

**MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP
WORKSHOP MEETING
February 26, 2016**

OFFICIALS PRESENT: SUPERVISORS: Chairman Donald S. Geistwhite, Jr.
Vice-Chairman Steve Larson
William H. Goodhart
SOLICITOR: Keith O. Brenneman
DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC SAFETY: Barry L. Sherman
ZONING OFFICER: Mark D. Carpenter
MANAGER: Eileen M. Gault
ENGINEER: Bud Grove
FIRE CHIEF: Ed Beam

Chairman Geistwhite called the meeting to order at 7:30 am in the Middlesex Township Building.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Representative Stephen Bloom was present at the request of the Supervisors to discuss the storm management issues that occurred with the recent snowstorm. The Director of Public Safety stated that once PennDot starts to shut down interstates or the turnpike shuts down there are approximately 1500-2000 trucks at the truck stops in Middlesex Township. Once the truck stops start to fill up there can be approximately 500 trucks along Route 11 with blockage at the 8 intersections which can create a safety issue. There is an emergency plan in place, but nowhere to put the trucks. It was suggested that once the Governor declared a state of emergency, Middlesex could get the National Guard to help with traffic and man the 8 intersections. Chief Beam stated this would enable the township to keep the outside lanes opened for emergency services and provide manpower to keep the intersections clear of traffic. Most of the traffic in Middlesex comes off the turnpike and in situations like this it would be helpful for the Turnpike Commission to communicate ahead of time when they plan to shut down before it is too late to do anything. Chief Beam was told through PEMA that it takes 4 hours to activate the National Guard. It was agreed that advance communication is important to resolving some of the issues. Representative Bloom stated that he can't promise any particular result but can promise that he will bring it to the attention of those involved. It was suggested that a meeting is planned with the Turnpike Commission to establish a line of communication. Representative Bloom will be in contact with the Township Manager.

TPF 15-13 SHEETZ STORE – EMBERS DRIVE & HARRISBURG PIKE FINAL MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN AND FINAL MAJOR LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Mr. Carpenter reported that this plan is to be tabled from the agenda. It is a subdivision land development plan to construct a 6,893 sq. ft. Sheetz convenience store on a 3.37 acre lot subdivided from the property of Hotel Suites, LLC at 1700 Harrisburg Pike. The Planning Commission recommends approval. The developer found out that PennDot is not going to grant approval of the right turn lane they thought they could get. No action was taken on this plan.

TPF 15-8 CUMBERLAND RANGE ESTATES – PHASE 1, FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF IMPROVEMENT SECURITY: This plan is tabled until Wednesday, March 2, 2016. No action was taken on this plan.

ZHB 16-1 SHADY LANE HOTEL ASSOC., LP VARIANCE APPLICATION FOR OFF SITE BUSINESS SIGN: Mr. Carpenter reported that the Township Ordinance does not allow off site business signs unless it is a billboard. The new Comfort Inn located at 77 Shady Lane would like to post a sign at the Hoss's along Route 11 with an arrow for identification. The Supervisors have no opposition but insist that if granted it is at the specific location as shown on the plan and does not interfere with the line of site.

APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZATION FOR AGENT TO APPLY FOR HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ARMY HERITAGE DRIVE & TRINDLE ROAD: It was pointed out that item #3 on the application that deals with keeping the Township informed should be checked. The point of contact will be Mr. Grove and Mr. Carpenter. On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Vice-Chairman Larson, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Highway Occupancy Permit for improvements to Army Heritage Drive & Trindle Road subject to the property owner entering into an agreement with the Township with respect to maintaining the modified traffic signal facility and the stormwater facility as part of the permit.

REVISED TRAFFIC SIGNAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR ARMY HERITAGE DRIVE & TRINDLE ROAD RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 5: On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Vice-Chairman Larson, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Highway Occupancy Permit for improvements to Army Heritage Drive & Trindle Road subject to the property owner entering into an agreement with the Township with respect to maintaining the modified traffic signal facility and the stormwater facility as part of the permit.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2 – 2016, PROHIBITING THE USE OF BERNHEISEL BRIDGE ROAD BY TRUCKS EXCEPT BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES, BUSES AND LOCAL DELIVERIES: On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Supervisor Goodhart, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Ordinance No. 2 – 2016 prohibiting the use of Bernheisel Bridge Road by trucks, except for emergency vehicles, buses and local deliveries, providing for the erection of signs and establishing penalties for the violation thereof.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 3 – 2016, PROHIBITING THE USE OF EXPLODING TARGETS: On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Vice-Chairman Larson, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Ordinance No. 3 – 2016 prohibiting the use of exploding targets.

RAPID BRIDGE REPLACEMENT HOSTING: Mrs. Gault reported that she spoke with the Environmental Manager with regards to the Rapid Bridge replacement project over the Letort on Route 11 and they would like permission to display plans for the project here at the township for about 30 days. The Supervisors have no problem with the plans being on display for 30 days at the township.

Mrs. Gault reported that a representative from NY Life Insurance met with her, the Director of Public Safety and the Municipal Authority Manager to discuss offering the employees life insurance through payroll deduction with no cost to the Township. On the motion of Chairman

Geistwhite, seconded by Supervisor Goodhart, it was unanimously agreed to authorize to the employees through payroll deduction, insurance as offered by NY Life, at no cost to the Township.

Mrs. Jumper informed the Supervisors that she had a meeting with representatives from the baseball leagues regarding field usage which seems to be an issue every year. CV West is the group of kids from Monroe and Middlesex which usually gets first choice of fields. There are some traveling teams that have kids from Middlesex and other areas. Last year one of the traveling teams took over one of the fields that wasn't being used and got the field looking great and now CV West wants to use that field. Mrs. Jumper's fix to the problem is that the field will be shared by all teams. Mrs. Jumper would like to review some of the current policies regarding the field usage and discuss in the future with the Supervisors.

Mrs. Jumper was asked by Middlesex Elementary PTO if one week of playground could be donated for fundraiser they are doing. On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Supervisor Goodhart, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Recreation Director to donate to the Middlesex Elementary School PTO for a fundraiser one week of summer playground.

Mrs. Jumper reported that she would like to offer a summer playground scholarship/s to a family/families in need. With the assistance of the Guidance Counselor at Middlesex Elementary School the idea is to offer the entire 8 weeks of summer playground either to 8 kids for 1 week sessions a piece, 4 kids for 2 week sessions, etc. or whatever will meet the need. On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Supervisor Goodhart, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Recreation Director to offer scholarships for the 2016 summer playground.

Mrs. Jumper reported that she checked with DCNR about a grant with regards to the playground equipment that needs to be replaced. The replacement piece of equipment is going to cost \$25,000-\$30,000. In order to get a grant an additional \$30,000 would need to be added to the cost due to the engineer and site work that would be required.

The Director of Public Safety reported that a new Part-Time Police Officer by the name of Aaron Gobrecht was hired.

There was a brief discussion and update on the MS4. It was agreed that we need to retain an engineering firm to get the process in motion and move forward.

Mr. Grove reported that he is responding to an RFP to the Marysville Borough for their engineer and was wondering if he could get a referral from the Township and Director of Public Safety. Chairman Geistwhite agreed to write a letter of recommendation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There being no further business, on the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Supervisor Goodhart, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session at 8:50 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter, with no action being taken by the Board as a result of the Executive Session.