

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEEETING, SHALER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 P.M. by the Chairman David Shutter. Following a prayer by Commissioner Cross and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman asked the Secretary to call the roll as follows:

PRESENT: Fisher, Skelley, Boyle, Cross, Mizgorski, Shutter, McElhone
ALSO PRESENT: Timothy Rogers, Manager; Judith Kording, Finance & Administration Director; Bryan Kelly, Chief of Police; Matthew Sebastian, Engineer

The Chairman announced that an Executive Session of the Board of Commissioners of Shaler Township occurred May 10 and this evening at 5:30 p.m. where the following topics were discussed: Employment and personnel matters, contracts and policies, an update on potential litigation; and agency business which if conducted in public would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of confidential information. Mr. Rogers said he was present for the sessions and they were absolutely necessary and were in full compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. For the record, Mr. Rogers stated that he is a practicing attorney in the State of Pennsylvania.

Old Business:

Review of Fall Run Park Schematics with Gateway Engineers.

The first item of business was a presentation from Gateway Engineers. Mr. Justin Wagner, Mr. Kevin Nadalin and Mr. Nathaniel Hayes were present from Gateway Engineers. Mr. Wagner thanked the Board for the opportunity to work on the Fall Run Park Project. Mr. Wagner explained that they have divided the project into four categories, Bridge Replacement, Stream Renovation, Trail Improvements and Slope Repair and Stabilization.

There are 12 bridges slated for bridge replacement in the park. There are three to four bridges that are in definite need of replacement. The bridges will be constructed with steel and wood. Some may be salvageable. **Mr. Rogers** inquired if it is realistic to build the bridges to a 100-year storm event. **Mr. Wagner** stated that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would prefer the bridges withstand the 100-year storm and the bridges will be permitted through the DEP. It would make sense that the bridges above the falls be built to the 100-year storm specifications. There is a cost savings to pre-fab bridges, but the issue would be getting them to the site. They would recommend any handicap accessibility be in the area above the falls. **Mr. Cross** brought up concerns if the park is labeled as ADA compliant and there happens to be a storm event in the park, how feasible is it that a handicap individual would be able to get out of the park. **Mrs. Mizgorski** commented that there is more grant fund money available for ADA compliancy. **Mr. Wagner** stated that a stable surface and gravel trail should provide the means of egress but depending on the severity of the storm it is not a guarantee. **Mr. Boyle** stated that the Township has no control if a severe storm pops up when someone is in the park. **Mr. Shutter** commented that if the base of the path is solid and a storm hit, hopefully people would be able to get out the same way they came in. **Mr. McElhone** inquired how many bridges in the park are ADA compliant. **Mr. Wagner** stated that none of the bridges in the park are ADA compliant. It

would be difficult to raise all of the bridges to the 100 year specifications, and some of the bridges would be raised to a 25 to 50-year storm event. There was further discussion on the issue of making the park ADA compliant. **Mr. Rogers** stated that the purpose of this meeting was to reduce the park budget and not spend more to make it accessible.

Mr. Rogers inquired on the naturalized plants and protecting them in the park. **Mr. Wagner** stated that planting plans would be drawn up and they would select plants native to the area.

Mr. Wagner explained that the streams tend to widen over time as the community surrounding the stream grows. The stream repair has been prioritized above and below the structures in the park. They will utilize natural materials available in the park, logs, rocks, plantings and these will stabilize the stream banks and protect the bridges. The on-going maintenance of the stream renovation is typically minimal unless something large comes down the stream to cause disruption in the stream flow.

The last part of the presentation was on the Slope Replacement and Stabilization. Gateway Engineers used a drone as well as a walk through review to survey the park. The use of the drone was an efficient and cost-saving survey of the park. **Mr. Rogers** stated that the Township had core drillings performed on the park in 1997 for a slope stabilization project that was done in 1998 and he thought that Gateway Engineers had acquired the company. **Mr. Hayes** stated that the company was EMI and was acquired by Gateway Engineers and that they would have access to all of the data from those core drillings. They will be able to review the data and compare it to the current data to implement a plan. They will not likely need additional core drillings for this plan. In his review so far and a review of a geological study that was done on the 1997 landslide, **Mr. Hayes** has not seen broad movement in the current landslide. Most of the material at this time is indicating a stormwater issue. Gateway Engineers needs to show in their reports that 20 to 30 years ago, a healthy stream channel was a certain width dimension for the DEP to allow them to widen the stream. **Mr. Shutter** inquired if they have discovered underground springs in the area. **Mr. Hayes** stated that they did not find springs in the landslide area, but have seen them in the lower area of the trail coming out of the bedrock. He did not believe that springs was an overall factor in the stability of the slope. He thought that the stabilization effort that was performed by EMI in 1998 which included the installation of subsequent drainage has kept the area stabilized. In reviewing the whole area, there are stormwater channels that allow water to lead into the falls. **Mr. Rogers** inquired if the old and new sanitary sewer lines have been located. **Mr. Hayes** stated that they have not been located in the field, but that they are recorded on the drawings.

Mr. Wagner continued with the cost of the project:

Bridge Replacement	\$600,000
Stream Renovation	\$265,000
Trail Improvements	\$ 35,000
Slope Stabilization	\$ 50,000
Total Cost:	\$950,000

Gateway Engineers is open to ways to cut the costs to fit the Township's budget. They have applied for a grant on behalf of the Township through the Gaming Economic Development Fund

(GEDF) for \$500,000 and they will apply for another grant through the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP) for \$250,000 in September, 2016. There is potential to apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant in 2017. This was not applied for in 2016 as there was not enough time to get the permits required.

Mr. Rogers inquired what should be the next step in the process. **Mr. Wagner** stated that he would recommend that once they acquire the permits, the first step should be the Slope Stabilization and then the three to four bridges that need replaced immediately and could be scheduled for fall of 2016. It would be more efficient to acquire the design and permits for these at the same time. Gateway Engineers cost for the design and engineering is not included in the project cost. **Mr. Rogers** requested that Gateway submit their design and engineering cost proposal by June 10 for the June 14 Board meeting. **Mr. Wagner** stated that they will work on the proposal and thanked the Board for giving them a chance to work on the project. **Mr. Sebastian** stated that the Gateway Engineers presentation covered all of the Township's options. If the Township receives the grant funding, it should give the opportunity to perform most of the work. The possibility of the DCNR funds in 2017 would give the Township the opportunity to perform the needed work on the park. Gateway has been beneficial and to this point reasonable on the cost of the project. **Mr. Rogers** requested that Gateway Engineers review which bridges may be eliminated from the project for a cost savings. He thought that pre-fab bridges may be a possibility on the upper end of the park but not on the lower end. **Mr. Wagner** stated that they can replace bridges and eliminate bridges but if they want to move any bridges it may require further permits from the DEP. He will know more once they speak with the DEP on the project. They would like to keep the project under a general permit from the DEP.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Shutter thanked the Gateway Engineers representatives for the presentation.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 10-16 Rogers School Sewer Planning Module.

The next item of business was Resolution No. 10-16 for the Rogers School Sewer Planning Module. Mr. Rogers explained that pursuant to a request from the Shaler Area School District, they needed approval for their Sewer Planning Module for the Rogers School to proceed to the next step. The Sewer Planning Module is a representation by the municipality that taps are available. There are so many Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's) value to the existing facility and they will not have to buy for the total but they will have to purchase three EDU tap capacity. Mr. Sebastian has done the calculations for the EDU's. The Township could also do a 12 quarter agreement, this takes the current water usage and for the next 12 quarters (3 years) they determine the amount of water used. This gives a real number between the use and value. This project is abandoning one of the current tap locations (which is on Scott) and going downstream to another tap location on Hodil Road. The current request is for three (3) additional EDU's with an approximate cost of \$3,000 for each. Management recommends approval of the Resolution. **Mrs. Fisher moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve Resolution No. 10-16 authorizing the execution of a grant to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for Fall Run Park. The motion was carried.**

Comments:

Mr. Shutter explained that the Shaler Area School District has reviewed their emergency plans for evacuation of Jeffery School. In the past the plan was for the children to be evacuated to the Municipal Building. The new plan is for Jeffery School to be evacuated to the Shaler EMS building using Meyer Road. **Mr. Boyle** commented that fobs will be provided to the school for entrance to the Shaler EMS building. Plans will be drawn up for the pickup of children from the Shaler EMS building.

Mr. Rogers explained that there are serious issues with the pool, mainly the deck. The pool is over 50 years old and it is deteriorating. Mr. Rogers spoke to the original designer of the pool Wade Associates and will have them review the issues in September. Airtite was in to caulk the pool and some of the cracks are up to 4 inches in diameter. The Airtite company does not warranty that type of work. After speaking with Mr. Greenberg from KLH Engineers, he suggested that the Township replace the portions of concrete that need repaired and this work can be done in the winter season.

Mr. Rogers also explained that the boiler at the pool is possibly in its last year of use. There was some welding repair being done today but it may not make it through the season. Mr. Rogers was informed by Mr. Burlett that in a hot summer, they turn the heater off in July. Replacement of the boiler would entail removing the floor and possibly the roof because of the size. The best solution for replacement would be to build a separate building for the boiler instead of having it in the basement which is not ideal. The heating elements were replaced and are still good. The sonar that was performed at the pool showed that there were no indications of the pool losing water structurally, just through the joints. The owner of Airtite, which caulked the pool explained that it should hold for the summer, but the caulking is not meant to withstand the weight and pressure for the wide gaps that are in the pool.

There was further discussion on the pool and solar covers, and the installation of two heaters instead of one. **Mr. Rogers** explained that at the end of the pool season, they will need to have a specialist in the review the pool for design and engineering and determine if they want a separate building for the boiler.

Mr. McElhone inquired if there were any other companies besides Gateway Engineers to bring an estimate on the Fall Run Park project. **Mr. Rogers** explained that there is probably a company that will undercut the cost that Gateway Engineers has given the project. There are two positive issues with using Gateway Engineers and that is they have the depth of firm and proprietary information on the corridors. Another firm would be able to attain the information but it is all in the interpretation of that information. Gateway Engineers still has the original engineer from EMI that worked on the project in 1998 which is a plus. There will no other firms involved in the project. KLH Engineers is the Township's engineering firm but this is not the type of work they specialize in. Management is comfortable with working with Gateway Engineers on this project. The Township is also using Gateway for some sewer compliance issues with the Environmental Protection Agency. **Mr. McElhone** commented that for future reference, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners hands out awards for

this type of improvements and the Township would be able to submit an application. **Mr. Rogers** stated that this may be one of the largest park projects to be done in the area.

There being no further business, **Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mrs. Fisher that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary

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