

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION NOTES
March 5, 2019

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:

Patrick Armstrong, Solicitor and Erin Masker, Township Secretary and Maureen Mills, Business Manager/Controller

Staff absent:

None

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

1. State Representative Maureen Madden Re: Lights on Route 196

Representative Maureen Madden was in attendance and discussed her concerns and the concerns of her constituents about the lack of lighting on Route 196 stating that this is one of the deadliest roads in Monroe County. Rep. Madden would like to have lights installed on Route 196 and is planning a meeting with PennDot, Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards and PPL to discuss the issue as well as to research what grants may be available for the project. Representative Madden requested that the fire company and the Township provide her with areas that they are aware of that are issues as well as a list of how many lights and where they should be located for her meeting. Representative Madden stated that LED and Solar Power lights are all possibilities that will be looked in to.

- **Discussion:** Mr. Weimer stated that Renaissance and Route 196 is an issue and stated that we are still working on the Route 196 turning lane and stated that we will never enter into a project with PennDot. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that she is not opposed to the project but stated that she is opposed to the Coolbaugh Township residents funding it. Ms. Kelly stated that there are also water drainage issues on Route 196 that could have contributed to the accidents. P Williams stated that there is not just a problem with the lights but there is no place to walk. D. Pope stated that speed plays a role in the accidents on Route 196 as well. Mr. Lamantia stated that speed issues could be cut down if the police were allowed radar guns. Mr. Weimer and the Coolbaugh Township fire company have both agreed to provide a letter for Representative Madden by March 19, 2019. Mr. Weimer asked Representative Madden to thank the Governor for taking the trucks off the highways during the storms as it helped cut down on the number of accidents. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that in the past there were cat's eyes on the roads which worked for safety as they were reflective. Ms. Ruiz-Smith suggested that Representative Madden attend the police commission meetings to discuss the need for police presence as she and Ms. Kelly have brought it up to the Chief in the past as well.

2. P25 Radio Upgrade for DPW and Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company

George Dobson was in attendance to discuss the need for the P25 radio upgrade for the Coolbaugh Township DPW, OES and the Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company stating that there is no firm date on the transition but have been told by county that it could be as soon as the end of this year. This upgrade is to transition radios from FM frequency to digital which will allow more channels for communication stating that once the radios at county are upgraded the radios that they currently have will no longer be compatible or able to communicate. The biggest issue with the upgrade is the cost which in total for the DPW, OES and Fire

Company is \$514,053.50. G. Dobson presented the quote from Motorola which outlined the radio types and costs with Dobson stating that the fire company is willing to pay for all of the radios out of the tax money that they get annually if the Township could finance them. Discussion ensued about the financing options.

- **Discussion:** Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that the county commissioners should be contacted as there should be some funding provided for this upgrade with G. Dobson stating that Gary Hoffman at Monroe County Control Center was looking for funding but stated that police and EMS would be the first to receive the funding. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked what if we buy them and they need to be upgraded once the countywide upgrade goes into effect being advised by G. Dobson that it is a software update and that Motorola will provide it free of charge for the initial upgrade stating that there would be a charge for future upgrades but that they are all software upgrades and not new radio purchases. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that we budgeted \$5,000.00 for a grant writer that we should look to in order to find and write grants to help with the funding. Ms. Kelly and the entire Board thanked Mr. Dobson for all of his work on providing the quotes and for the fire company's willingness to use the tax millage to fund all of the radios. Mr. Lamantia stated that we should be contacting county about our displeasure with this process. G. Dobson stated that the Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company would request a seven year repayment on the loan asking that the first payment be deferred until May 2020. Mr. Keane stated that the fire company is still looking into grant opportunities and is currently in the process of awaiting a possible grant to assist with the funding. Solicitor Armstrong stated that if the Township is looking to finance the radios through Motorola or any bank they would need approval from DCED and have to pass an ordinance. He stated that should the Township decide to pay out of the general fund for this upgrade that process would not be necessary. Solicitor Armstrong stated that he would need to draw up the legal agreement for the repayment of the funds back to the Township.

3. Other Business

Nothing was heard.

4. Public Input

Nothing was heard.

Work Session ended at 6:52pm.