

Minutes
North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority
Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors
November 13, 2014

An advertised special joint meeting of the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority and the North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday November 13, 2014 at 5:30 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building, 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon, PA with the following people present:

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
Scott Rights	Steckbeck Engineering

Board of Supervisors:

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

In addition William Kaiser, 105 East Brookfield Drive, was in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was recited.

Chairperson Demler asked Solicitor Wolf if he would like to take over the meeting at this point, to which he replied he would.

He explained that Mr. Kaiser is in attendance regarding particular problems he has regarding stormwater, and we will get to that issue. He can explain his concerns at that time.

Authority Budget for 2015

Sol. Wolf said everyone had received a copy of the 2015 Authority budget and also the water and sewer rates. He explained the initial budget did not include any water debt rate increases but a rate increase for the sewer. It was decided by the Authority that they would decrease the sliplining and capital reserve contribution to allow for no increase in the sewer rates, and therefore balance the budget. Sol. Wolf asked if anyone had any questions?

Supervisor Miller asked how Swatara Township residents are doing with payments on their bills? Sheila replied that there is only one resident who has not paid. They are on a well and not using their public water. She explained we are not able to require them to connect because they are not in our township. She also reported there is only one property which has not been connected due to a death and then was sold at tax sale to a new owner. Suv. Miller further asked if the City of Lebanon Authority was doing a rate increase to which Chairperson Demler replied they are doing a rate study and a decision would be made at their December meeting but she would expect an increase from them.

Supervisor Brensinger asked if there was any consideration given to additional payment on the bond reduction to which Sheila replied they are not able to do that until September 2016. Sol. Wolf explained they are putting water money aside and at that time they can make a payment on the bond. Question was asked about how often the payment is made to which Sol. Wolf replied it is twice a year. Sol. Wolf explained how the bonds work and when the payments are required. Discussion followed. Request was made for a printout of the amortization schedule.

Suv. Brensinger mentioned there are some improvements or upgrades for the Orange Street pump station in the budget and asked what would that entail and how much cost may be expected? Scott Rights explained the replacement of two pumps, a control panel and small glass enclosure around the control panel, and piping replacement. Suv. Brensinger said the only reason he is asking is whether there is a possibility of eliminating that pump station. Discussion followed regarding the Hershey Bare property in that area and what would be required for public sewer. Scott explained the research over the years about that service area, and the potential costs. Scott explained that it would cost approximately \$65,000 to \$70,000 to replace both pumps and the control panel plus slide rails to pump the lines up. Tod Dissinger asked about starting a conversation with Mr. Bare as to what he may be thinking about regarding development. Sheila explained that there was an issue before when it was discussed with the traffic pattern on Route 72. Discussion continued with the consensus they should fix what needs to be done at this time. Scott reported the replacement costs for what was discussed was \$66,840. Suggestion was made by Brian Hartman that if the property in question was developed that they be required to upgrade the pump station as part of the development plan. Question was asked if they would purchase the pumps now if they could eliminate the time required to place it out for bid. Discussion continued.

Healthcare insurance

Tod Dissinger asked where we were with the healthcare insurance to which Cheri Grumbine, Township Manager, explained they are going with Benecon which is a cooperative with other municipalities, and we will save \$45,000 by going with Benecon. Mgr. Grumbine explained how the group works.

Vehicle replacement committee

Tod explained the costs regarding the 2004 and 2007 service trucks. They did not look at the flusher truck. The committee agreed on a 13 year rotation which is not in concrete. If there are issues with any particular vehicle it will be looked at again. There will be no vehicle replacement request in 2015. Tod explained there are two components to the flusher truck which is different than the other vehicles. Discussion followed regarding the flusher truck.

Stormwater issue

Mr. Kaiser, 105 East Brookfield Drive, stated his concern about the stormwater system next to his property. He explained the drain system near his property is owned by four different people. He said he is getting water from thirty different houses which come into his drainage basin. The pipe only allows six inches of water to go through the pipe. He said he is responsible to maintain the basin and was not aware of that when he purchased the property. This is a major restoration which needs an excavator and would be a major expense. He is unable to get a contractor to even do the work. He reported that he had done research which stated that some municipal authorities were involved in these issues. He feels that he should not be responsible as a homeowner for the discharge of thirty homeowners. His opinion is that a government agency should assist homeowners. He reported that he spoke with the neighboring homeowners, and they were not aware that they were responsible. Brian Hartman asked about the agreement when the development was approved. Sol. Wolf explained that at that time there were different ways of dealing with stormwater treatment than there are now.

Tod Dissinger asked about the background of this situation. Suv. Brensinger explained that the stormwater issue has become more complex, and the law has changed to allow municipalities to collect a fee for stormwater. He explained that many municipalities have already adopted this fee. Sol. Wolf said this is the first time, as joint boards, that the MS-4 issue is being discussed, and this is a long-term problem that will need addressed by both boards. Suv. Brensinger explained that the Township may be willing to do the work for the Kaiser's but DEP will not allow them in this wetland. Suv. Brensinger mentioned that there were several municipalities in the area who already have the fees in place and the Authority does their billing. He continued to explain that our systems are not as aged as in some other areas. Discussion continued. Sol. Wolf suggested that Mgr. Grumbine; Suv. Brensinger; Steve Shirk, Steckbeck Engineering; and two members of the Authority meet and report back to the Boards.

Tod Dissinger questioned that as a volunteer board whether the Authority needs to take on this issue. Scott Rights said that eventually this will be required. Discussion continued. Sol. Wolf stated it will be necessary for both boards to work together. Suv. Brensinger said the MS-4 requirements are only part of the equation. It is about the quality of water going into the Bay. Discussion followed. Sol. Wolf explained that if the Authority formed a Stormwater Authority, they would need to amend their articles of incorporation and file an amendment with the State.

With no further business, the joint meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bertin, Recording Secretary