager DeLong answered, "No." Once it is found justified by a study the Township is good to go. He also expressed to the Board that Township staff would also be requesting Lower Milford Township to request PennDOT to do a study on their portion as well.

Supervisor Sentner asked what this study would cost.

Manager DeLong answered that the first step in the process would be to ask Ott Consulting to give the Township a figure on what they believe a study would cost.

Chairman DeVault asked why the Township owns the portion of Kings Highway South and not the State.

Manager DeLong answered that it was a decision made by the Board sometime in the 1970's to take that portion of Kings Highway South from the State.

Supervisor Sentner asked if a motion is needed.

Manager DeLong answered No, but that the Board simply has to be in favor of Township staff moving forward with the study. The Township has budgeted certain engineering fees for such an occasion.

The Board was in agreement to move forward with the study.

Supervisor Sentner wants Township staff to involve Lower Milford Township in this process.

Chairman DeVault asked Township staff to keep the Board posted.

## 2.) Roadway Improvements at Dillingersville Road Railroad Crossing.

### a. Memo from Manager, Dan DeLong.

Manager DeLong summarized the historic problem of vehicles losing control due to the bump at the railway crossing on Dillingersville. He requested the Board to authorize the Township engineer to perform a detailed design for an upgrade on the railway crossing. Once the Township knows what can be done based on the design upgrade then the Township can make the best decisions moving forward.

Supervisor Sentner asked if hiring an engineer would be necessary, and isn't it something that could be done in house.

Manager DeLong explained the complexity of certain details of the proposed project involving grading, potential easements, utility commission, and railway Right of Way. An engineer is much better suited to handle these issues. The Township went through the same procedure with the railway crossing on Kings Highway South.

Supervisor Mohr asked how it's possible that vehicles are gouging out the pavement if they are supposed to stop at the stop bar directly before the railway crossing.

Manager DeLong answered that it's the same way people are now rolling through the stop sign at Allen Street and Chestnut Street. People violate the law.

Resident, Phil Casey asked if it is possible to install a sign before the crossing that reads, "Slow, Dip Ahead."

Manager DeLong believes that a sign is already there.

Resident, Phil Casey expressed his concerns that if the dip were to be leveled people will be driving so much faster through there. There's at least five (5) houses right on the other side of the railroad track where people will be traveling 30 MPH through the air as opposed to 10 MPH. There's already a stop sign up the road where people roll through. Why remediate the situation to where the traffic flow picks up. You're talking about a lot of money spent on a road that has a depression in it where all you have to do is go out in front of the church and look at how fast they go through there since you took a little bit off up there. He remembers when that area was as intense. We're heading towards budget time, here.

Chairman DeVault answered, "Always." He asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Supervisor Sentner asked Township Planning Coordinator, Brian Miller if he gathered any traffic counts from that road.

Brain Miller answered, "No, not yet."

Supervisor Sentner proposed placing the traffic counter on that road first to see what speeds and what number of cars actually travel the road before additional steps are taken. He expressed that he is not saying "no" in doing this.

Resident, Phil Casey mentioned that one of the vehicles needs a new oil pan. Once he needs that he goes away and now we have no problem.

Supervisor Sentner again expressed that he is not saying "no" in doing this. He thinks that the Township should place the traffic counter out there first.

Chairman DeVault agreed and thought placing the traffic counter out on Dillingersville Road will be a good place to start.

Supervisor Mohr asked Manager DeLong if regulations changed to allow for the installation of a stop sign along with a crossbar.

Manager DeLong believed it is a possibility.

Supervisor Mohr proposed the idea to install a stop sign at each crossbar, since motorists are to stop there anyway. Installing two (2) stop signs would be a lot cheaper than fixing the bump.

Supervisor Sentner again expressed his desire to see the traffic counter installed there to see what the results are.

Supervisor Mohr expressed his approval for installing the traffic counter as well.

Chairman DeVault also expressed his approval and said that installing the traffic counter will be a great place to start.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board held an executive session from 7:23 P.M. to 7:31 P.M. to discuss personnel and real estate negotiations.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:31 P.M.

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George D. DeVault, Chairman

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Date

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Timothy Haas, Asst. Twp. Manager/Secretary