Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
October 13, 2022
7 P.M.

Attending: David Franke, Heidi Fiedler, Joshua Meck, Hunter Ahrens, Christina Hafer, Eric Frey, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce, Tom Unger of Systems Design Engineering, Inc., Jim Keiser, NBRP Police Chief.

Guests: Donna Culp, Anthony Spero, Jarrett Gibboney, Eric Bauman, Scott Miller, Thomas Borrelli, Mike Schittler, Kevin L Manmiller, Dennis Fink, Robin Fink, Cliff Panneton, Aaron Rogers, Earl Weston.

Attending on Zoom: Robert Wood, Lance Adam, Brooke Meck, and several other residents.

David Franke called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Heide Fiedler to amend and approve the agenda adding the Conditional Use for the Maidencreek Associates Warehouse and scheduling the Conditional Use for the Tiny Thinkers Day Care. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no question on the motion, all members voted, "Aye.' Motion passed.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to accept the minutes for September 8, 2022. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the August Treasurer's Report and approve the Check Request List for August 2022 bills. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the September Treasurer's Report and approve the Check Request List for September 2022 bills. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cliff Panneton, 2 Genesis Dr, Blandon. Mr. Panneton stated the reason he was here tonight was since Route 222 has been completed, the noise level has increased between the roundabouts and toward Route 73. He asked the Board to enact an update to their noise ordinance and explore the engine break retarder ordinance. According to Pennsylvania vehicle code 75, section 103, if you get PennDOT involved to do an on-site survey of the area to determine whether you can enact that ordinance. Mr. Panneton also noted he did a couple of his studies, saying maybe some fines or put signs up that might slow the truck traffic down. He also said he had samples of ordinances from other communities. He said you could hear the traffic on Route 222 from a mile radius.

Tom Unger stated the Maidencreek Warehouse did studies and the baseline noise was above the noise ordinance. Mr. Panneton stated he would print out the data charts he has for the board.

Eric Bauman, 208 Wales Way, Blandon. Mr. Bauman indicated he lives 8/10 of a mile from the roundabout and can hear it loud and clear.

The discussion continued with Eric Frey stating you need an engineering and traffic study to have an ordinance which would be costly, PennDOT could do the traffic study. The discussion continued about where the study should be and the two more roundabouts to be constructed.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to amend the agenda on the discussion regarding the noise ordinance near the roundabout along Route 222. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to send a letter to PennDOT requesting a noise study and pursue a noise ordinance regarding the roundabouts starting at Route 73 North along Route 222 to Evansville Road. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

REPORTS

Police Report

Chief Keiser gave the Northern Berks Regional Police Department September report. Chief Keiser reviewed the September activity report, which will be on the Department's Facebook page. Chief Keiser stated the Police Commission Budget was approved at the October 10th Northern Berks Regional Police Commission Meeting. He also said the body camera and new car video policy were moving forward, Motorola will finish the installation on the weekend of October 24th and will be completed by November. He noted the crashes near the roundabouts have decreased since the construction has finished. Vehicles continue to drive fast and not yield especially on 222 making it more difficult for a vehicle to enter the roundabout from Genesis Road & Schaffer Road. He stated officers do sit in those areas but other problem areas in the township need attention. He also said they have pulled over vehicles not stopping for the busses, stating there will be a program next week involving PennDOT where either an officer will ride on the bus or follow behind in an unmarked vehicle.

Engineer

Re-Confirmation of Titan C Plan Approval Contingent on Completion of SDE Review Items dated October 10, 2022. (Giorgio Mushroom). Scott Miller from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy reaffirmed the final wave development plan for Titan C Plan, Phase One. Mr. Miller stated there were minor field revisions specifically regarding the shape and configuration of the first building, also other things related to the spot elevations, and minor stormwater tweaks with lines. He also stated that the proposed water line was rejected and had to be relocated. He said regarding the Systems Design Engineering review letter, we have met all the conditions for engineering and now it is just agreements, signatures, and escrows associated with the plan. Tom Unger from SDE stated the conditional use approval was granted and would be the same and is administrative and reconfirmation or new approval of the plan conditioned upon satisfaction of the October 10, 2022, SDE letter.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to approve the Titan C Plan contingent on the review of the SDE review items dated October 10, 2022. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Approval of Time Extensions for Conditional Use and Land Development Plans for Maiden Creek Associates Warehouse Proposal. Eric Frey stated a letter requesting an extension until November 30, 2022, and for the Land Development review letter extension until January 31, 2022.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the time extension for conditional use for November 30, 2022, and Land Development Plans extension to January 31, 2022. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Tom Unger stated the revised letters for the Maiden Creek Warehouse including letters from Benchmark who is a traffic consultant of hydrogeology. He said there will be a Special Planning Commission Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2022, at Andrew Maier Elementary School at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Disbursement to AMS for Road Bid in the amount of $223,309.34. A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the Disbursement to AMS for $223,309.34. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Hunter Ahrens spoke about the road crew and the excellent job this summer with all the projects they completed.

David Franke stated there would be an executive session after the meeting tonight.

Hunter Ahrens indicated the board voted to have a harassment policy developed, so Siana Law has developed a sexual harassment policy that is extremely extensive, we are going through some revisions to make sure it applies to general workplace harassment beyond that of a sexual nature. We will have a final copy for the board by November 10, 2022, meeting.

Solicitor
Eric Frey stated receiving a Conditional Use Application for Tiny Thinkers Child Care Facility at 3 Ingot Drive, since it is a conditional use under a time constraint having a hearing within 60 days, it will have to be on the November agenda.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to allow posting and advertising before November 10, 2022, meeting for Tiny Thinkers Child Care Facility at 3 Ingot Drive. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Mr. Frey made the board aware that the Conditional Use for Maiden Creek Associates extension ends in November, needing a date set for the hearing.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to allow Township Manager and Solicitor to coordinate dates for the Conditional Use Hearing for Maiden Creek Associates Warehouse. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

The Board discussed where the hearing for Maiden Creek Conditional Use Hearing will take place. Hunter Ahrens noted the Road Crew would be able to set up the venues.

Manager/Public Works Report

Review of Faith Drive Survey Responses. Hunter Ahrens stated that all responses that we received are included for overview. He said the only action that was close to a majority was the speed table. The board suggested a traffic study before any action on the speed table. The discussion continued and the board decided not to do anything else due to the lack of absence of a clear speeding date on Faith Drive.

Update on UGI the work in Township. Mr. Ahrens stated UGI has started to correct the issues with holes where they had dug in the right of way through the sidewalk. He said they have not remediated to our satisfaction. He stated he has been in contact with Eric from UGI trying to get a clear grasp of where all the issues are. Discussion continued to have UGI complete fixing the issues.

Update on Security Cameras at Community Park. Mr. Ahrens said the hardware for recording will be stored at the Police Station, and we will have access to it from Redner's with the cloud

Update on Road Crew Work. Mr. Ahrens spoke about the huge cost savings Keith Shuman and the road crew did with projects for the township. Mr. Ahrens stated that in addition to the creek work, there was a final round of submission for the DEP grants. Tom Unger said the applicant had to be registered online for the permit for West Walnut Tree Ridge. Mr. Unger said we are still waiting on the PNDI clearance letter.

Discussion of Budget Workshop Meeting Format. Mr. Ahrens said there are spreadsheets explaining where we are at right now and a primary draft is showing a deficit. He said he would like to use the Workshop Meeting to get policy decisions back from the board about how to whittle the deficit down. He stated he would like to understand what the board wants in terms of documents and presentations. He said he has suggested cuts and would need the boards' input with policy decisions.

Park and Recreation

Reported Budget Requests. Mr. Ahrens reported the budget request for the Pickle Ball Court at $84,000 and wheelchair-accessible walking paths for the Ontelaunee Heights Park at $18,000.

Participation in Fire Company Trick or Treat Night on October 28, 2022. Mr. Ahrens asked the board if they would like to participate.

Business

Approval of Fence Quotes and Sea container Purchase for Yard Waste Recycling Center.
Mr. Ahrens stated that he received quotes from AKA The Fence Company, Fence Co, and ProMax. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Meck noted that ProMax included security and upgrades.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to select ProMax Fence System for the Fence at $17,189.00 and Security upgrades at $14,709.00. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion passed.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to approve $11,000.00 for the purchase of two Sea Containers 40’ x 8’ x 9’6” subject to approval with photographs. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion passed.

Request for Authorization of Truck Purchase within the Parameters. The Board discussed the Parameters of the Truck Purchase, including the Grant Money. Mr. Ahrens discussed the supply chain issues occurring and only has 5 to 10 business days to decide. He then stated if the opportunity arises for a purchase and it is outside the meeting parameters to approve a such purchase, we could lose the deal. He also stated grant monies will expire on June 30, 2023, and made it clear they do not have special extensions. The board agreed to have a special meeting when the truck is located for purchase.

Approval of Letter Requesting Left-Hand Turning Lights on SR 222 and SR 73 Intersection.
Mr. Ahrens stated PennDOT did the initial traffic study, they requested to look at the left-hand turning arrows on the traffic lights. He said they reviewed the letter he drafted and are open to if needed revise their traffic signal permit.
A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the letter requesting left-hand turn lanes at Route 222 and Route 73. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion Passed.

David Franke shared the need for ambulances and EMTs. The Fire Company will provide training for EMS, EMTs, and possibly paramedics. The Fire Company is on a volunteer basis and is also needed.

The Board recessed into an Executive Session at 8:58 pm for potential litigation and personnel issues.

The Board returned to the meeting room at 9:29 pm.

Mr. Franke said there was no action taken this evening. Mr. Franke shared that the Board would meet again in Executive Session following the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to adjourn the October 13, 2022, meeting of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors. Josh Meck seconded the motion. All members voted "Aye." The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Hafer
Township Secretary