

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
September 26, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, September 26, 2024 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman, Ken Field, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P. M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Chairman, Ken Field, Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, Supervisor, Nolan Kemmerer, Supervisor, Jonathan Itterly and Supervisor Kenneth Fairchild.

Also present were Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, Township Solicitor, David Backenstoe, Zoning Officer, Doreen Curtin, and Administrative Assistant, Amy Kahler.

**I. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – PAIGE STEFANELLI:**

1. Grand Central Sanitary Landfill, Inc. and Slate Spring Farms, LLC.- Waste Management- Zoning Amendment Application- *Rezoning Request*

Mr. Greg Davis, reviewed some information in regards to the background of the landfill. Mr. Davis indicated that in review of the current operating site, we have less than 4 years to go. Attorney Davis, indicated that with the new application submitted it will be zoned for 211 acres but would actually only be looking at 81 acres. Attorney Davis indicated that with this, it would allow expansion for at least 20 years, also operation procedures would remain the same, same truck routes. We would also complete a new Host Agreement once that time came. With this we are not asking for approval of the application we are asking to accept and move forward. Representative, Adrienne Fors, presented a video of the operations. This information is available for Residents to view on their Youtube page.

Solicitor Backenstoe, also asked if the information in the Binder would be available for the Residents?

Adrienne Fors, indicated that our IT Department will be uploading it within the next day or so, we are unsure of how long it will take for it to be available.

Resident, Robin Dingle, indicated she is unsure if this will be presented to the Planning Commission, but thought this was a rezoning application, not an expansion.

Mr. Backenstoe, advised that the next step for the Board of Supervisors would be:

1. Take no action at this time.

2. Like the plan that was submitted, and move it forward to have it placed on the agenda for the Planning Commission to review.
3. Table it for further review.

Chairman, Ken Field, indicated that he needs more time for review.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Field and seconded by Jonathan Itterly to approve tabling Waste Management- Zoning Amendment Application. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

Resident, Millie Beahm, is concerned about this, it was presented before the Board of Supervisors in 2020 and was denied. Ms. Beahm, feels that the situation has not changed and that our air quality is being effected, the trucks will still continue to pollute and our air will still stink like garbage.

Resident, Robin Dingle, respectfully requested that the Developer come in and speak and submit the correct applications as this is a whole new parcel. It is not an expansion of the current Landfill, this is a request for Rezoning of a parcel, across the street that is currently zoned Farm & Forest.

Resident, Jane Mellert, indicated that there was a study group that looked at this in 1987-1988, it took about 18 months and discovered that they came up with a fair share land area. The residents at that time did not like this idea, if a certain district fills up, you don't go to another district and ask for that to be rezoned. Ms. Mellert indicated that Waste Management currently is masking and puts a neutralizer in the air, but if you attend any of the Green & White Games at the field, you can smell the Landfill. I am currently asking that the Board of Supervisors consider and remember that you have the right to say no and that you do not have to accept this plan.

Resident, Nancy O'Keefe, indicated that there are health risks that are associated with having a Landfill here in our Township. Ms. O'Keefe, reviewed some of the health risks, property damage that has occurred. Ms. O'Keefe, asked if there has been testing done within a 3-4 radius of the damage and/or impact that the pollution is having not only to our land but the residents that reside there. Maybe ask Waste Management to see if they will fund this study.

Chairman, Ken Field, indicated that we are currently not in negotiations to see who and why to do studies.

Resident, Tom Carlo, asked if this is approved, does this make it easier to convert another farm into another Landfill or another warehouse? Mr. Carlo indicated that when reviewing this, please consider Pen Argyl, there are more houses in Pen Argyl and it affects our property value also. Mr. Carlo indicated that Plainfield Township is not considered the "Dump", Pen Argyl is. Mr. Carlo indicated that he has called on numerous occasions and was advised it was due to the weather, half the time there is not bad weather.

Solicitor Backenstoe, indicated that this does not set a precedents for anyone else submitting applications etc., this Board of Supervisors reviews the information and will discuss.

Resident, Gail Weber, reminded the Board of Supervisors that she had provided different maps that provided information in regard to what her Physician has confirmed. There are high rates of residents within a certain area that now has Colon Cancer, asthma- which Lehigh Valley has the highest rate. Ms. Weber indicated that everything needs to be considered, truck pollution, the smell. Ms. Weber indicated that Landfills should not be located around residential areas.

Resident, Justin Greentech, indicated that his primary residents is within a mile of the current Landfill. Mr. Greentech indicated that he was here and fought against having Synagro, and over the past couple years the smell has been minimal if not at all, but the couple months, the smell has been horrible. If the parcel, where the new Landfill is being requested is not zoned accordingly, then it should not happen.

Resident, Alan Gumney, asked Grand Central where all of the trash currently comes from? Grand Central Representative indicated that 60% of it is from Northampton, Lehigh and Monroe County, 40% from New Jersey and New York.

**II. CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA (*Only persons who have signed the Sign-In Sheet by 6:15 PM will be allowed to speak. There is a 5-minute time limit for speakers*):**

• **Millie Beahm**

*Resident Millie Beahm said Thank you to the Board of Supervisor, for moving items forward and voting on items. She indicated that Residents have been affected and the impact that it takes on some. Ms. Beahm, Thanked the Board of Supervisors again and passing the Biosolid Ordinance.*

• **Paul Levits**

*Resident, Paul Levits, placed a request as the Chairman of the Planning Commission, if the Board of Supervisors votes to move the Waste Management- Zoning Amendment Application to the Planning Commission, Mr. Levits would like a special meeting.*

• **Tom Carlo**

*Resident, Tom Carlo, is requesting information from Waste Management, that he had spoke at a meeting in March 2024, requesting that the fencing at the top of the fence be mended. Mr. Carlo indicated that he was advised in March that it was the windy season and once it was over, Waste Management, would make the amendments and fix the fencing. Mr. Carlo, indicated that this is not the case and it is still not fixed.*

• **Attorney Greg Davis**

*Attorney Davis, Waste Management Attorney, advised that he would be happy to answer any questions, asked for contact information, of parties that wanted particular questions answered, but the Resident had declined.*

*Attorney Davis, indicated that they had voted and had closed their discussion. Solicitor Backenstoe, indicated that Waste Management, Representative Adrienne Forsee, is normally present at the Board of Supervisor Meetings, and willing to answer questions or take Resident concerns.*

### **III. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:**

**1. Ken Field**

- Nothing to report.

**2. Glenn Borger**

- Nothing to report.

**3. Nolan Kemmerer**

- Nothing to report.

**4. Jonathan Itterly**

- Nothing to report.

**5. Kenneth Fairchild**

- Nothing to report.

### **IV. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – (DAVID BACKENSTOE, ESQ.)**

**1. Biosolids Ordinance- *Discussion and Vote***

Mr. David Backenstoe, advised that we have discussed and reviewed the Biosolids Ordinance at length. This Ordinance is to regulate the spread of biosolids on our land. Mr. Backenstoe, reviewed a particular Article, Article 1, Section 27, this was reviewed and voted by the legislature that it is valid. Solicitor, Backenstoe, indicated that we need to protect the water, air and land. Mr. Dave Backentstoe, reviewed important points within the Ordinance, and that this Ordinance is only for Plainfield Township. There has been studies, and surveys on our land and geographical areas,

**ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Fairchild and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve Approving the Biosolid Ordinance. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

Resident, Jerry Lennon, asked what would be the civil enforcement or criminal action that can take place?

Solicitor Backenstoe, advised that there are fines that can be issues along with reprimanding in that they would need to remediate the land and pay fines or anything that needs to be done to have it removed.

Resident asked if this would include if dumping of biosolids at Waste Management site?

Solicitor Backenstoe advised that we are speaking in regards to spreading of biosolids on land.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, a motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Kenneth Fairchild to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.