

Benner Township Supervisors
March 7, 2016

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman, David Wise with members Randy Moyer and Mark Capriani present. Also in attendance were Don Franson, Dennis O'Leary, Nate Campbell, Greg Jeffries, Wesley Astare, Ben Johnson, Sean Janoscrat, Utiria Saylor, Matt Ricci, Jerry May, Barbara Gillespie, Beryl Widmann, Shirley Gryczuk, Mark Threeton, Susan Runk, Anthony Wakim, Bob Lumley-Sapanski, Chris Anderson, William Hughes, John Elnitski, Jim Bunteft, Fred Haberberger, Hugh Roberts, Lisa Roberts, Frank Swancer, Charles Struble, Kathy Struble, Melinda Conrad, Ryan Clute, Chris Miller, Kim Bernier, Tabatha Habeth, Peter Rainey, Matt Auman, Lyle Beal, Jane Holderman, M.D. Holderman, Jodie Pello Stritto. David Bracken, Ruth Bracken, Cheryl Fugate, Eilene Blumenthal, John Kostas, Tom Moyer, Neil Haagen and Sharon Royer.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Spicer Farm Bio-Solid Application Discussion:

Nate Campbell: Mr. Campbell noted that several residents attended the Planning Commission meeting to discuss and express their concerns with the proposal of the Bellefonte Waste Water Treatment Plant to spread "Class B" bio-solids on the Spicer Farm. Mr. Campbell noted that the Planning Commission was not aware of this application. Mr. Campbell noted that he feels that a presentation should be made explaining what Class "B" Bio-solids are.

Mr. Wise noted that Bellefonte Borough has for some time had permits to spread bio-solids on farms in the area. He noted further that this permit process is between the Borough treatment plant and the PA Department of Environmental Protection. It was noted that the proposal has been deemed to be technically complete and approved by DEP. The 30 public appeal process has now begun. Mr. Wise noted that the Schaeffer Farm on Seibert Road has been accepting application for approximately 3 years. Mr. Wise noted that several of the surrounding townships have been receiving applications for years. It was noted that there are several factors that are taken into consideration prior to an application site be approved.

Beryl Widmann: Mrs. Widmann questioned if anyone has reported having issues with their water since bio-solids have been spread on the Schaeffer farm. It was indicated that no one has complained or notified the township of any issues.

Greg Jeffries noted that he feels that most here are concerned about the water quality and questioned if water samples have been taken.

Tom Eby: Mr. Eby noted that the Water Authority is working on creating a Source Water Protection Plan. Some of the land in the proposed Spicer application is located in the protection area. The Water Authority just doesn't feel that it is worth the chance of

something happening. He noted that if the water source was contaminated that there are very little options available for another source. Water could be brought in from the State College Borough Water Authority but would be very expensive to run the lines that distance. A connection to the Opequon/Hampton Hills system may run into capacity issues. Mr. Eby encourage citizens to contact Bellefonte Borough and ask them to withdraw the Spicer application. He noted that a representative from the Water division of DEP was present at the Water Authority's last meeting and noted that the Water division and Sewer division doesn't consult each other when reviewing the various applications.

Frank Swancer: Mr. Swancer noted that he has concerns with how DEP has handled this request. He noted that his wife contacted them on several occasions and was stonewalled noting that they finally had to file a right to know request to receive the information. He continued by saying that his wife was told deadlines to have comments, etc. submitted by only to have met them and then DEP changing the deadlines and not accepting the comments.

Mr. Wise noted that he wanted to clarify again that the Benner Township Supervisors do not have a direct role in this application process, it is the PA Department of Environmental Protection that accepts, reviews and approves or denies the permit.

Other concerns were raised about what the accumulative effect of this type of application is and the long term effects of drinking water that could possibly be contaminated.

Bill Hughes: Mr. Hughes questioned who chose this site?

John Kostas: Mr. Kostas noted that in his research for most instances it would be the farmer who would approach the plant and request the application. At that time the property needs to be inspected to insure it is suitable for application. It is free product and free surface application for no-til farms saving the farmers the cost of fertilizer. Mr. Kostas noted that the soil is only tested for 8 types of heavy metals.

John Elnitski: Mr. Elnitski noted that he feels if the Borough needs this site that now is the time to renegotiate the sewage contract between SBWJA the Borough that is clearly outdated. He also noted that he would place conditions on the spreading making them test the water sources regularly.

Residents noted that the 30 day comment period opened on February 29th. Appeals must be submitted prior to that date. Others suggested that a letter be sent to the Borough and ask that the application be withdrawn until further information is gathered.

The Board noted that they will draft a letter with comments and send it to Bellefonte Borough and the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

MINUTES

The minutes of February 1, 2016, were presented to the Board for their review and comments. Mr. Capriani moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Wise – yes

BILLS

The bills of March 7, 2016, were presented to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Wise moved to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Wise – yes

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Anderson reported on the following:

- *Seven permits were issued in the month of February – One new home and one mobile home were included in the 7.
- *The Planning Commission is continuing to review the Zoning Ordinance.
- *The Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting later in the month for the variance request from Berks Homes to build 20' wide homes instead of 24' due to the amount of rock on the lot.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Franson reported on the following:

Canyon Trail Project

- *Permits for the Spring Creek Canyon Phase I grant have been submitted to DEP and the Conservation District. It could take up to three months before the permits are issued.
- *Use agreements will need to be submitted to the Fish Commission and the PA Game Commission to be approved prior to trail construction taking place.
- *It is anticipated that construction should be able to start in August.
- *Tree cutting has been completed prior to the March 15th deadline due to the bats.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. O'Leary reported on the following:

- *The clearing of the new Rock Road parking lot for the trail is complete and 95% of the clearing that was needed along the trail is complete.
- *The pull behind broom that was obtained from Ferguson Township has been refurbished.
- *Paving projects will be advertised to be opened at the Board's April meeting.
- *Tree removal quotes for this year are being obtained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Mr. Wise noted that he attended the Centre Region General Forum meeting where the CATA Cost Sharing formula was discussed. It was noted that the formula is being reformatted. The changes that are being discussed affect the township very little if any. Also discussed at that meeting was UAJA's load capacity. Mr. Wise noted that he also attended the MPO meeting and mentioned that he has been nominated to be the Nittany Valley's Representative.

*Mr. Capriani noted that he attended the Logan Fire Company's annual banquet.

OLD BUSINESS

Township Building: Mr. Wise noted that the design of the new facility is being advanced. It is our hope that the design will be completed to be ready to be placed out for bid yet this spring. It was stated that the Township has funds set aside for this project and that taxes will not be raised to complete it.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 16-4: Resolution 16-4 was presented to the Board for their review and approval. This resolution will approve adopting the 2015 Centre County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Capriani moved to adopt Resolution 16-4. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – yes

Spring Creek Canyon Trail Phase II: Mr. Wise noted that TAG met on February 29th. Discussed at that meeting was the idea of applying for funding for Phase II of the Spring Creek Canyon Trail. It was proposed that Phase II would go from Shiloh Road down to Paradise Hill Road. At the meeting the PA Fish Commission noted that they have concerns relative to their pistol range/gates/parking and the lack of restroom facilities. The question was presented as to whether the Township wished to take the lead on the new application or to support ClearWater Conservancy and have them complete the grant application. The Board noted that with Phase I of the trail being done and the new municipal building going on that they would prefer this to be a ClearWater Conservancy application.

CATA Presentation: Mrs. Royer noted that CATA would like to know if the Board would like a presentation on the upcoming budget. The Board indicated that they did not.

Employee Short Term Disability: Mrs. Royer noted that the employees' short term disability insurance has remained unchanged for over 23 years and only pays \$250 per week. When the long term disability was changed due to AIG no longer covering small groups it was looked into about getting additional coverage. Most of the plans now pay 60% of the employee's wages. It was noted that savings has been received due to changing policies for the long term disability. Mrs. Royer indicated that the employees discussed this and would like to propose to the board that the short term disability insurance be changed to the increased 60% amount of pay coverage, noting that any

additional costs for the upgraded policy that the employees are willing to take a deduction in pay to cover. Mr. Capriani moved to approve this request to change the amount of coverage for the short term disability. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Capriani – yes Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Wise – yes

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. SBWJA Minutes of January 25, 2016 & February 8, 2016
2. Centre County Planning Office
 - a. Time Extensions
 1. Hartman Group
 2. Village of Nittany Glen Land Development, Phase III-B.1
 3. Yeagle’s Mini Storage, Phase V
 4. Cleveland Brothers
 - b. Cleveland Brothers Commencement with Construction
3. Hall Property Bridge - Water Obstruction & Encroachment Inspection
4. Sewage Violation letter to William Kennedy
5. Sewage Planning Module approval for Hartle Subdivision – Valentine Hill Road
6. Notice of GP-7 Permit being issued for Foot crossing bridge
7. Bellefonte Bio-solids Land Application – Spicer Farm – various correspondence
8. Letter from DEP RE: approval of Spicer Application for Bio-solid spreading
9. Letter from Centre Co. Conservation – UP Airport GA Apron Rehab. Incompleteness letter
10. Letter from Tonya Jackson RE: Bio-solid spreading

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned the time being 8:08 p.m.

Sharon Royer, Secretary