

**MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
JULY 11, 2013**

An advertised special joint meeting of the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority and the North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday July 11, 2013 at 5:30 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building, 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon, PA with the following people present:

Board of Supervisors:

Richard Miller	Chairman
Edward A. Brensinger	Vice Chairman
Kenneth C. Artz	Treasurer
Cheri F. Grumbine	Township Manager
Frederick S. Wolf	Henry and Beaver LLP

Municipal Authority:

Wynanne Demler	Chairperson
Gary Heisey	Vice Chairperson
Brian Hartman	Secretary
Susan Switzer Pierce	Assistant Secretary
Tod Dissinger	Treasurer
Sheila Wartluft	Assistant Township Manager
Mike Kneasel	Wastewater Foreman
Frederick S. Wolf	Henry and Beaver LLP
Nick Thornton	Steckbeck Engineering

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. after refreshments which were donated were served. The pledge to the flag was recited. Three residents were in attendance.

Chairperson Demler asked Solicitor Wolf to begin the meeting

Rockwood sewer project

Solicitor Wolf reported that Met-Ed is working on the Rockwood project which is the key to getting the pump station in operation with the hope to get the notice to connect letters out in mid-August. He mentioned that earlier this week we held a public meeting for both North Lebanon and Swatara Township customers with very good attendance. Sol. Wolf said we gave them information plus a period of questions and answers. He explained that Ray Bender and Betsy Bowman from the Redevelopment Authority presented the information needed to apply for financial help.

Mr. Bender explained that a plumber must meet certain guidelines for the property owner to receive the grant money, and the property owner would not be allowed to do their own work to receive money. Sol. Wolf reported Mr. Bender explained the income requirements needed.

They tried to explain the difference in the sewer billing rates to the Swatara customers which included the PENNVEST debt.

Sol Wolf further mentioned that the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority would be paying the debt service for the North Lebanon customers. The Swatara Township supervisors had not decided whether they were going to contribute or the Swatara customers were going to pay all the debt themselves. He said many of the Swatara residents expressed that they would not be able to make the quarterly payments if they need to pay all the debt service. He explained the Swatara Board of Supervisors does not need to wait until the end of the project to make a decision because the amount of the loan will not change. Supervisor Artz asked about what our customers would be paying to which the answer was that our customers would be paying the same as everyone else in the Township.

Supervisor Brensinger asked if the tapping fee for everyone on the project was \$2,000 to which the answer was “yes” and that they did not have to pay the capacity fee or the special purpose fees. Sheila explained that if we followed our rate resolution each customer in Rockwood would be paying \$7,315 compared to \$2,000. Sheila further explained that there is a law which dictates the tapping fee calculation. Discussion followed regarding the rates. Sol Wolf explained when the notice to connect goes out they will be instructed that if they are unable to connect within the 60 days, they must send a letter explaining the reason why they need an extension of time. He explained that we are now paying interest on the PENNVEST loan and in March we will be paying on the loan. Suv. Miller asked regarding who would be doing billing to which Sol Wolf replied we would be doing the billing. Swatara would have an escrow to draw from if payment is not made for those who have wells and with the customers who are on public water we would use the same procedure as we use for our customers with water termination. Suv. Miller asked if a Swatara customer does not pay who is responsible to which Sol Wolf replied that if the customer is on public water they would be treated like our customers and we will proceed with termination. Suv. Miller asked if someone is not connected will they be charged, to which Sol Wolf replied they will be charged our user rate fee.

Sol Wolf reported that when all the work is done the contractor will be doing the final paving. He explained the property owners will be asked to submit a short written statement if they are not happy with the restoration.

Review of various expenses

Sol Wolf stated regarding the schedule for vehicle replacement that it was originally seven years and had been decided by both boards that they would look at each of the vehicles on a yearly basis. He explained that most of the repairs are done in-house whenever possible. Sheila explained in detail the various expenses involved for repairs, replacement, and inspections.

Sol Wolf explained that the 1999 admin and the 2004 service vehicle were on the list for replacement in 2013 but because they weren't replaced they will continue to be carried on the list. He explained the 2007 service vehicle is scheduled to be replaced next year. He explained they have been carrying it forward since 2011 and they would need to decide which vehicles would need to be replaced in 2014. He said we do not want to get to the point where all the vehicles need to be replaced at the same time. Discussion followed on the rate chart.

A question was asked how much we collect on a quarterly basis and what the profit margin is to which Sheila replied it varies each quarter due to consumption charges and that the totals for the year are on the auditor's report. Discussion followed regarding some of the items on the budget. Suggestion was made by Brian Hartman to form a committee of people who are involved with the vehicles to evaluate the need for replacement. Discussion followed. Chairperson Demler appointed Tim, Mike, Ed, and Tod to be on a committee to evaluate the trucks before the budget. Suv. Brensinger expressed they do their best to look out for the rate payers.

Employee health insurance

Sol. Wolf said the last item on the agenda is the issue of employee health insurance. He explained that the Authority has asked the Board of Supervisors to look into the costs of health insurance. Sol. Wolf stated the Township has been working with the police contract and their insurance benefits are set by contract and in the past the remaining employees received the same healthcare benefit. He explained the Township has been working on various ways to keep the costs down with one possibility being to raise the deductible and that in his experience that does not work. Cheri Grumbine, Township Manager, said that they had a meeting scheduled on July 23rd with their broker to look over the possible options and that we really are not sure what will be happening with Obamacare. Sol. Wolf said everything is on the table as far as various options and that they would know more about it later in the year when they work on the budget. Discussion followed regarding various options to deal with this issue.

General discussion

Sol. Wolf asked if there were any issues that anyone either the Board of Supervisors or the Municipal Authority would like to discuss. Discussion continued regarding Rockwood and the issues which may arise during the connection process. Suv. Brensinger asked if any of our residents were in attendance at the Monday public meeting to which Sheila replied that yes there were. Discussion followed regarding the public meeting. Sheila asked the Board of Supervisors if they knew any of the people who are involved in the project to urge them to apply for the grant from the Redevelopment Authority if they qualify. Further discussion continued.

Sol. Wolf mentioned that the Authority is allowing any resident who cannot pay the lump sum tapping fee to enter into an agreement where they would make payments over a three year period.

The joint meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa L. George
Recording Secretary