

December 6, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Foster Township Supervisors was held at the Municipal Building.

Members present: Chairman John Barrett, Vice Chairman Gene MAley, John Carr Via telecommunication, Secretary Janet Mitchell, Solicitor Ed Brennan, Engineer Dan Cook.

A copy of the previous meeting Minutes was given to the supervisors if there are no corrections or additions the minutes stand approved.

A copy of the bills was given to the supervisors a motion was made to pay the bills by Maley second by Carr.

PUBLIC COMMENT>>>> Harvey Frantz discusses on water issues with Blythe township.

#### ENGINEER REPORT

Zoning REPORT >>> Zoning report for the period ending November 30, 2023 was received.

COVID-19 ARPA Small Water & Sewer/ COVID 19 ARPA- Water Supply>>>> No update on this project. The CFA Board Meeting was held November 21, 2023, but grants were not announced. Not determine date of the next board meeting.

PA Statewide Local Share Account Grant>>>> Two grants were submitted on behalf of the Township. The First was for "Anthracite Memorial Park" at the former Neale Mansion Property. The second grant was for the Turkey Run Waterline Grant. A time schedule was not provided for when the grants will be announced. Barrett reports on 2 letters received from Senator Argall with support for these Grants

SCMA Act 537 Plan Update >>>The plan is administratively complete and under review PA PADEP.

SALDO, ZONING and STORMWATER Ordinance Update>>>>> Draft Copies of the SALDO have been provided to the Township, Solicitor, and Planning Commission. The ordinance will need to be advertised and a public hearing scheduled.

Draft copies of the Stormwater Ordinance have been provided to the Township, Solicitor, and Planning Commission. The ordinance will have to be advertised and a public hearing scheduled.

A Stand-Alone Timber Ordinance, based on the PENN State Model Ordinance is being developed by Solicitor Brennan.

The Township should review and provide comments on the proposed ordinances to Benesch.

As mentioned last month, during the update of the Saldo, references to the Township Sewer rules and regulations. By referring to this document noted there are some outdated references and changes since the original version of 2003. Recommendation for the township to update this ordinance with the possibility of future expansion in the township and the creation of possibility new sewer connection. Recommend the township update or create standard Sanitary construction details and specifications to ensure continuity between the existing and future new systems.

Ryan Development>>>>>No update on this project.

SEDCO Lot 12>>>> we have received a copy of the signed and recorded plans.

CES Landfill Biogas>>>Work with applicant to schedule a stormwater/site construction inspection of the site in accordance with the Land Development Plans.

Langen Warehouse >>>>No update on this project.

CRG Reading Anthracite Co.>>>> a detailed review letter was presented to the Planning Commission on November 15, 2023. The Board tabled the plans and the Developer has submitted an extension request letter and then submit the revised plans to the required agencies.

Reading Anthracite Solar Development Conditional Use Hearing>>>The Board held a public hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 where Reading Anthracite provided testimony on behalf of the proposed project. At that meeting, the Board of Supervisors granted conditional approval based on a list of detailed requirements outlined in the Benesch letter dated November 14, 2023.

Foster Redevelopment Authority>>> No update on this project.

Master Fee Schedule>>. The township should review the master fee schedule for 2024 and update any required fees to be adopted at the January 2024 reorganization meeting. Copies of the fee schedule have been sent to BIU and Hazlett Municipal Services for their review also.

Mr. Maley holds a discuss on the grant concept for development of the Anthracite Park Grant for \$500,000.00 Dan cook replies this is an estimate of what could cost be. Mr. Maley states a \$500,000.00 for a memorial park he would have VOTED NO for this project. Dan Cook response there is no township dollars as a match for this project Dan Cooks has submitted by email to Mr. Maley all information. Mr. Barrett explains the timeline for submission and money is given without any township match if we do not get the grant someone else will.

Mr. Barrett questions if any update on Schuylkill solar project. No update.

Mr. Maley holds a discussion on the Zoning changes. Mr. Maley expressed concern that proposed Zoning changes which have significant impact on discussion of changes from I-3 to I-1 is not sufficient. Extraction of Solar Energy rules from Zoning Ordinance to a standalone document without mentioning the new Ordinance permits Commercial solar system which was previously denied is unacceptable. Cook explains all the meetings held on Zoning from Planning Commission on down. Comprehensive plan comments were accepted. These changes were not done by one person. The process of Mr. Burmeister and legal counsel was to accommodate changes. Mr. Brennan explains the process of changes at all meetings, Mr. Maley had no objections. Discussion goes on about Lower Beechwood project, the plan will have adjustments accordingly to the comment letter received at the planning Commission meeting. Mr. Brennan again reminds Gene Maley to call with any questions the draft copies have been on view in the meeting room for many months.

Barret states Zoning changes made was not done behind closed doors. All the opportunities were there should there be any questions or comments. Mr. Barrett reports only a few residents come to meeting, explains the web, all Infor advertised for input. Mr. Cook objects that is no transparency explains everything that is on the Web site.

Solicitor Report

Update on the Solar Panel Meeting.

Brennan advises to replace Bill Burke as your Zoning Solicitor, Stan Burke recommendation Infor given to the Board.

Roadmaster Report

Tar Buggy repaired.

Leaves Cleaned

Two Sewer Pump problems.

Repairs on back road by Joe Zula and Truscott.

Work on Mansion in process.

Mr. Maley question tree on Miller property Barrett states cannot see how sap is falling on her car.

Police Report no given due to police at crash. Report is given with the agenda.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Reorganization meeting January 2, 2024 regular meeting will follow.

Barret makes a motion to submit second donation for 2023 minus debt owed to Minersville Fire Rescue by Maley second Carr.

Update on the mansion demolition clean-up by Sterling Mr. DeNaples saved us about \$100,000.00 and \$9,000 worth of fill reports a meeting will be set up with DCNR for a grant, Sterling reports saving as much of the building as possible. Mr. Barret thanks CES for their donation to the township on this project.

Meeting to adopt the budget December 21, 2023 @ 630.

Reorganization meeting will Be held January 2, 2024 @ 6:30 the regular monthly meeting will follow.

Motion to donate to St. Joseph center \$300.00 Maley second Carr.

Maley makes a motion to meet with FNCB for a better rate. Discusses the current rates on specific accounts. Comment from Mr. Barrett on investments in LINK Bank CD for 2023. CES has provided over \$100,000.00 for Mansion clean-up. Discusses the sewer authority has been underfunded since its inception from 2003-2013. The sewer authority would be Bankrupt in 6 years. Pumping fees discussed. CES Landfill gave \$500,000.00 for sewer from 2003 -2013. Mr. Maley asks to negotiate on rates. Asks for a second to motion for Mr. Maley none received motion dies.

#### PUBLIC Q&A

Joe Zula again suggests that the township has blocked private property on curran property.

Also asks if grant can be used for Lighting project

Mr. Sterling suggests speaking to Mr. DeNaples.

Motion to adjourn by Carr second Maley.

Attest: Janet Mitchell

Secretary- Foster Township