

Council Regular Meeting
October 27, 1983
Page 2

Bailey suggested that Council be kept informed as to who buys the railroad and especially their plans for the Bellefonte Tracks. Lechner commented that SEDA had been interested in the rail line to Corning Glass. Also Lezzar Lumber, who was interested in purchasing land near that segment of the line, may need the rail service at some time in the future.

Lechner added that beyond that point, which involves the crossings in Lemont, there is probably no commercial use for rail service. Conrail or the new owners might want to either sell or abandon that part of the line.

And if they do, said Dargitz, we might be issued a similar directive (to the one just received) on that segment of the line. He continued that if they abandon this end and turn the upper end over to a private operator, the Township might have an abandoned track situation.

Lechner added they might also put it up for sale. If the line is abandoned, it goes back to the previous property owners first, depending on how it was originally acquired, whether in fee or purchased outright.

Dargitz asked Bailey to discuss this issue at the next Transportation Committee Meeting with someone who could explain the plans of the rail authority that's been formed and their impact on College Township. Bailey added that the Assistant Secretary of Transportation might have information as well as Bob Donaldson.

BUSINESS 3 - Township Representative Dorothy Barnes' Resignation to Schlow
Library Board

Dargitz recommended that Council accept with regret Dorothy Barnes' letter of resignation as Township Representative to the Schlow Library Board and that a letter be sent to her expressing Council's gratitude for her services. With no known volunteers, Dargitz asked Council to think of possible candidates before the next meeting. He added that since Barnes' term expires at the end of the year, there was no rush to appoint a replacement immediately.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Resignation of COG's Director of Administration - Tom Kurtz

Taricani announced that COG's Director of Administration, Tom Kurtz, had resigned his position to become Patton Township's new Manager. Commenting on this great loss, she added that replacing him would be very, very difficult.

Kurtz filled the COG position when it was newly created, Taricani said, and he succeeded because he knew intuitively what to do; the next Director might not have as much knowledge or skill. With the change in Directors, Taricani suggested this would be an opportune time to re-evaluate the position itself. Now there is a weak manager system -- the manager has no authority except to administratively hover over things. She said that COG has become so large that it needs a strong manager -- a manager with authority.

Taricani asked for Council's response to her idea as well as their guidance on the matter.

Stewart stated that he agreed with her 100 percent. Dargitz's opinion was also that there was more to the issue than finding a replacement for Kurtz; he felt it was time to study the structure of COG and if necessary make major changes in how the management and administrative structure is put together. Dargitz suggested that an organizational study be done very quickly before the directorship is filled, adding that perhaps the responsibilities of the director should officially become broader. He also noted that the only reason it has worked so far was because Kurtz was a good administrator and a strongly persuasive person. He could do the job without anything in writing saying he had that authority.

Dargitz stated that most COG governments in the State have a strong Executive Secretary, Executive Director or Manager. Citing the COG government office in the Harrisburg area and the COG governments in the Pittsburgh area, such as the South Hills COG, Dargitz said the Executive Committee should request copies of these governments' by-laws, job descriptions, and organizational structure immediately. He added that Ray Hendrick could also provide information on this matter. Taricani said that since Kurtz will be remaining in the Region he has offered to help in whatever way he can. She went on to say that if all of Council agreed with the feelings and suggestions just stated, she would go back to COG with this consensus and proceed with a course of action. Dargitz mentioned that this idea would likely meet with opposition but would be worth pursuing.

With no other announcements or committee reports, Dargitz adjourned the meeting at 4:30 into an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Thomas Lechner
Secretary

CTL:jh:key