

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – Richard G. Gray, President, Board of Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Martino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner West	Absent	Also Present:
Commissioner Bevan	Present	John M. Shepherd
Commissioner Haigis	Present	Michael Turley
Commissioner Martino	Present	Chief Andrew Lisiecki
Commissioner Herold	Absent	Richard Albert
Commissioner Austin	Present	Andrew Blenko
Commissioner Gray	Present	Solicitor Bruce Dice

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

There was no opening prayer.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Chuck Heasley ó 12840 Lincoln Way, North Huntingdon, PA. Mr. Heasley states the reason he is here is because he is concerned about the water forming from Redstone Highlands and is creating mosquitoes. There is an old pipe under Lincoln Way that PADot took out all the stones where the water used to go underneath the road. When they took the stone out, they only put dirt back. Mr. Heasley's neighbor, Matt Luehm who is unable to attend the meeting this evening, is getting flooded every time it rains. Mr. Luehm is getting all of Redstone's water because Redstone's runoff from their driveway is tunneling over to where the water is already laying. Mr. Heasley states he wants to know what can be done about it. He also states the water from the detention pond is also coming down, meeting in the same place that water is already laying. Mr. Heasley went to George Dunbar's office and they met with Dave Herold last week. The secretary from Mr. Dunbar's office was to go up to Redstone because she feels it is Redstone's property. Redstone says that DEP said it is not their property, but the Township's property. He also states the property is not PADot. Mr. Heasley asks what can be done about it. Mr. Luehm cannot even cut his grass and lost his garden.

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Commissioner Gray explains that typically the Board takes the input from the citizen then responds. He asks Mr. Heasley if Matt is living in his father's old house.

Mr. Heasley states yes he is living there and PADot went into his yard where the water is and could not do anything because it's private property.

Commissioner Gray states that at one time Harry had blocked the pipe with concrete.

Mr. Heasley says that water does not run uphill so if the pipe is blocked now, that is not the reason why the water is forming a pond. He states that years ago before he moved to his home, that the first three houses from Lincoln Way furnished their own pipe and it ended next the Mr. Luehm's yard. His concern is the mosquitoes.

Commissioners Gray states this has been a problem for many years and the last that he and Mr. Heasley spoke was when PADot put the stone in on the other side of the road and seemed to have solved the problem.

Mr. Heasley states PADot pumped the water out and went into the 24 inch pipe that kept breaking off, so they dumped stone in. When PADot came down last week, they took all the stone out and put mud back in there which made the problem worse. Mr. Heasley thanked the Board for their time, but states something has to be done.

Commissioner Gray asks if there are any Board comments.

Mr. Blenko states he was there with PADot last week. He reminds Commissioner Gray that back in 2007 the residents of Alder spoke against Redstone Highlands saying they did not want the additional run off through the culvert. The culvert is at the bottom of an 18 to 20 acre watershed which produces a good bit of run off. Redstone Highlands put in a detention pond which is holding water and slowing the run off, but there is no way you can develop land and put in streets and homes without causing more run off. Mr. Blenko states that back in 2007, there were complaints that the culvert wasn't working properly. PADot came out, Ron Clark and John Thornton were there at the time and the conclusion was they could not get a camera through because the culvert would not drain. The conclusion was they didn't know if it was the PADot piece that is bad or the piece that runs through the three private properties. Mr. Luehm retarded the flow, he never blocked the flow. Mr. Blenko states he has photos of a large concrete block that he placed in front of the outlet pipe which slowed the water down and spread it out but did not stop the water. Mr. Blenko's argument with him at the time was he thought Mr. Luehm was making the problem worse because as he backed the water up in the pipe, it slows down, the sediment falls out and eventually the pipe is going to carry less and less so that when there is a storm instead of the water coming through and being done, it's going to pull and pond on the opposite side of Lincoln Way which it has now done for years. This year, with all the rain, Redstone Highlands became concerned because they noticed that their pipe that drains to that low point was submerged a good bit of the time. The pipe

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never seemed to be fully draining, so they asked PADot to come out and take a look. PADot came out last week, dug around for most of the morning trying to find the end of the pipe hoping they could uncover and expose it. Mr. Blenko continues to say back in 2007 (this is critical to the history) PADot came out and had a meeting there with some of the residents and their conclusion was that their pipe had been extended without their knowledge or approval and said we can do one of two things: We can leave it alone or we can excavate at the downstream edge of the right of way and expose the end of the PADot pipe and let the water run where it may. The residents' response was no, that's not what we want, we don't want a great big pit in our backyards. PADot said very well, got in their trucks and left, ending the discussion. Mr. Blenko states that PADot was out there last week, dug around trying to find the end of the pipe, couldn't find the end of the pipe when Mr. Blenko came to get the drawings for Redstone Highlands, then were able to accurately locate where the end of pipe should be. After digging, it appears that last summer when the water authority installed the new water line on Lincoln Way, they encountered the rock, assuming it was a dead culvert, and put the water line across the mouth of the pipe and encased it in concrete. The pipe is taking some water but certainly not taking as much as it should or all the water it used to. Mr. Blenko states he called the water authority and they were to send somebody out. He does not know what came out of it. PADot left the job site midday, the water authority was to send somebody out to meet with them but Mr. Blenko does not know what the conclusion was. Mr. Blenko believes PADot is still going to try to get the pipe functioning again. Their new county maintenance manager, Rob Dean, had indicated in an email to Mr. Blenko and Redstone Highlands that if the people have tapped on to the downstream end of the pipe, they're either going to have to get PADot's approval to have done that which will probably involve inspecting their pipe and making sure it's in decent condition. Mr. Blenko states that at Mr. Luehm's property line, it's a smaller pipe that crosses Lincoln Way. The pipe across Lincoln Way is a 24 inch pipe. The pipe on Mr. Luehm's property is either a 15 or maybe 18 inch pipe.

Mr. Heasley states that Mr. Luehm doesn't have a pipe.

Mr. Blenko states the pipe ends right at his side yard.

Mr. Heasley states that what PADot did last week made the problem worse.

Mr. Blenko states the pipe was taking some water before, now it's not taking any.

Mr. Heasley states they want to eliminate the water. They don't want any water over there at all and want the discharge pipe relocated or block the pipe.

Mr. Blenko asks Mr. Heasley where he would have PADot run the runoff from a 20 acre watershed. It has been draining this way for fifty or sixty years.

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Mr. Heasley says that the water that is draining there is from Redstone's road. The pipe that runs under Lincoln Way is a twenty four inch terre cotta pipe. Mr. Blenko agrees. Mr. Heasley says that's why they put the stone in 2007.

Mr. Blenko says that he knows they tried to open the pipe and were not successful.

Mr. Heasley asks why they have to have the water. Mr. Luehm is getting all the water from Redstone.

Mr. Blenko states even if Redstone wasn't there, Mr. Luehm would still be getting the water coming from the other side of Lincoln Way.

Mr. Heasley says this water issue has been going on for a long time.

Mr. Blenko states that proves his point. The people downstream live along a stream channel and they don't want a stream channel in their back yard. Mr. Blenko says he cannot make water run uphill nor is it fair to take that water and redirect it to somebody else's backyard.

Mr. Heasley states that Mr. Blenko said it was Mr. Luehm's fault that the water was going to where the pond is now.

Mr. Blenko states that he feels by Mr. Luehm blocking the end of the pipe is slowing the water down and eventually the pipe was sealed off.

Mr. Heasley asks why PADot had a big pump truck there last week. They thought they were going to pump the water.

Mr. Blenko says PADot tried to pump out the water that was in the low point because they were working blind. They were digging around through muddy water trying to see if they could feel anything. Mr. Blenko states that PADot started to lose the road. They had a gradall up on the road and were digging.

Mr. Heasley states that Mr. Gray know about that. Back in 2007, the road was starting to sink then where they dumped the rock.

Commissioner Gray thanks Mr. Heasley and states the Board explored this all they can, but thinks what is going to happen is if the water authority and PADot work on this issue, their goal is to restore the flow under Lincoln Way back behind the properties where it's going forever. They are not going to redirect anything to another part of the Township. He feels they are going to open that pipe up and redirect in the old stream channel where it's always been so the water will continue to flow behind the Luehms and the other properties behind Locust. To say you want the water

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stopped and moved somewhere else is not going to happen. It will hopefully restore the channel and drain the pond that Mr. Heasley is concerned about with mosquitoes.

Mr. Heasley says the residents will still get water in their yards and cannot cut their grass.

Commissioner Gray agrees. This has been the situation for a long time.

Manager Shepherd states it has been this way even before the homes were built. The cross pipe has to be very old.

Mr. Heasley thanks the Board for their time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Haigis
Second: Commissioner West

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting ó 6/11/15)

Motion Carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Martino
Motion: Commissioner Austin

Motion to approve (Regular Meeting ó 6/17/15)

Motion Carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Commissioner Martino
Second: Commissioner Haigis

I make a motion we pay Voucher No. 070384 through Voucher No. 070472.

Motion Carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

- No Board comments

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

- No Board comments

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POLICE REPORT

- No Board comments

Chief Lisiecki states that in addition to the speed signs that are rotating throughout the Township, PADot has placed one speed trailer on Morris Avenue and are supposed to give two more, one on Route 993 and another for Barnes Lake Road within the next couple weeks.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

- No Board comments

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

- No Board comments

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

- 1) Action to adopt a Resolution which approves S-09-2015, Raynak Plan, a boundary line revision and lot consolidation of four lots along Wagner Drive and Sunset Avenue.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis Motion to approve.

Motion: Commissioner Austin

Motion carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No items for discussion.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Action to approve the June check register.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Bevan

Motion Carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

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2) Budget Report ó June 2015 Report.

There were no Board comments.

3) Action to authorize payment of \$100, 000.00 to Lincoln Hills Realty Associates for the Barnes Lake Road / Norwin Avenue and Barnes Lake Road / Caruthers Lane traffic signal improvements in accordance with the April 18, 2007 development agreement.

Motion: Commissioner Martino Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Austin

Commissioner Gray asks Manager Shepherd to briefly tell the Board what the agreement was in 2007. Manager Shepherd responds it was an agreement between Lincoln Hills Realty Associates who did the Lincoln Hills plan of subdivision in the Township. The agreement in general called for the Township to contribute \$100, 000.00 for the two traffic signals that have been recently built on Barnes Lake Road. The payment the Township contributed came from the settlement that the Township had with the developer of the Wal Mart project. The Township has been holding that money in essence in trust for seven / eight years and now the signals are done other than a few minor items. Based on Mr. Shepherd's previous experiences with letters received from PADot, these are good. Usually there are pages of comments related to final acceptance.

Mr. Blenko states PADot feels the few minor items have been addressed. They will do a final inspection. Mr. Blenko states he doesn't know if anybody drives Barnes Lake Road regularly, but it is a huge improvement. He states he has heard this time and time again from people who drive on that road. Residents from Lincoln Hills say they can get out easier, they have a shot between green signals to pull out and no back-ups on Friday afternoons like there used to be. It's a big improvement.

Manager Shepherd states one final thing he should say for the record is the agreement called for the Township to pay up to \$100, 000.00. Obviously these signals cost significantly more than that. The developer gave Mr. Shepherd the invoice for just the equipment alone and it reaches \$500, 000.00, so there is no question the Township is in for that amount of money.

Commissioner Gray asks if there are any other questions.

Motion carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

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FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

No further Board comments.

Commissioner Gray makes an announcement on August 13, 2015 at the next work session, representatives from State Representative George Dunbar's office and PADot to discuss the Leger Road bridge which has been closed for a number of years over the railroad that passes between Leger Road and Ardara Road over to Route 993. It's going to be during the work session but also going to be a public airing of what the considerations are. Commissioner Gray states he also made the announcement at Hartford Heights VFD meeting. He suspects they would be interested, hopefully Larimer VFD will attend as well as residents on Ardara Road. The discussion will be to as whether PADot, at this point plans to demolish the bridge and not replace it, so that would permanently close that access route. The Board is not in favor of this however PADot would like the Township to take over Leger Road and continue over the Carpenter Lane because it's all the same State route number. PADot would like North Huntingdon to adopt it as one of our own if they replace the bridge. At this point, preliminary discussions that the Board does not believe that's in the best interest of the Township because of the financial obligation that would entail verses the minimal reimbursement we get from PADot for taking the road over. At the August 13, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. meeting, we will have representatives from all the organizations here to discuss and Commissioner Gray asks the media to please mention this so people know to attend if they are interested. At that time, we will have our engineer provide some comment about the Township's concerns, PADot can state their case, and see if we can lobby the State for any help in whatever happens. Commissioner Gray asks Manager Shepherd if he has any comments about this. Manager Shepherd states this is definitely the time they are going to discuss it and have the initial meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Mark your calendars for the 2015 Summer Celebration at Oak Hollow Park on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29.
- 2) The long awaited Mother / Son picnic will take place on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at Penns Woods Park from 3:00pm - 7:00pm. Tickets are available at the Administration Office for \$25.00 per couple and \$5.00 for each additional child.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Haigis Motion to adjourn. (7:28 P.M.)
Second: Commissioner Martino

Motion Carried 5 ó 0 ó 0

*Executive Session was held after the Regular Meeting to discuss NHTMA / WWMA litigation.

- Regular Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2015 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

Richard G. Gray, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary

/jjm

