

**Mount Joy Township
Supervisors' Workshop & Public Hearing
August 1, 2019**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Supervisors - John Gormont, Chairman; David Updyke, Vice-Chairman; Dennis Bowman; Jeffrey Patterson; Solicitor - Susan Smith; Secretary – Sheri Moyer

Absent: Dennis Bowman; Terry Scholle

The Mount Joy Township Board of Supervisors met this date, as publicly advertised, at the Mount Joy Township Building located at 902 Hoffman Home Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Call to Order: John Gormont presiding.

Starting Time: 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Call to Order: Public Hearing Meeting, duly advertised, opened at 7:02 p.m.
Chairman, John Gormont presiding.

The purpose of the Hearing is for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 110, Zoning, Section 1201.D(6), or in the alternative to amend Section 110-402II, to enlarge and provide for extensions of the period of time for completion of a solar energy system Conditional Use.

Public Comment: Jeremy Frey, attorney with Barley Snyder in Hanover representing NextEra Energy regarding time extension request for completing a solar project. He stated as in their written request that there are several steps that are required for a large-scale solar project that within the current time restraints would make a large-scale solar project impractical to complete. He stated the steps are:

1. Transmission upgrades. A project like this requires an upgrade to the utility which is controlled by the utility company. It is not controlled by the applicant. These upgrades can take up to three (3) years to complete.
2. Equipment acquisition and final design. Getting the equipment together for the project can take up to two (2) years.
3. Off-take agreement. When a project like this is put together, there is a need to find someone to partner with and it is often a large company or city utility that will take the output from the project.

What they proposed is that there be a four (4) year timeline with specific milestones to be completed. Those milestones would give the Township some control and some accountability from the applicant to make sure those items are completed within the time frame in which they are to be completed. These milestones would be included with the Conditional Use application.

With no further public comments, Mr. Gormont closed the public hearing.

Closed Public Hearing: 7:08 p.m.

Supervisors' Regular Meeting Reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

Board Action regarding Proposed Ordinance: Mr. Updyke moved, seconded by Mr. Patterson, to adopt Ordinance 2019-03 to be placed in the solar section of the ordinance with a maximum of three (3) six (6) month extensions based on approval of the Board, along with any necessary typo corrections that Ms. Smith identified. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Smith said this ordinance will take affect 5 days from the date of adoption.

Public Comment: None.

Business: None.

Correspondence:

- Letter dated July 19, 2019 from WRRMA regarding septic pumping: Mr. Vranich said that WRRMA have been in discussion regarding the pump and haul agreement they have with five (5) residents outside of Lake Heritage. WRRMA have been debating whether they will cease those operations because of problems associated with them or consider raising the rates to make it at least a break even, or close to break even, operation. Mr. Vranich said that back in 1982 when the wastewater treatment plant was built or upgraded, they received grant funding through EPA. As part of the grant funding they agreed to provide capacity for residents in an area along 97 and up Highland Avenue Road for those residents who have failing septic systems and converted to holding tanks. They needed to provide capacity in their treatment plant for 2,857 gallons per day. Currently they only service 5 residents so there is plenty of capacity. Mr. Vranich said that WRRMA realized that through that grant they have an obligation to provide that capacity for folks in that area for pump and haul services. That does not mean that they cannot raise those rates. Mr. Vranich suggested a letter from the Township be sent to WRRMA stating that the township understands that their position on this has changed based on information within the Township's 547 Plan and grant money that WRRMA received. As for the rates, WRRMA indicated in the plan that pump and haul services can be raised as fuel and labor costs rise. Mr. Vranich and Ms. Smith will work together in drafting a letter to be sent to WRRMA from the Township.
- Letter dated July 23, 2019 from Stephen C. Alexander regarding storm damage to his property: Ms. Smith said that Mr. Alexander sent correspondence about a month ago regarding his issues with the road right of way and road maintenance work. Ms. Smith responded to Mr. Alexander stating the legal right of way width and that the Township had a right to maintain within that right of way. She said this letter has to do with what Mr. Gormont reported about at the July meeting regarding stormwater conditions as a result of storms. Mr. Alexander is complaining about what he believes is a Township generated condition on his property. Mr. Gormont said that all the damage created by the storms have been completed. Ms. Smith said what Mr. Alexander is doing is threatening a lawsuit. He is not unfamiliar with the Courts. She said he might file an action before the Court of Common Pleas and if he does the Township will respond.

Other Business (not on agenda): None.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: With no further business to be discussed by the Board, Mr. Updyke moved, seconded by Mr. Patterson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri L. Moyer
Secretary