

**EAST FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING**  
December 8, 2015 Approved minutes  
6:29 PM

**Members Present**

Joe Pomorski, Chairman  
Steve Herzog, Vice Chairman  
Charles Kilgore, Member  
Ed Porter, Member

**Township Staff Present**

Lisa Valaitis, Township Secretary  
Pani Martin, Township Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER, SILENT MEDITATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Chairman Joe Pomorski called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

2. Discussion

A. Sirpa Cossaboon – Water Fluoridation Presentation

Sirpa Cossaboon, East Fallowfield Township resident, gave a presentation on water fluoridation. Ms. Cossaboon said she is a professor and had been looking at the relationship between ADD/ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder and the fluoride impact on these disorders. She stated that Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) currently adds 0.7 parts per million sodium fluoride to the public water supply. Ms. Cossaboon stated she is asking the Board to stop this fluoridation process. Fluoride has been identified as a neurotoxin by the EPA since 2006 and is not meant to be ingested. Fluoride only acts topically to prevent teeth decay. Ms. Cossaboon stated water fluoridation is mass medication without customer consent. Fluoride is identified as a neurotoxin that may contribute to the prevalence of ADD/ADHD, autism, thyroid disorder, lower IQ, arthritis, and bone cancer which have all significantly increased in the United States since water fluoridation started in 1951. In 2011, the EPA recommended that East Fallowfield Township and the Coatesville water district reduce the sodium fluoride level in water from 1.0 parts per million to 0.7 parts per million. This request was granted due to toxicity concerns. Sodium fluoride is a specific concern for childrens' developing brains. Sodium fluoride crosses the placenta. Only eight countries systemically fluoridate the public water system. Systemic fluoride does not prevent tooth decay. Non-fluoridated countries do not have any more tooth decay than fluoridated countries.

Ms. Cossaboon spoke about being at the Planning Commission meeting on December 7, 2015. She said PAWC was also at the Planning Commission meeting. She said they agreed with her regarding fluoride and they said the local government can decide fluoride levels of the water. If the municipalities in the water district request the fluoride to be "turned off" then PAWC will turn it off. Fluoridation in water is voluntary and there is no federal or state mandate. Fluoride in the water is contractual and dates back to the 1950's. Dennis Crook, Planning Commission Chairman, said PAWC said they would work with our Township if we want to have the fluoride removed. PAWC will send Dennis Crook what needs to be done to get fluoride removed from water. Ms. Cossaboon is willing to speak at other townships that share in our local water district. Mr. Crook reported that PAWC invited the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to take a tour of the facility. Ed Porter and Joe Pomorski expressed interest in taking the tour.

**B. MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System – TMDL Strategy Presentation**

Dennis O'Neill, from Herbert MacCombie's office, presented the revised MS4/TMDL Strategy for East Fallowfield Township. Mr. O'Neill reported on November 21, the revised the MS4/TMDL Strategy notice was published. The strategy is on the Township website and the strategy was advertised in the newspaper for public comment. As of tonight, no public comments have been submitted. East Fallowfield Township has two polluted/impaired streams: a main tributary that drains to Sucker Run in Valley Township and a portion of the west branch of the Brandywine. There are several factors the Township has control over. They have to be in an urbanized area and has to go through a municipal storm sewer system. The area that drains to the west branch of Brandywine is contained to an area that surrounds Mortonville Road. In the 2018 cycle, the urbanized area will move north and the stream will no longer be in that urbanized area. The strategy is to not do anything to that area. Mr. O'Neill said we are asking DEP to allow us to not do any strategy to improve that portion of the stream in the next two years. There will be no significant costs. The streams north of the west branch of the Brandywine are good quality which is where the runoff into the Brandywine comes from.

Mr. O'Neill said the eastern side of the Strasburg Hunt Development is the primary drainage area in the west side of the Township. There is also a PECO right-of-way and some properties along Park Avenue. The strategy they will be adopting is predominately a voluntary program. They will be looking for 20 homeowners to volunteer to install rain gardens to capture their roof and a portion of their driveways. We are recommending the Township look at some contribution programs to contribute funding to those participants. There are also grant programs offered. He said we are also looking at some roadside swales and infiltration trenches in the development. Another option is doing an easement on the PECO right-of-way down by Park Avenue. Additional tree planting can be done. They are also recommending the Township consider a street sweeping program. This would need to be a biweekly program and would be limited to Strasburg Hunt and Park Avenue. Dennis O'Neill stated a street sweeper costs \$200,000. He recommends going in with other townships to share a sweeper. With a 17 year cost plan, the capital cost would be \$550,000. This includes the street sweeper, the 20 \$1,500 grants to homeowners, tree planting, landscape restoration, and building the infiltration trenches in Strasburg Hunt.

Al Wright, resident of Strasburg Hunt in East Fallowfield, asked what the path of the stream is and what the impairment is. Dennis O'Neill said the impairment is sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus. Ed Porter asked if we are being impacted by Valley Township. Dennis O'Neill said we are impacting their strategy. Valley Township has its own MS4 strategy.

Al Wright asked if the strategy takes into account failing septic systems and what residents put on their lawns. Dennis O'Neill replied that the original MS4 Program was meant to deal with people using fertilizers on their lawns through educational programs. Mr. O'Neill said getting residents to stop using fertilizer on their lawns is not a best management practice recognized by DEP with a measurable result we can use. The MS4 Program, through educational purposes, does promote not using fertilizer on lawns. Al Wright commented that other municipalities have passed ordinances for the purpose of water quality management. These ordinances stated what could or could not be put on lawns. Al Wright will provide an example of this to Dennis O'Neill.

Dennis O'Neill spoke briefly about the 2018 MS4/TMDL Strategy. They will be recommending that the area be reevaluated based on land use review that will be part of the 2018 process. Less farmland changes land use. DEP is going to ask that all existing stormwater management systems be mapped and inventoried and consequently inspected for proper functioning. There will be costs associated with this.

Al Wright commented on the tree planting along Park Avenue and the riparian tree buffer. Dennis O'Neill said they will recommend expansion with more trees.

Mr. O'Neill said that public comments will be taken until December 21<sup>st</sup>. All public comments must be addressed. Mr. O'Neill will issue a document based on Al Wright's comments regarding an ordinance.

In regard to the nitrogen problem, Dennis Crook asked if certain types of trees absorb nitrates more than other trees. Dennis O'Neill said DEP does not specify species of trees. They recommend more grasses and shrubs in rain gardens. It will be up to the municipality to ensure rain gardens are maintained.

C. Siti Crook – Super Bowl Party to Benefit Police Department

Siti Crook, East Fallowfield Township resident, spoke about doing a possible Super Bowl Party Fundraiser to benefit the Police Department. She said she has a lot of experience with fundraisers but isn't sure how a fundraiser works for a municipality. Ms. Crook said she understands how to bring the money in but needs some direction on what to do with the money. There was a discussion about how a municipal fundraiser would work. Ed Porter said the Board would need to decide how the money is spent. Pani Martin spoke about setting up a committee like Friends of the Park to oversee the money and determine how the money is spent. Ed Porter said the Board can decide how to spend money brought in by a fundraiser unless the fundraiser is done privately. Steve Herzog stated it is a legal question and Vince Pompo needs to clarify how this could work. Ed Porter suggested Siti Crook ask Vince Pompo or J.P. Sanchez at the next public meeting. Siti Crook requested Vince Pompo be given a heads up on this issue before the next meeting.

D. Office/Treasurer

- 1) Comprehensive Plan Reimbursement - \$40k – Pani Martin asked the Board what account they would like the Comprehensive Plan reimbursement deposited in. The Board instructed Pani Martin to deposit the check in the Capital Projects Fund.
- 2) Liquid Fuels 2013-2014 Audit Update – Pani Martin reported we received an Attestation Engagement which states the audit findings and it looks like we followed recommendations from previous audits. She said the only thing outstanding is the \$7,000 which we have already reimbursed.

E. New Business

- 1) 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show Supervisor Attendance – Pani Martin stated PSATS is having their annual conference April 17-20, 2016. They discussed who has previously gone and who could go this time. The Board will decide who is attending at the Re-Org meeting on January 4, 2016. Ed Porter commented that it would be beneficial for a Board member to go because there is usually a vote on issues that impact our Township. Lisa Valaitis stated the registration is January 12, 2015.
- 2) “How to Develop and Administer a Budget” Course – Pani Martin requested she attend this course. The Board approved.
- 3) Eric Brown Email - Pani Martin stated she got an email today from Eric Brown requesting the contribution rate the officers make towards their health insurance. He also asked for a copy of the police contract and interest arbitration award for their records. She said she wanted to bring this to the Board's attention before responding. Pani Martin will forward the email to the Board and the Board will contact Eric Brown.
- 4) Zoning Hearing Board Fee/Al Wright's email – Al Wright spoke about serving on the zoning Hearing Board and said he has loved serving on this board for the past three years. He said historically, the Zoning Hearing Board members have been compensated with \$25 per meeting. He strongly suggested that the Board consider increasing this to \$50 per meeting. The Board will discuss this at the Re-Org meeting on January 4, 2016. Al Wright said they have had three meetings in three years.
- 5) 17 and 19 Newlinville Road Properties– Pani Martin reported the office got a phone call from someone interested in purchasing 17 and 19 Newlinville Road. The Board instructed Pani Martin to check into deed restrictions and to get an idea of what the fair market value is on these properties.
- 6) Office Potluck Holiday Party – Pani Martin said we are having a potluck holiday party on December 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- 7) Manchester Farms Basin – Dennis Crook asked if he heard correctly that one of the last basins wasn't being installed in Manchester Farms. The Board informed him that one of the basins was thought to need a lot of work and it actually did not need much work. All the basins are now complete.

- 8) Dedication of Roads in Manchester Farms – The Board requested Pani Martin follow up with Tag Gathercole to find out if the roads in Manchester Farms have been dedicated for Liquid Fuel purposes.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Joe Pomorski made a motion to adjourn the Board of Supervisors meeting at 7:46 pm. Steve Herzog seconded. VOTE: 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Valaitis,  
Township Secretary