

Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors
Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2010
7:00pm

The Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors held their regularly scheduled Work Session meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at the Municipal Building, 783 S. Geyers Church Road, Middletown, PA 17057 beginning at 7:00pm.

Present:

Ronald Kopp, Chairman
Anna J. Dale, Vice Chairwoman
Daryl LeHew, Member
Andy Doherty, Member
William Kametz, Member, via phone
Steve Letavic, Township Manager
Jim Foreman, Code/Zoning Officer
Beth Graham, Office Manager
Andrew Kenworthy, Engineer
Peter Henninger, Solicitor

PUBLIC HEARING: AT&T Cell Tower – Conditional Use

Mr. Kametz joined the meeting via phone at 7:40pm. Mr. Henninger verified it was Mr. Kametz by a password. Mr. Kopp closed the Public Hearing at 8:05pm.

REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Kopp opened the regular meeting at 8:05pm.

Salute the Flag

Public Hearing Action – AT&T Cell Tower Conditional Use

Mr. LeHew motioned to table action on the Public Hearing, Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2010

Mrs. Dale motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. LeHew seconded. Motion approved.

Citizen's Input – None

Managers Report – Steve Letavic

Resolution 2010-10: Aaron M. Burgit, Eagle Scout

Mr. LeHew motioned to approve Resolution 2010-10 recognizing Aaron M. Burgit for his achievement in having received the rank of Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop 97, Mrs. Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Resolution 2010-11: Jack C.R. Shope, Eagle Scout

Mrs. Dale motioned to approve Resolution 2010-11 recognizing Jack C.R. Shope for his achievement in having received the rank of Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop 97, Mr. Doherty seconded. Motion approved.

Ordinance 2010-3: Comcast Agreement

Mr. Doherty motioned to approve Ordinance 2010-3, Mrs. Dale seconded. Motion approved.

Budget Direction

Mr. Kopp informed the Board that they have until the November 1st Board of Supervisors meeting to make a decision on the budget.

Mr. LeHew asked the Township Manager if we did not raise taxes what would we have to do to be sure that we can do seal coating (on some of the roads)? Mr. Letavic stated that he believes the only way we could do that is to lay off two employees in the Public Works Department, because it is the only department where there is any depth of staff, and leaving open the (current) vacant Public Works positions. In his professional opinion this is the only way to ensure we would have the liquidity needed should we have a culvert or road failure that required a material amount of money.

After much discussion the board was in agreement of a tax increase large enough to sustain the township and provide enough revenue to begin getting our Public Works employees back to work on projects that have been put off due to lack of funds. They were also in agreement that supporting the Fire Company with a tax increase is necessary to maintain the level of service they provide to the community as a 100% volunteer company.

It was noted that the press has printed discussion of a tax increase in the township and no citizens have called or come into the municipal office or township meetings to discuss this issue. Mr. Kopp asked for opinions from the few residents that were in attendance.

Mel Hershey, 235 S. Geyers Church Road, praised the Board for the job they have done over the years in keeping taxes low but said it's time now to do what is needed (raise taxes). He was in support of raising taxes for the Fire Company as well, as they provide an invaluable service to the community.

J.R.Harden, 1031 Oakview Circle, stated that he wants snow plowed in the winter, high weeds cut along roads and at intersections for safety and trees removed when they fall across the road. He wants those services to remain in affect and if it means higher taxes then so be it.

Beth Graham, 1059 Locust Grove Road, as a resident and township employee she feels it is a disservice to the residents by not raising taxes and taking care of the concerns being discussed. As a taxpayer she doesn't want to pay more, but as an employee she understands the urgency of raising them now and is in favor of raising them to where they need to be as recommended by the manager.

Mary Skinner, 1508 Round Top Road, stated that if she has to have a tax increase she would like to see it at a local level so she can see what services the money provides.

Robert Heuisen, 829 S. Geyers Church Road, said that a fire tax increase is a must and he can't imagine what the taxes would be if residents had a paid fire company.

Mr. Kopp asked if any members would like to make a motion in regards to the budget.

Mr. Kametz motioned to give the Township Manager direction to construct the budget based on an overall tax rate to the township residents to 3 mills and then to break that out between the fire company and township as 50 base points going to the fire tax and the other 2.5 mills going to the township. Mr. Letavic should reprioritize the bridge repairs from low to high, if we can, under the reasons because of the severity of the repair or the bridge that there has to be a prioritization to bring one first, Mrs. Dale seconded. Roll call vote showed five affirmative votes. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

Codes/Zoning – Jim Foreman

Denny Schmidt – Time Extension

Mr. Doherty motioned to accept the time extension, Mrs. Dale seconded. Motion approved.

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Mrs. Dale motioned to adjourn at 9:37pm, Mr. LeHew seconded. Motion approved.