

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION NOTES
January 16, 2018

The work session was called to order by Chairman William Weimer at 6:00 pm in the meeting room of the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Office, 5520 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA.

Board Members present:

William Weimer, Anthony Lamantia, Lynn Kelly, Alma I. Ruiz-Smith and Clare Colgan

Board Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Jerry Hanna, Township Solicitor and Erin Masker, Township Secretary

Staff absent:

None

Mr. Weimer announced that this work session is being recorded to aid in the preparation of the notes.

1. Wireless Cell Tower Ordinance- Carson Helfrich

Mr. Helfrich was not in attendance at the meeting. Planning Commission Solicitor Clark Connor was in attendance and discussed the cell tower issue stating that there are smaller devices that are being installed in areas that are lacking cell service. Most townships do not have specific regulations for these smaller devices, so the changes to the ordinance that Carson provided would cover those devices. The current issue is that the proposed bill would restrict governing bodies from having a say over the placement of the devices, therefore the he advises all municipalities to take action in order to protect their rights of oversight and permitting. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that Jack Rader is opposed to the bill and has stated his opposition at the COG meetings that he attends and encourages everyone to take action. Ms. Ruiz-Smith also stated that the Board should consider passing the resolution that was provided by PSATS, stating that she has concerns with the maintenance and upkeep should the towers be put up in the right-of-ways. Mr. Weimer asked Solicitor Hanna if he had any concerns with Resolution #04-2018, being advised that he received it from Ms. Masker and reviewed it and found no issues. Solicitor Hanna stated that the resolution doesn't change anything; it is just a statement of opposition to House Bill 1620. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that people are cancelling their cable subscription and going with wireless transmissions, and fears that these devices will begin to pop up everywhere. Ms. Kelly stated that the proposed ordinance changes should be sent to the Planning Commission to review and ask Carson to come in and meet with them to go over the changes. The Board agreed stating that they will then review what the planning commission presents to them at a future meeting, asking that they are notified when Carson will be at the Planning Commission meeting to allow the Board the opportunity to attend as well.

2. 125 Cafeteria Plan Discussion

Ms. Kelly stated that Ms. Mills did some research on moving our health, dental and vision insurance to a pre-tax deduction for the employees that have to pay a portion of their family insurance coverage. This change would save the employees money as well as the Township. Our current administrator Millennium would charge a one-time fee of \$500.00 to prepare the paperwork and make the change, whereas ADP would charge \$450.00 annually for the change.

Ms. Colgan stated that her job also provides the pre-tax option and provided Ms. Mills with their information but was unsure if they were contacted for pricing. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that she has concerns as to what is more financially beneficial for the employees with regard to their taxes. Ms. Colgan also stated that if this becomes a pre-tax deduction, you can't claim the expense on your taxes at the end of the year. Ms. Kelly stated that with the new tax laws many people will no longer have the option to itemize due to the larger standard deduction therefore they would not be able to deduct their health insurance costs, stating that currently you can only deduct a portion of health insurance paid in. Mr. Weimer stated that we would not be able to include DPW in this option as it would have to be agreed on by the union. Mr. Lamantia stated that he believes it would be best for the Board to take a survey of the staff in order to determine what they would like, and what is best for them. The Board agreed to take a poll of the employees before making a decision.

3. Other Business

- Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that there was a lot of misinformation on the Mount Pocono Facebook Page regarding Aldi's, so she posted with the correct information.
- Mr. Weimer stated that he does not believe that there is money set aside in the budget for the replacement of the DPW jackets which are scheduled to be replaced every three years. Mr. Weimer would like to see if there is money to be able to do this in this year's budget.
- Mr. Weimer stated that he would like to look into the possibility of purchasing a 300 gallon tote of DEF fluid which is used in diesel trucks, which would be able to be accessed and used by DPW, Coolbaugh Township Fire Co. and Pocono Mountain Regional Ambulance. He stated that each entity would contribute funds to pay for their portion that they use, and feels that this would be a way to save everyone money as the more you purchase the cheaper it is by the gallon. Mr. Weimer stated that it could be in the end bay at the DPW garage and that we could provide a key to be able to access it. Mr. Weimer stated that this is just something to think about.

4. Public Input

Nothing was heard

The Work Session ended at 6:35 pm.