

Chairman Steven P. Barndt called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Franconia Township to order on Monday, August 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Franconia, Pennsylvania 18924.

Present were 1st Vice-chairman Grey Godshall; 2nd Vice-chairman W. Keith Freed; Supervisors Drew Darrah and Curtis N. Kratz; Township Manager Kevin D. Baver; Chief of Police Joseph S. Kozeniewski; Township Solicitor, Joseph C. Kuhls; Public Works Director Paul R. Nice; Township Engineer Barry Wert, P.E.; Building & Code Inspectors Roger M. Koffel and Jerry Rittenhouse; Assistant Manager Jamie P. Worman and interested residents of Franconia Township.

OPENING MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Forty+ Residents from the Earlington/Morwood area were in attendance to address the sewer plans for their area.

The first to address the Board asked to be enlightened as to the purpose of the 3M Component. The township manager explained that process. At this point, he also informed all that the 3M Component application requires that an estimated cost per unit be stated in the application. Currently, that cost estimate sits at \$23,500 per unit.

Next question: *According to June 14th public notice, the BOS was to approve the Act 537 Plan in July. Why did the Board not yet approve the Plan?* Although there was no public comment received by the township, based on the recommendations received from Schoor DePalma & DEP, it is in the best interest of the residents that the Plan be again modified. Therefore, no action will be taken by the Board on this issue at this meeting. The BOS will approve a revision of the Act 547 Plan when the FSA recommends it. Revisions are to be again advertised and following a 30-day public review, further action will be taken.

One gentleman asked to be noted as saying: Public sewer is a good thing. It is especially important if you are in a position to sell, whether now or later, that your property be “updated” in this manner, but *what will it cost?* It was explained that the FSA is a separate and distinct entity from the Township Board of Supervisors, and that question should be directed to the FSA. The Act 537 Plan establishes the provisions of public sewer and which areas will and won’t be provided with same. The BOS approves the 537 revisions made based on the FSA recommendations. The FSA makes all other decisions.

Why Earlington? The DEP picked the areas by watershed drainage. Morwood/Earlington area has been in the “sites” of the DEP for some years now. This township has told DEP that they will conduct a survey and correct and/or upgrade, according to the survey results.

Can residents choose to be “cut out of the plan,” because for most it is just too expensive? No. Take into consideration that in 2004, the plan gave an estimated cost per household of \$8,400. The cost will only continue to rise.

Residents were previously informed that there would be a capital contribution of \$1.25 million. What happened to that money, and what is covered in the \$23,500 cost facing homeowners now? Nothing has been “taken off the table”, and all avenues are being researched in order to provide the best “cost effective, maintenance-free system to each homeowner. Construction of the proposed sanitary sewer cost per household includes the tapping fee and an allowance for the private lateral installation.

A Rising Sun resident stated that just a few years back, his OLDS was checked and documented as sufficient, but now Schoor DePalma says it is too small. *Who said they were experts and who hired them?* Their credentials back their expertise in the field and they were hired in the early part of 2005 through the township.

When again questioned on the availability of the plan to the public, it was stated that the advertisement will be appearing in the August 23rd edition of the paper and the 30-day public comment period will begin that day. Copies of the revised plan, as contained in a DEP Component 3m form, will then be available for public inspection. Residents were urged by the Solicitor and Board to make comment in writing to the township officials within that period. In that way, DEP will be advised of those comments when the plan revision is forwarded.

A new resident to the area again wished to reiterate that the area is in need of this sewer update, and it will increase the value of the homes.

Another resident did inquire if there would/could be meters on the wells? Again, the Board/Solicitor reassured the public that all avenues are being considered and the issue of meters on the wells has yet to be determined.

A number of residents had the same questions: *Morwood is not alone, so why not consider a greater area and spread the costs around, or how about charging some of the costs to others in the future who will want to hook into the system that they are paying for?* Morwood is being handled as both part of the Earlington process and individually. Those currently on the system have paid for their own costs. Therefore, this would be an impractical solution.

Other inquiries before the Board: When will we be aware of the exact cost that has to be paid? Will there be or is there a cap on the estimated costs? Will financing of any kind be made available? If a previous owner informs the current resident (family of 6) know the system was good, why is Schoor DePalma saying it is failing? When exactly does the 30-day and the 60-day periods end? Do the residents get a “kick-back” of any kind to recapture their costs? Is Morwood area paying for the new Sewer plant? If Salford joins with Franconia, they’ll only be paying \$8-9,000 – Why? Why don’t we wait until all townships and residents can be joined?) Why has DEP permitted new construction with on-lot sewer systems? Why

can't the Township's General Fund contribute to the FSA to reduce this cost for the residents? Doesn't Allentown Road being owned by PennDot have an affect on the costs? Is it true that Telford is backing out of letting Franconia hook in? Shouldn't we be told when a system fails, the reason for the failure? Why is a system marked "potential failure." Could there be a joint public meeting of the Sewer Authority and the Board of Supervisors. Lastly, a resident stated that in the last 2-3 years, the cost to the individual resident has nearly tripled. Therefore, while the majority of the residents agree that this area does need public sewer, they are asking the Board to represent them and relay to the Sewer Authority that it should be at an affordable/reasonable price.

Some questions were repetitive, some redundant, and others would need to be directed by the residents to the Sewer Authority, either in writing or at their next meeting (Sept. 12) for answers. Every effort was made by the Board to hear all those with questions, and to provide answers when possible. Those present were also made aware that the township made a conscious decision not to do the stress test when going through this current process. That testing would have been an added burden on the test outcome for many residents. DEP wants Franconia to react to its needs now. No, PennDOT owned roads have not impact on cost. Yes, Franconia does have the needed capacity through Telford. A joint public meeting can certainly be considered. Throughout the meeting, the Board, the township manager and the solicitor consistently tried to reassure the public that all avenues are being considered to inform and educate the public, and to minimize the costs.

Open portion of the meeting to the public ended at 8:59 PM.

APPROVAL OF JULY, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kratz and seconded by Mr. Freed to approve the July 17, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – JOSEPH C. KUHL, ESQUIRE

A motion was made by Mr. Barndt and seconded by Mr. Kratz to approve Resolution 06-32-21-08 Accepting the Offer of Dedication of the Curry Subdivision Plan dated April 16, 1991 – Erie Avenue in the Township of Franconia, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania The motion carried.

POLICE REPORT – JOSEPH S. KOZENIEWSKI

Chief Kozeniewski submitted his report for July 2006, noting that for the August 2nd, National Night Out there was a great turnout!

ZONING REPORT – KEVIN D. BAVER

Mr. Baver submitted his report for July 2006.

HIGHWAY REPORT – PAUL NICE

Mr. Paul Nice submitted his report for July 2006, noting that presently, the department is grading the site at Enos Godshall Park.

ENGINEERING REPORT – BARRY L. WERT, P.E.

Mr. Wert reported that there were no items of interest this month.

TREASURER’S REPORT – KEVIN D. BAVER

A motion was made by Mr. Darrah and seconded by Mr. Freed to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, and to provide authorization for the Treasurer to pay all bills for the respective funds as presented on Voucher No. 06-21-08 dated August 21, 2006 in the amount of \$220,191.12. The motion carried.

PAYROLL

A motion was made by Mr. Darrah and seconded by Mr. Freed for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the pay period of August 18, 2006 through September 15, 2006 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/MOTIONS

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Franconia, Pennsylvania 18924.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2006 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Franconia, Pennsylvania 18924. The Board of Supervisors work sessions will be held on Friday, September 8, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. and Monday, September 18, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the same location.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Barndt and seconded by Mr. Kratz to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin D. Baver, Secretary