

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2024

VALLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The first monthly meeting of the Valley Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, via hybrid to allow participation at the Valley Township Building at 1145 West Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA or through the *Go To Meeting* platform.

The Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patrice Proctor at 7:05 p.m. Those in attendance at the Township Building were Supervisors Patrice Proctor, Casey Max Leidy, Linda Baugher, Sharon Yates and LeRoy Goldsmith. Also attending the meeting at the Township Building were Janis Rambo, Township Manager/Township Secretary; Kris Lenhart, Public Works/Facility Director; Michael J. Ellis, P.E. of Pennoni Associates Inc. (Township Engineer); and Amanda Sundquist, Esquire, of Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees (Township Solicitor).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS/ACTIONS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Proctor noted that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting at 5:30 p.m. to discuss legal issues relative to a grant submission.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Proctor turned the meeting over to Ms. Sundquist to enter into the Public Hearing to hear comments relative to the West Lincoln Highway Corridor Master Plan as an addendum to the 2020 Valley Township Comprehensive Plan Update.

Ms. Sundquist reviewed a Resolution of the Valley Township Board of Supervisors to adopt an Amendment to the Valley Township Comprehensive Plan, titled "Valley Township W. Lincoln Highway Corridor Master Plan", dated December 2023. She noted the Board Exhibit List as follows:

- B-1: Resolution
- B-2: Notifications to contiguous municipalities & school district, dated December 20, 2023
- B-3: Proof of Publication of solicitation of public comments on Amendment (with Legal Notice appearing in the *Daily Local News* on December 21, 2023)
- B-4: Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2023 meeting (they held a public meeting this night and received no comments so it went to the Board)
- B-5: Proof of Publication of Board of Supervisors hearing (with Legal Notice appearing in the *Daily Local News* on January 23, 2024 and January 30, 2024)
- B-6: Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2024 meeting
- B-7: Chester County Planning Commission Review, dated January 19, 2024
- B-8: E-mail from Mark Gallant, Senior Community Planner at the Chester County Planning Commission, dated January 10, 2024 noting two changes to the plan being: 1) noting funding

was provided by Valley Township through the Chester County Vision Partnership Program (VPP), sponsored by the Chester County Board of Commissioners. This Plan has been prepared in conjunction with the principles of Chester County's comprehensive policy plan *Landscapes3*, as a means of achieving greater consistency between local and county planning and 2) legends in the back of the plan need to be increased in size

Mr. Ellis reviewed the plan stating it is a guide for the future of West Lincoln Highway from Coatesville to Sadsbury. He noted there will be a shared path on the northern side and that sidewalks, curbing, storm sewers, narrowing of the road, lighting along the north side, landscaping with specific species and signage are all proposed. Ms. Yates commented she likes the plan a lot and that it's a well thought out plan keeping the character in Valley Township. As far as trees, she recommends not planting them under power lines due to their growth over the years. Ms. Proctor mentioned that the trees are great, but during the winter they can cause a lot of ice. Mr. Ellis noted that the street trees are all set back behind the trail for property improvement. Mr. Ellis added that Mark Gallant from the Chester County Planning Commission expressed his apologies for not being present at the meeting due to being sick and expressed his congratulations to everyone.

Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Baugher, to close the Public Hearing and reopen the regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Approve minutes as written – January 22, 2024**
- b. Approve bills presented for payment**
- c. Authorization to accept Cleveland-Cliffs Plate, LLC twelve-month extension for completion of site improvements to allow the timing under paragraph 2.b of the Land Development Agreement to be extended until January 27, 2025**
- d. Consideration to appoint Sgt. Parker and remove Officer Garner from the Workplace Safety Committee retroactive to January 2, 2024**

The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD GENERAL COMMENTS

Ms. Proctor reviewed some of the Township's General Comments/Upcoming Events as listed on page 2 of the agenda. Ms. Yates added that the ESAC meets the third Thursday each month noting their next meeting is on February 15 at 6:30 p.m.

CITIZEN REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

Joanne Fryer – 1) traffic light at Rainbow Road/West Lincoln Highway and 2) SPCA contract – Ms. Fryer, of 1163 Colony Drive, first addressed the SPCA contract stating her belief that we need a contract with the SPCA. She reviewed a recent issue regarding a very large dog that was running around one evening around 11:30 p.m., but was unable to find the owner. She commented that her neighbor has two little Yorkies and they are not sure if this dog would hurt them if they come in contact with each other. Ms. Proctor replied that the contract fee is \$200 for cats and \$400 for dogs, in addition to the annual fee starting over \$6,000 for 2024, with annual increases over a five-year period. Ms. Fryer commented that she takes in cats and keeps them until they are adoptable and then takes them to the SPCA or other agencies. Mr. Leidy stated that for the one dog that she mentioned being loose the other week, the SPCA would have charged the Township about \$715. Ms. Fryer stated there are too many stray animals and asked what we do with them. Ms. Proctor noted that Valley Township is not the only township without a contract because the SPCA keeps increasing their fees; Mr. Leidy commented that the SPCA argues they are non-profit. Ms. Fryer suggested getting with other municipalities and Ms. Proctor replied we are trying to do that and Ms. Baugher noted that the COG has had this as an initiative the last few years. The Board noted that there is success through social media having pets and owners re-united and stated that the Township does have a chip scanner.

Ms. Fryer then addressed the second item stating that a traffic light is needed at Rainbow Road/West Lincoln Highway. She said that when the new school went in, she thought there was supposed to be a traffic light at Rainbow Road and explained that it is a struggle to get out onto West Lincoln Highway. Ms. Fryer commented that with the new businesses going in near Walmart at Routes 10/30, more traffic from Coatesville will be traveling west on Lincoln Highway through Valley Township. Mr. Leidy commented that it is hard getting out of Buckthorn onto West Lincoln Highway but is hopeful that a traffic light will go in somewhere along the highway which will make some kind of a break for traffic to get out. Ms. Proctor noted there has to be warrants met with PennDOT in order to put a light in and Mr. Ellis said there is a light proposed for Walter Johnson Boulevard/West Lincoln Highway pending proposed uses within Valley Suburban and/or the Airport Expansion land development plan. Ms. Fryer asked if PennDOT approved this and Ms. Proctor replied that they did as part of traffic studies for proposed uses. Mr. Ellis reviewed the 2007 traffic study done for the new elementary school. He said the traffic study in 2007 was way below meeting the warrants.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Consideration to adopt a Resolution for the West Lincoln Highway Corridor Master Plan as an addendum to the 2020 Valley Township Comprehensive Plan Update – **Ms. Baugher made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to adopt Resolution 2024-11, a Resolution adopting the West Lincoln Highway Corridor Master Plan as an addendum to the 2020 Valley Township Comprehensive Plan Update subject to Chester County Planning Commission comments in Section B-8.** The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/consideration of proposal for West Lincoln Highway Storm Sewer Engineering – Mr. Ellis noted this is for two grants being awarded, the CDBG grant and DCED grant, for a total of

\$787,000. The design and permitting fees for the scope of services is estimated at \$84,000. Mr. Ellis reviewed the schedule mentioning that the survey and design work will take about 6 months to complete finishing by August 2024. Construction will be between March 2025 – May 2025.

Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Baugher, to authorize the proposal for the West Lincoln Highway Storm Sewer Engineering not to exceed \$84,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to authorize Pennoni Associates to proceed with a Chester County Preservation Partnership Program grant application – Mr. Ellis explained that this is for consideration for funding in front of the Township building along with the LSA grant. He spoke to County Parks who confirmed this is an eligible activity and it is part of the Corridor Master Plan. Mr. Ellis stated the timing for the grant is late spring/early summer as well as the LSA grant, so both should be announced around the same time. The total estimated cost is \$223,000 which includes the trail, lighting, etc.

Ms. Yates made a motion, seconded by Ms. Baugher, to authorize Pennoni Associates to proceed with a Chester County Preservation Partnership Program grant application. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to authorize CDR Maguire for the required third-party structural design reviews for Wagontown Road on a T&M basis for an amount not to exceed \$11,000 conditioned upon PennDOT's approval – Mr. Ellis explained that third-party review services are a requirement of PennDOT for structure design submissions within the MTF Grant Project. Mr. Ellis stated this is a proposal from CDR Maguire who has been qualified by PennDOT in the past. Both reviews will not exceed \$11,000 and will provide plans to them right away if approved.

Ms. Yates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leidy, to authorize CDR Maguire for the required third-party structural design reviews for Wagontown Road on a T&M basis for an amount not to exceed \$11,000 conditioned upon PennDOT's approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Engineer Update – Mr. Ellis provided an update on Glencrest Road stating the contractor is working in Millview Basin and is half way done and should be completed the first week of March. They will move to East Glencrest Road on March 11 to work on the eroded road and channel which will go into May. They will then replace the stormwater pipe. Mr. Ellis noted documents need to be signed by the homeowner by next Friday (February 16) for permission to do the work on his property.

At this time, Mr. Ellis departed the meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion/consideration regarding SPCA contract – **Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Proctor, to not sign the SPCA contract.** The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/consideration on Parks & Recreation being an authority vs. committee – Ms. Sundquist noted the Authority creation document is from 1986 and paragraph 2 explains what the purpose of the authority is. If the current Authority is mostly doing community events, etc., then that could fall under a committee. She noted the initial purpose of forming the Authority may have changed over the years. Ms. Proctor stated that there were two lots purchased by the Authority, she believes, connected to Westwood Park, and is in agreement with changing to a committee and asked how the set up was, does that put more restrictions on the authority and is there anything listed under the authority. Ms. Sundquist added a check with the Recorder of Deeds if there are any properties currently under the Authority can be done. Ms. Sundquist further stated the Board of Supervisors cannot terminate an authority; the authority needs to take formal action to terminate. Ms. Sundquist reviewed the process that will need to be taken if the Authority decides to terminate. The subject will be on the next Parks & Recreation Authority agenda. Ms. Sundquist explained they will need a couple of meetings to do the wind down of the authority if the Authority votes to begin that process. It was discussed that formation of a Parks and Recreation Committee could be established and that process was reviewed.

At this time, Ms. Sundquist departed the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to approve Resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) – **Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Baugher, to approve Resolution 2024-12 supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA).** The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to approve purchase of Trackless MT7 Municipal Tractor Standard Equipment at a purchase price of \$219,865.00 as per Co-Stars Contract #025-E22-441 – Mr. Lenhart noted this would replace the roadside mower or what they also call the “Yoder mower” which they have had for 20 years, a circa ’85-’90 tractor that was purchased from Bart Township. Mr. Lenhart noted that it is the intention to keep the “Yoder mower” to mow small areas, such as some Municipal Complex areas. Mr. Lenhart pointed out that the new tractor is multi-functional and comes with equipment such as plow, leaf blower, milling head for asphalt repairs, however, it’s only available if ordered with the new tractor. It will take about 4-6 months to receive and we should have it in time for cutting season.

Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to approve purchase of Trackless MT7 Municipal Tractor Standard Equipment at a purchase price of \$219,865.00 as per Co-Stars Contract #025-E22-441. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Janis A. Rambo
Township Secretary