

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 13, 1980

Chairman Dean called the meeting to order at 7:29 P.M. in the College Township Municipal Building.

Members present: Donald E. Bailey, Gale L. Dargitz, J. Carroll Dean, Herbert W. Stewart, and Dolores A. Taricani.

Others present: Manager Elwood G. Williams, Sr.
Treasurer Robert L. Hayden

MINUTES

Minutes of October 9, 1980, Regular Meeting. Corrections as follows:

Page 10, Item 5, Paragraph 1, correct to read:

"Mr. Bailey reported on the meeting of the PennDOT Officials and College Township Planning Commission coordinated by Mr. John Anthony, Director of the Centre Regional Planning Commission, on the State College Bypass indicating that the right-of-way has been procured with the exception of the Walker property, and, if Alternate 5 is used, the eight houses on Clover Road that would be involved. Mr. Bailey reviewed the costs involved for the various alternatives."

Mr. Dargitz moved that the minutes of the October 9, 1980 Meeting be approved as corrected. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Robert Hayden reviewed for Council the information included in the Treasurer's Report for October 1980.

Mr. Bailey moved that the Treasurer's Report for October be received. Mrs. Taricani seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

CATA Capital Improvements Program.

Chairman Dean indicated that this item of business was being considered early in the meeting to permit John Spsychalski, Member of the CATA Board, to participate in another meeting later in the evening.

Present to answer Council's questions and provide points of clarification on the CATA Capital Improvements Program were James McDonel, College Township's Representative on the CATA Board, and John Spsychalski, Member of the CATA Board and Member of the CATA Finance Committee.

Chairman Dean asked why in the original request for funds for Capital Improvements that College Township's share was larger than Patton's when fewer miles of service were provided in College Township than in Patton?

Mr. Spsychalski explained that in making the original computations the Bellefonte Route was included incorrectly in the miles of service for College Township. That has been corrected and the revised share for College Township is \$4,468 for new buses, \$2,371 for garage, shelters, etc., for a total of \$6,839.

Mr. Stewart asked about the proposed expansion of the bus garage and the effect the citizens' group in the area of the garage would have on that expansion. Mr. Spsychalski explained there were many steps in that project that needed to be completed, i.e., site plan approval, bidding process, before moving ahead, and the opposition of the citizens would be considered during these steps.

Mr. Dargitz asked for clarification on what would be included in the proposed Capital Improvements to garage, shelters, etc. Mr. Spsychalski explained the garage would be expanded to house all the buses. He reviewed the additional shelters being proposed, their locations, and costs. Mr. Spsychalski also offered examples of other transit systems that use shelters, i.e., Milwaukee and Chicago.

Mr. McDonel added that it was hoped that providing shelters at various points along the bus routes in town would serve as an incentive to have riders board the buses at locations other than College Avenue and Allen Street where problems of congestion are occurring.

Council questioned the value of expanding the garage to house all the buses and the value of the proposed shelters and the costs of those shelters. Mr. Bailey felt that additional study was needed of the advantages/disadvantages of having all the buses housed and the advantages/disadvantages of providing additional shelters before Council could make a decision on that portion of the Capital Improvements Program for CATA.

To Chairman Dean's question of when the new buses would be received, Mr. Spsychalski indicated not before February-March, 1982, possibly not until July-August, 1982. The Township's portion of the Capital Improvements Program for the buses would not be due until the buses were received.

Mr. Dargitz moved that Council adopt a resolution relating to College Township's local share for the new buses in the amount of \$4,468 and not adopt, at this time, a resolution relating to College Township's share for the CATA Capital Improvements for the garage and shelters. Mrs. Taricani seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

UPDATE INFORMATION

1. Mr. Williams wrote to Mr. Meek, PennDOT, telling him there are only two hike-bikeway development programs which Council is aware of in College Township: the South Atherton Street Bikeway and the one in the Bypass proposal. Mr. Williams asked if PennDOT was going to proceed with the one along the Bypass and what the Township participation would be, if any. The reply to Mr. Williams' letter is under Correspondence.

2. Mr. Williams discussed the Hartman situation about Gerald Street with both Mr. McCormick and Mr. Weyandt, Hartman's Attorney. ~~Mr. Weyandt said~~ they would drop the charges since Gerald Street is open to traffic and the drainage problem appears to be solved.

3. Mr. Beitz informed Mr. Williams that Leisure Life, Inc. have decided to install a sprinkler system instead of the 24-hour surveillance system they had previously proposed.

4. The Post Office Construction Committee has not discussed the loan for the land acquisition for the Post Office yet but in the 1981 proposed budget, Mr. Williams is providing \$1,800 plus interest towards the paying of that loan.

5. Mr. Williams reported that Mr. McCormick reviewed the Agreement of Sale with ConRail and was satisfied with it and instructed that it be executed and returned to ConRail. The Agreement of Sale and the down payment of \$1,800 were returned to ConRail before the deadline.

6. Mr. Williams wrote to the Centre County Home Health Services inviting them to Council's November Meeting.

7. Mr. Williams wrote Carl Fairbanks informing him of Council's interest in discussing some kind of arrangement that might lead to the improvement of Cemetery Road. No reply has been received as yet.

8. Relative to possible nominees to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board, Mr. Williams contacted Mr. Mullen who indicated he didn't think he was qualified to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board not knowing much about the Zoning Regulations, etc., but would consider if Council can't find someone else. Mr. Borosque indicated he would be delighted to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board.

9. Mr. Williams checked with the State College Chief of Police about the four-lane highway that was just completed between Houserville Road and the "Y" at the Nittany Mall. The Chief checked with Mr. Michael Deckman of the Attorney General's Office and the PennDOT Legal Counsel of the Bureau of Traffic Safety and their interpretation is

that it is a divided highway. Mr. Williams also pointed out the Vehicle Code under DEFINITIONS, defines "Divided Highway" as:

"DIVIDED HIGHWAY. A highway divided into two or more roadways and so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic between the roadways by providing an intervening space, physical barrier or clearly indicated dividing section."

Mr. Stewart said he had received information indicating that PennDOT was going to change the highway designation for that section of road to "undivided".

10. Mr. Williams talked to Mr. McCormick about the legal interpretation of "open body of water". Mr. McCormick said as far as Codes go, it is referring to man-made ponds and swimming pools; creeks and lakes, etc., are natural formed bodies of water. Mr. McCormick indicated if Council so wishes he would write an opinion on it.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. November 6, 1980, letter from Thomas C. Ickes, District Engineer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, relative to the proposed bikeway along the incompleated portion of the State College Bypass System.

2. October 31, 1980, letter from John H. Mitchell, President, Lemont Water Company, relative to the increase in fire hydrant rates. Chairman Dean asked Mr. Williams to put this on the Agenda for Council's December Meeting for further discussion.

BUSINESS

1. Centre County Home Health Service. Mrs. Nancy L. Noll, Executive Director, of the Centre County Home Health Service was present and answered Council's questions on how the figures were arrived at in the September letter requesting funds from College Township. Mrs. Noll also reviewed the services her Agency provides, the clientele it serves, the costs involved for providing the services, the Agency's funding, auditing procedures, how deficits are handled,

makeup of the Board of Directors and how they are appointed.

Council expressed their feelings that the services the Agency was performing were vital, important ones and indicated a financial contribution to the Agency could be considered in the budget for the coming year. Chairman Dean asked Mr. Williams to try to work into the proposed budget for 1981 an amount for the Centre County Home Health Services.

2. Report on Post Office Construction Committee Meeting, October 28, 1980. Council reviewed the minutes of the October 28 Meeting of the Post Office Construction Committee.

Chris Exarchos commented that the Committee felt the plans received from the Postal Service were incomplete and inadequate for submission to the College Township Planning Commission and for bidding purposes. Mr. Exarchos felt the next step was to have the plans "cleaned up".

Mr. Williams pointed out that in Mr. Kenyon's letter transmitting the plans he indicated there were some inconsistencies in the plans he was sending but that more complete plans would be forthcoming.

Mr. Exarchos questioned the receipt of these plans and did not feel that if they were received they would be presentable.

Council's discussion indicated that inasmuch as the revised plans were expected within the next week, that it would be desirable to wait until they were received before moving ahead on cleaning up the plans presently in hand.

3. Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements. Council reviewed the October 29, 1980, memorandum from Robert Ayer to Mr. Winck relative to the College Township Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes and the October 15 letter from Mr. Ayer to Mr. Williams relative to the outfield in Dalevue Park being used for a BMX course. Council did not have the information on the Parks & Recreation Capital Improvements Program. Mr. Winck indicated he would see that Council received

the information on the Capital Improvements Program for consideration at a future Council Meeting.

4. State College Bypass. Council opened discussion on the State College Bypass issue by giving their individual comments. Mr. Bailey said he had talked with many residents of the area who had indicated their support for the completion of the Bypass. Mr. Bailey favored the Bypass being completed as a four-lane highway with the Trumpet Interchange onto Benner Pike (E. College Avenue). Mrs. Taricani stated she had been opposed to the Bypass as proposed from the time she learned of it upon moving to the community. She feels that the traffic volume problems on Atherton Street could have been dealt with in a different, better way than the Bypass. Mrs. Taricani felt the citizenry of the area could have prevented the building of the Bypass if they had effectively opposed it when originally proposed in the 1960s. She is still opposed to the Bypass but feels it will be completed at sometime in the future and that the issue needs to be dealt with and resolved now. Mr. Dargitz and Mr. Stewart commented in favor of completing the Bypass. Chairman Dean indicated he did not feel that the studies and figures of traffic volume in the area any longer sufficiently justified the completion of the Bypass and he indicated his opposition to it being completed.

Several individuals in the audience spoke in favor of completing the Bypass to provide main traffic arteries through the area, to complete the project and not let the money already invested be "wasted", to reduce traffic on local streets.

Opposing the completion of the Bypass was Robert Sherwood who pointed out that the Bypass did not make access to the hospital any easier, questioned the wisdom of using public monies for this purpose in times of austerity, and the negative impact the Bypass would have on the Village of Lemont. Others commented also opposing the completion of the Bypass expressing their concern about the effect the Bypass would have on Lemont, the Slab Cabin and Dalevue Parks, the environment particularly the streams in the area of the Bypass, the

noise level along the Bypass, the devaluing of their property, limited access to the parks and their property, and questioning the need for the Bypass in any form and the expenditure of the funds for the Bypass.

Discussion was held on the types of interchanges that were being proposed. Concern was expressed about having three traffic signals on Benner Pike (E. College Ave.) in a short distance that would come with a diamond interchange, and about the extra land required and the path that would be followed for the trumpet interchange. Residents of Klinger Heights encouraged Council to consider the distance the interchange ramps would be in relationship to their homes.

Council discussed the desirability of completing the Bypass as two-lane or four-lane highway.

Chairman Dean pointed out that PennDOT would be holding a Public Hearing on the Bypass issue on Wednesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the State College Area High School. All who wished to comment could do so by providing PennDOT with a written statement and also presenting the statement at the Hearing.

Mr. Dargitz felt that the issues of if the Bypass was completed and how it was completed should be addressed with two motions: one addressing the concept of completing the Bypass; and the other dealing with two or four lanes and diamond or trumpet interchange.

Mr. Dargitz moved that Council urge PennDOT to complete the Bypass as soon as possible. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion was carried with four voting in favor (Mrs. Taricani, Messrs. Bailey, Dargitz, and Stewart) and one vote opposing (Mr. Dean).

Chairman Dean pointed out that PennDOT had indicated they did not have the funds to complete the Bypass all at one time and Council discussed the various ways the construction could be segmented.

Mr. Bailey moved that Council recommend that PennDOT put the trumpet interchange at the Benner Pike and, providing funds are available, complete the Bypass with four lanes and also complete the Park Avenue Extension. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was defeated with ^{TWO} ~~one~~ voting in favor (Bailey) and ^{AND STEWART} ~~four~~ ^{THREE} opposing votes (Taricani, Dean, ^{and} Dargitz, ~~and Stewart~~).

Council again discussed what they felt were the advantages/disadvantages of the two- or four-lane completion and the trumpet or diamond interchange.

Mrs. Taricani moved that PennDOT complete the State College Bypass as four lanes with diamond interchange if financially feasible; if not financially feasible, that they complete it as two lanes with diamond interchange. Mr. Dargitz seconded the motion. The motion was carried with three votes in favor (Taricani, Dean and Dargitz) and two opposing votes (Bailey and Stewart).

Chairman Dean indicated he would draft a statement that he would read at the public hearing on November 19, 1980 and asked Mr. Williams to notify PennDOT that College Township would have a statement to present at the November 19 Public Hearing. Mr. Dargitz suggested that Chairman Dean include in his comments a statement urging PennDOT to move as far away from Klinger Heights as they could.

5. Decibel Road. Stu Wilson presented the Deed of Dedication for Decibel Road to Council for signatures. Council had approved the Deed at an earlier meeting with the stipulation that before signing it the question of the railroad crossing remaining open at no expense to the Township be answered. In his October 22, 1980, letter, Mr. McCormick assured Council that this crossing was a public one.

Mr. Wilson assured Council that the right-of-way for this road was in order and indicated that the telephone pole that Mr. Stewart was concerned with was not in the right-of-way and was beyond the section of road being dedicated.

The Deed of Dedication was signed.

6. Municipal Funding of Anti-Vandalism T-Shirts. Council reviewed the October 29, 1980, memorandum from Tom Kurtz relative to municipal funding of anti-vandalism t-shirts.

Mrs. Taricani moved that Council approve the payment of \$55 as College Township's share for funding the anti-vandalism t-shirts. Additionally, Mrs. Taricani moved that in the future when projects are being contemplated where local governments are expected to support the project that they be consulted before the purchase and actual outlay of funds. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

7. Report on Design Field View for LR 14019, Sec. 257. Mr. Williams reported that these were the improvements being proposed for a portion of East Branch Road. He had inspected the road and the bridges with PennDOT officials. The improvements as listed were the ones Council had approved earlier in the year. Mr. Williams reported that PennDOT had indicated they would not be completing the resurfacing project totally in 1981 but would in 1982.

8. College-Harris Joint Authority Current List of Properties Not Connected to Sewer System. Chairman Dean asked Mr. Williams to put this on the agenda for Council's January or February, 1981 meeting.

9. Tax Collection Agreement (Centre County). Robert Hayden brought Council up to date on the meetings and correspondence that have resulted in efforts to get a tax agreement with Centre County for the collection of County property taxes. Mr. Hayden reported that at the present time the County indicates they will be collecting their own property taxes for 1981.

10. Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board. Mrs. Taricani asked that consideration of this appointment be tabled until Council's December meeting. Council had no objections.

11. PSATS Update. Council reviewed the information provided in the PSATS Update dated October 24, 1980. Mr. Williams asked Council had any objections to his changing the Township's unemployment compensation coverage to the PSATS plan rather than the State plan currently participated in. Mr. Williams pointed out the savings involved and the fact that if the Township did not find this a suitable plan they could change back to the State plan. There was some question about the length of the notice for withdrawing from the PSATS unemployment compensation plan.

Mrs. Taricani moved that Council authorize Mr. Williams to have the Township participate in the PSATS unemployment compensation plan with the reservation that if he found there was an extended period for withdrawal that he not participate. Mr. Dargitz seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

12. Manager's Financial Report. Mr. Williams reported that all funds were on schedule. Council had no question or comments on the Manager's Financial Report.

13. County Program for Spraying of Gypsy Moth. Council reviewed the November 3, 1980, letter from the Centre County Board of Commissioners outlining the gypsy moth spraying program and indicating College Township's estimated share of the costs is \$100.

Mr. Dargitz moved that Council agree to participate and fund the gypsy moth spraying program in the amount of \$100. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION

John Mitchell, President of the Lemont Water Company, offered to discuss with Council the increase in the fire hydrant rates.

Mr. Mitchell also brought Council up to date on the progress of the improvements underway in the Lemont Water Company system indicating that all the proposed new lines have been installed and that the new tank is expected the week of November 17.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bailey moved the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Taricani seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwood G. Williams, Sr.
Secretary

EGW:lf