Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Facility Planning Task Force

10 June, 2009
Avon Township Hall

Present: Ken Mergen, Steve Himsl, Ed Springer, Jr., Eric Linn, Marcy Heinen, Roger Nelson, Zoe Graul, Steve Plantenberg, Stephen Saupe, Kelly Martini, John Merdan, Lee Larkey, LeRoy Gondringer.

Call to Order – Chair Steve Plantenberg called the group to order at 7:00 PM. The group was given a draft copy of recommendations based upon our discussions.

Business

1. Plantenberg opened the meeting by providing an overview of the history of the draft document that he and Saupe prepared to summarize the committee's work.

2. Plantenberg read through the document, section by section, soliciting comments from the group. Various additions, changes and corrections were made.

3. Larkey suggested that the public meeting be held at Collegeville town hall and that members of the committee serve as a panel to answer questions about the facility project. Copies of the Recommendations should be available at the meeting.

4. Linn suggested that the committee needs to be able answer questions for neighbors and others about the process.

5. Larkey suggested that we need to make the budget apparent so that residents can clearly see the financial consequences of the proposed building program.

6. Martini moved to accept the Task Force Recommendations document with the corrections/modifications that were made. Larkey second. Approve unanimously.

7. The committee agreed that this document should be sent to the Supervisors with a cover letter suggesting that an informational public meeting and vote is held. The Task Force document should be sent by mail to township residents with an invitation to the public meeting.

8. Linn suggested that a contractor is not required for the project and could save the township money.

9. Gondringer wondered aloud if anyone opposed the actual building program. No one expressed opposition.

10. Although most agreed it was a good idea to hold the meeting at the Collegeville Township Hall, we need to check whether regulations permit it.

11. The Task Force debated whether to hold a separate informational meeting and voting meeting or a single meeting? After much discussion the decision was that one would be simplest yet allow for maximum resident participation.

12. Springer indicated that we need to specify exactly what the vote will be for. Based on a similar recent decision by Krain Township, Gondringer said that the vote would be to approve the purchase of land and a dollar amount for the building.

13. At the meeting, the Supervisors need to explain how they will pay for the project, without raising taxes. This was identified as a question that residents will certainly want the answer.

14. If the project is not approved, the Supervisors could still erect a temporary storage facility on our existing township parcel.

15. Someone asked what would happen if our current contractor decides to continue plowing snow. The general response is that we'd still need the project since we would save money.

16. According to Gondringer, the Township has approximately $200,000 and by next year the amount will be approximately $300,000. Thus, we would have a mortgage of about $300,000 with payments of approximately $15,000 per year which is the amount we'd save on plowing.

17. Saupe will send out the revised Recommendations to the committee for final inspection. Committee members are requested to make comments and return them to Steve to complete the final document. The document will be presented to the Supervisors at their July meeting.

18. If approved by the Supervisors, we will need someone to help send out letter to residents, put public meeting notice in paper and article in paper.

19. Larkey suggested that township Supervisors talk to Mr. Schwalbe about his land.

20. Gondringer indicated that the 15-acre site near St. Anna is not buildable unless a County ordinance change is approved.

21. The public meeting/vote should be scheduled for late July or early August.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. Saupe, Deputy Clerk
Avon Township