

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING
February 22, 2018**

The regular monthly workshop meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, February 22nd, 2018 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman, Randy Heard, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Chairman, Randy Heard, Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, Stephen Hurni, and Jane Mellert. Supervisor, Joyce Lambert, was excused from the workshop meeting.

Also present was Township Manager, Thomas Petrucci.

I. SECRETARY–THOMAS PETRUCCI:

1. Executive Session Announcement- 2/22/2018 (6PM to 7PM) to Discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiation:

There was an executive session held before the workshop meeting from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. which the members of the Board discussed the Collective Bargaining Agreement strategy for the Plainfield Township Road Department/Teamsters Local Union labor contract negotiations, which will commence this year.

2. Synagro Technologies Update:

A representative from Synagro Technologies, Pam Racey, announced that they will be submitting a Site Plan along with a lot line adjustment tomorrow, February 23rd, 2018 for review at the Plainfield Township Office. There were three primary changes from the previous Sketch Plan submission. Ms. Racey noted that the previous proposed site was not the best choice as there were many issues with Variances and Zoning requirements. The new submission is located within the Solid Waste District (SW) which makes the use compliant. The road access issue was also resolved with this change. The second change was made with the waste water discharge. The waste water will now be collected and hauled back to the treatment plant where the biosolids came from. Therefore, there will be no local discharge of waste water. The last change that was made includes details of the public health for residents that were not previously provided to the Plainfield Township Planning Commission and the Township residents. The final design of the facility will be provided in the new submission as well which will detail all of the health impact details.

The Board of Supervisors expressed concern with the lack of public input that has been offered to the community. Ms. Racey stated that the millennials of this era like this type of plant and they see the value of sustainability of taking the landfill gas and using such gas for electric, fertilizer, etc. Ms. Racey also added that almost all millennials she has spoken to about the project believe that it is an awesome project. Chairman, Randy Heard, noted that there needs to be more communication from the various entities involved in this project with the community to ensure that residents are well informed and educated on what Synagro is about. Supervisor, Jane Mellert, added that the Green Knight Energy Center should have went to the various municipalities when Synagro first inquired about the land in order to notify the municipalities of what Synagro was about and how their presence within Plainfield Township would impact the economic development. Mr. Heard also noted many concerns that he believes should be addressed to the residents including the truck traffic that Synagro would bring to the area, the proposed 24/7 operation, and the garbage trucks that are already on the road consistently in Plainfield Township due to the Landfill. There are many concerns that the Board of Supervisors still have and the members expressed the importance of gaining input from residents while also supplying them with information previously requested about Synagro Technologies, Inc.

A new Site Plan Submission will be submitted to the Township shortly on behalf of the Grand Central Sanitary Landfill. Possible information sessions may also be offered to the public.

3. 2018 Plainfield Township Kennel License Application:

Currently, the Township kennel license application has expired. It was the intent of the COG to take over the licensure for the kennel. The issue with this is that the COG would be representing the Township which is not recommended by Township Manager, Tom Petrucci. It is in the best interest of the Township to retain local control of the kennel.

Renewal of the kennel license should include and follow an exercise plan written by a licensed veterinarian. The Slate Belt COG Animal Control Policies and Procedures must be adhered to and agreed upon by the COG and the Animal Control Officer (ACO).

Once the exercise plan has been received by the Township from a licensed veterinarian, Mr. Petrucci can sign the kennel application on behalf of the Township with the approval of the Board of Supervisors given that all policies and procedures are followed and adhered to.

4. General Discussion- Economic Development:

The Board of Supervisors expressed concerns regarding the current economic development within Plainfield Township. Many properties known within the Township

were discussed as potential areas for economic development, however, they do not currently have any proposed development on those properties.

The Wind Gap Logistics Center was brought up during the discussion because of the lack of occupancy. There have been a few inquiries about the Logistics Center, but the inquiries were all contingent upon manufacturing and distributing their products. The only option for this site is to be a storage warehouse as the Wind Gap Borough cannot support the amount of sewer needed to house a fully operating manufacturer and distributor. After speaking with the Borough informally, the Borough has no desire to add any cost to Wind Gap Borough residents.

The Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors discussed the possibility of building the Township's own sewer plant in order to address the sewer support issue and give more opportunity to heighten the economic development within the Township over the coming years. Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, questioned whether the Board of Supervisors would be interested in researching the possibilities to supply the Township's own sewer plant. Other options, including connecting sewer from other municipalities such as Easton and Stockertown, will also be explored.

Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, will contact the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) and Northampton County in order to facilitate a session where ideas will be brainstormed on how to approach the sewer issue within Plainfield Township. Mr. Petrucci will also contact Easton regarding the areas of Belfast and Sullivan Trail for possible sewer connections.

5. Fiscal Policy Discussion #1- Creation of Operating Reserve Fund (Defined by Second Class Township Code):

As discussed previously by the Board of Supervisors, it is the intent of the Township to begin a series of workshop discussions in order to help stabilize the Township's Budget and revenue sources. The Host Retro Agreement Fund is not necessarily an account that is established by the Second Class Township Code.

One option for the Board of Supervisors to consider would be to create an Operating Reserve Fund where you would allocate a certain percentage to the estimated revenues coming in each year up to 25% to an Operating Reserve Fund. Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, questioned whether the Board of Supervisors would be interested in creating an Operating Reserve Fund. If so, Mr. Petrucci asked if the Board would be so inclined to eliminate the Host Retro Agreement Fund. Mr. Petrucci stated that he believes it would be beneficial for the Township to create an Operating Reserve Fund which would assist the Township in stabilizing its' revenue. The Board of Supervisors expressed support of the creation of an Operating Reserve Fund.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Stephen Hurni to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci, Township Manager/Secretary
Plainfield Township
Board of Supervisors

These minutes were prepared with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant of the Township, Paige Gerstenberg, under the direction of the Township Manager/Secretary.