

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION NOTES
June 18, 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, Lynn Kelly, Alma I. Ruiz-Smith and Clare Colgan

Board Members absent:

Anthony Lamantia

Staff present:

Patrick Armstrong, Solicitor, Erin Masker, Township Secretary and Meredith Thompson, Assistant Business Manager

Staff absent:

None

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

1. Pocono Hemlock Civic Association- Discussion on Roads

Roxanne Robinson, President of Pocono Hemlock Civic Association spoke on behalf of the community as well as Pheonix Estates expressing to the Board the terrible road conditions that they are faced with understanding that they are private roads. She stated that she has spoken to Representative Madden and Representative Brown regarding the issues and they are currently working to help them obtain funding. R. Robinson stated that there are approximately 95 properties in the community and they have safety concerns for the children that are walking on the streets, the cars that are traveling the roads as well as the inability for emergency services and the postal service to safely and adequately provide services to the communities. R. Robinson questioned where the taxes go that are paid from the community's residents as they are not benefitting from the same services that are provided to others on public roads stating that they are not a gated community and that outside traffic is able to travel the roads as well as police using the roads to make traffic stops. A few members in attendance that did not identify themselves, voiced their concerns regarding the poor road conditions. R. Robinson provided a couple of suggestions to the Board which ranged from the community applying for a grant for the project to the Township fixing the roads and imposing an additional tax on the community's residents over a period of time to pay back the money spent on the repairs stating that the community does not have the money to repair the roads or bring them to Township specs for the Board to consider taking them over. She stated that they have had the Monroe County Conservation District, Army Corps of Engineers and PennDot come in and do studies and are awaiting the reports.

- **Discussion:** Mr. Weimer stated that the Township cannot legally do any work to the roads within their community as they are privately owned roads. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that the community could evaluate the situation and the cost of the project and assess the residents in the same manner that A Pocono Country Place did when she was a resident in order to upgrade the roads. Mr. Weimer asked Solicitor Armstrong if there is anything that the Board could do to assist with this concern and was advised that the only thing that community would be able to do is to apply for a grant which would not require the Township to take dedication of the roads at completion and the Supervisors could consider sending a letter in support of the project.. Mr. Weimer provided Ms. Robinson with a copy of the Township Ordinance pertaining to the specs that would have to be met in order for the Township to consider taking over the roads. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that Pocono Summit Lake Estates community has a road with approximately six houses that you have to travel over a small unsafe bridge to get to also poses many safety concerns and we are unable to help them with their situation either as it would set a precedence and then every community with private roads would come forward asking for money.

A recess was called at 6:29pm to hold the advertised Public Hearing on Ordinance #136-2019

Work session resumed at 6:38pm.

Mr. Weimer suggested that they prioritize the roads based on the need and try to come up with a plan to be able to do a couple a year if they are unable to get a grant or other funding. A resident showed the Board a video of the road conditions on her street and asked if the Board of Supervisors could attend their community meeting to show that they support the community in getting grants and fixing the roads to know that they are not alone in this effort with Ms. Ruiz-Smith stating that we cannot come to your meeting but your members could come to our open public meetings. Mr. Robinson stated that she will be providing Ms. Masker with an emailed copy of the information that she is referencing at this evenings meeting.

2. Other Business

Ms. Ruiz-Smith requested that the Emergency Management Committee provide the Board of Supervisors with a plan referencing the upgrades in the Municipal Center which would address the safety, plan of attack, procedures in a crisis. Alerts, drill procedures and key players in fulfilling the duties outlined at a future work session.

3. Public Input

Nothing was heard.

Work Session ended at 6:56 pm.