

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minutes of Workshop Meeting held August 23, 2016

A special budget workshop meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chairman William L. Hornung, on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Supervisors present in addition to Mr. Hornung were: William B. Hawk; William C. Seeds Sr., Gary A. Crissman, and Robin Lindsey.

Also in attendance was George Wolfe, Township Manager; Steve Stine, Township Solicitor, Tim Murphy, Virginia Alexandra, Mary Anne Haschert, and Watson Fisher, SWAN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Lindsey led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Ms. Virginia Alexandra noted that the dog pound at the Public Works Building is located at the south/west corner of the property and is very close to her property. She noted that three times dogs have barked all night. She noted that the Board members don't have to listen to it all night. She questioned, since the Township is doubling the size of the building could it be moved inside the building where the dogs will be more protected. She questioned if something can be done about that. Mr. Wolfe noted that he would have to look into this. Mr. Hornung noted that we will look into it and get back to you.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if we get many dogs. Mr. Wolfe answered yes. Ms. Lindsey questioned if we hold the dogs until they are taken to the Humane Society. Mr. Wolfe answered depending on when they are picked up. Ms. Alexandra suggested that it seems like they are there for three days. Mr. Wolfe suggested that would tend to be mostly on the weekends. Ms. Alexandra agreed that it is over the weekends and she is not complaining about the dogs as it is not their fault.

Status reports regarding individual and group efforts
to date on Supervisors' Strategic Plan projects

Mr. Wolfe explained that he included the past copies of the short-term and long-term goals for information purposes. He noted that the Planning Commission has provided him with information on what they need for consulting services and he will work on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for that. He noted that this is the first item for a short term goal on page one.

Mr. Hornung noted that he is meeting with two gentlemen tomorrow who are heavily involved in a nationwide baseball association. He explained they get private funds from donors, baseball type heroes, who put substantial funds up for developing baseball facilities. He noted that they are meeting at 8 a.m. to get ideas for what they are looking for and what their interests are in developing Wolfersberger Park. He noted as soon as he gets more information he will share it with the Board.

Ms. Lindsey questioned Mr. Hornung if they contacted him. Mr. Hornung answered that they contacted him a while ago. Ms. Lindsey questioned if they are looking to do something in this area. Mr. Hornung explained that one of the gentlemen wanted to partner with New Hope Church to build a basketball facility. Ms. Lindsey noted that was Charles Forney. Mr. Hornung noted that Mr. Forney and Greg are partners. He noted that they did not build a basketball court so they are looking for a place to build a basketball court. Ms. Lindsey questioned if Mr. Hornung is talking about basketball and baseball. Mr. Hornung noted that he met with Dave Blain about the chances of CASA getting involved, but his complaint is that there is no money, but he also admitted that there are many grants available to do things.

Mr. Hornung noted that Fred Lighty supplied him with the Dauphin County Recreation Report. He noted that the Dauphin County Commissioners paid for a study that cost almost \$1 million that looked at some type of sports facility to be built in Dauphin County. He noted that one area that they looked at was the Wolfersberger Tract. He noted that the County Commissioners are looking for a project to do. He noted that Mr. Lighty is meeting with the County Commissioners to see if there is an interest in talking to the Board to get additional County funds to help build the Wolfersberger Park.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Wolfersberger Tract fill project is nearly completed with sanitary sewer clean fill material, a two year project that will end this September. He noted that

the fill project did not build the ball fields but it provided for a general elevation surface to do so. He noted that the total investment involved the Township spending almost \$1 million for the property and the Authority paying around \$800,000 in the placement of fill. Mr. Hornung noted that it also provided for a credit for lower bids to the contractors for the Sewer Authority projects. Mr. Hornung questioned how many truckloads of fill we received. Mr. Wolfe answered that they hauled 50 truckloads a day. He suggested that we moved 300,000 cubic yards. Mr. Hornung suggested that we saved \$600,000.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if this will affect the paintball operations. Mr. Wolfe answered that the front 50 acres is what we filled but we have not done anything with the back 40 acres. Ms. Lindsey noted that the Board told the operators that this would be the last year of their lease due to the access issue. Mr. Wolfe explained that the Township has maintained access for them and they are still on a year-to-year basis for their lease.

Mr. Tim Murphy had a question about the Strategic Plan. He questioned what is it and how does it relate to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hornung answered, at this point, they do not relate to each other. He noted that since he became Chairman he asked the Board members to take something that they have a particular passion for, looking at doing some things that are above and beyond the standard Strategic Plan. He explained that the Board developed a Strategic Plan and we are still working on that but this is over and above that. He noted that it is so early in the game it is has not been incorporated in the Comp Plan. He noted that there is nothing set in concrete, it is more looking to see what is possible.

Mr. Murphy questioned if some of those ideas may translate into the Comp Plan. Mr. Crissman suggested that there will be a good interface between what we are hearing from the community and what we are trying to develop, and we will interface with the Comp Plan when we reach that point.

Mr. Seeds explained that the Comp Plan looks more at zoning and future growth and what should occur within the Township and what the residents are thinking for zoning, future growth and roads. He noted that there is a need for more parks as the Township grows in population.

Mr. Crissman noted he is working on a senior citizen community for the Township. He noted that many people have told Board members as they age, there is no place in the Township

to move to. He noted that they have to move elsewhere and it is a loss of revenue, manpower and brainpower by those who have been supporting the community. He noted that we are working to get all the components together, knowing who we need to put together to get more data. He noted he hopes to provide a report in the near future. He stated that it is moving forward and he is working with staff to compile the data.

Ms. Virginia Alexandra questioned what kind of senior housing you are looking at such as the development off of Union Deposit Road and Londonderry Road. Mr. Crissman noted that he is talking about independent living, assisted living and health care services. Ms. Alexandra questioned if it is something like a Messiah Village. Mr. Crissman noted that it would be a parallel to that as we do not have anything like that. He noted when seniors want to downsize they have to find smaller housing or many want independent living at a facility such as Messiah or Bethany Villages. He noted that they are looking for all three phases of retirement living. He noted that we are lacking these types of facilities, so when the upper 1% of the community reaches this stage they must move out of the Township. He noted that they have no place to go and they take the economic status, and good minds, usually professional people who would volunteer in this community. He noted that once they leave us we lose that.

Ms. Alexandra noted when they move to a place like that they will not own it. Mr. Crissman noted that you buy the unit. Ms. Alexandra questioned if they would pay taxes every year. Mr. Crissman answered that they pay costs to the conglomerate that will pay the taxes. He noted, for Lower Paxton Township, we lose because they leave the municipality. He noted that it is not just the money, we lose the brain power, the volunteers, and those are usually the crème-de-la-crème. Ms. Lindsey noted that they are not shopping in this area because they have moved to the West Shore. She noted that they move over there and are still driving but they don't know their way around. She noted that they don't want to leave this area but we don't have anything to offer. She noted that you have Frey Village and the Masonic Village but there is nothing else that is close.

Mr. Seeds noted that their friends are living in the Township, and some go to the Friendship Center. Ms. Lindsey noted that their church is in the Township and they want to stay near their church. Mr. Crissman noted that their physicians and dentists are located close by. He noted that is one of the projects that the Board is working on.

Mr. Seeds noted that he attended a meeting along with Mr. Hawk and Mr. Wolfe at Hampden Township to discuss their Storm Water Authority. He noted that they explained how they are handling their Storm Water issues and we learned much. He explained if everyone pays their bill they hope to gain \$1.3 million in income to fund their projects. He noted that individual residences pay \$13.50 a quarter that is tacked on to their sewer bill. He noted that Hampden Township is having problems with the Navy Depot and PennDOT who do not want to pay the bill for all their impervious area. He explained that they have a long-range program for projects as Lower Paxton does with the different projects that we are doing at this time. He noted that we have floated bonds and increased property taxes to pay for those bonds, and now the Supervisors want to look at what other communities are doing.

Mr. Hawk noted that they came up with a budget based on a survey of the Township residents' and commercial facilities within the Township. He noted that is how they developed their budget but they also did much community outreach to explain the why's and how's. He noted that that it could result in a financial outlay for the Commonwealth if many of the municipalities started to charge them for storm water facilities. He suggested that the outreach to the community helped to make it a smooth transition. Mr. Wolfe noted that they have about 12,000 billable units.

Mr. Hornung noted that the State has provided the mandate but is not willing to pay their fair share.

Mr. Seeds noted that the businesses bought into the program noting that they have helped to add to the problem and it would result in higher property taxes or charging for the impervious area. He noted that non-profits such as churches that pay no property taxes are now paying their fair share and they are cooperating. He noted that the only problem they are having is with the Federal and State Governments. He noted that the Chesapeake Bay people are the ones who are pushing the work. He noted that it is similar to the sanitary sewer issues as we are under a consent decree from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to fix them. He noted that we have to do it but it is a question of where will we get the funds to do it. He questioned do you increase the property taxes or put a tax on the amount of impervious areas for the runoff. He noted that they are going with the second option and it is new to them and many others as well.

Mr. Hawk noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is very creative in their demands for the Chesapeake Bay and the Clean Water Act, and Hampden Township is ahead of the curve in trying to meet the demand of meeting the requirements for the Clean Water Act. He noted if we don't do these things on our own the implication is that it could be more traumatic in the future for townships in Pennsylvania in providing clean water for all.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if they started out at the \$13.50 rate or have they raised the amount. Mr. Seeds answered that is what they started out at. Ms. Lindsey questioned how long they have had the Authority. Mr. Wolfe answered they just started it this year. Mr. Hawk explained that it is part of their Sewer Authority. Ms. Lindsey thought that Hampden Township has a Storm Water Authority. Mr. Wolfe explained that it is a separate function of their existing Sewer Authority. He explained that Lower Paxton does not have a Sewer Authority, we have a General Authority which can assign functions to; one of which is sanitary sewer, and another could be storm water.

Mr. Seeds noted that they also include their trash and recycling removal in that same bill. He noted that the Township pays the bill from the trash hauler and in turn, Hampden bills the residents for it. He noted that their fees are considerably higher than Lower Paxton's but it includes their trash.

Ms. Lindsey noted that since it is not a separate storm water authority how would the administrative costs be handled. Mr. Wolfe noted that you would still have separate costs, you are just talking about a different type of legal document. He noted that you would have additional administrative costs. Ms. Lindsey questioned if you would have a director for storm water. Mr. Wolfe answered that we would roll that in as well.

Mr. Seeds noted that they stated that they added four people to take care of the storm water department within their authority. Mr. Hornung questioned if this was office people or people who work out in the field. Mr. Seeds noted that they work both. Ms. Lindsey questioned if they are doing the labor work. Mr. Seeds answered no. Ms. Lindsey noted the four additional employees were not in the trenches. Mr. Seeds suggested that they were administrative people. Ms. Lindsey questioned if the public works or sewer employees do the stormwater. Mr. Seeds noted that it is new to them so he doesn't know if they have any contracts for work out yet. He suggested that they may do some of the minor stuff in house.

Mr. Crissman noted that they are only seven months into this project.

Mr. Wolfe noted whether you have a separate authority or you assign your existing authority a new function, your administrative costs will be the same assuming that you roll everything into the Township.

Ms. Lindsey noted when they attended the realtor meeting, Hampden Township stated that they haven't raised their taxes but we have the storm water. Mr. Wolfe noted that they have a belief that they should never raise taxes and they haven't done that in 34 years. He noted that they are bound and determined not to raise taxes to fund storm water. He noted that Lower Paxton Township has done more storm water improvement than they have because they have spent the last three years investigating, forming, and funding an authority. He noted that Lower Paxton has spent the last three years borrowing to do capital projects. He noted that he is not saying that one is better than the other but they have taken a different approach. He noted they were very clear that they are not raising taxes. He noted that they will raise storm sewer fees and sanitary sewer fees.

Mr. Seeds stated that they have a better tax base than we do. He noted that they have the Navy Depot for the Earned Income Tax (EIT). He noted that their EIT would be very good. Ms. Lindsey noted that they have to be getting money from somewhere as their parks need to be done as well as their roads. Mr. Wolfe noted that they are half our size.

Mr. Seeds noted that they have a golf course that was given to them. He noted that they have a big community pool. Ms. Lindsey noted that they had a golf course at the Navy Depot as well.

Mr. Hornung questioned how many billable units they have. Mr. Wolfe answered that they are doing 12,000 billable units. He noted that it is based upon an EDU concept, so a Lowe's could be equivalent to 300 EDU's based on impervious coverage. He noted that their average residential impervious coverage is roughly 3,500 square feet. He noted if Lowe's has 350,000 square feet you would divide it by 3,500 and multiply it by the quarterly rate.

Mr. Seeds noted that they call their units ERU, Equivalent Residential Units. He noted that they do not charge you more if you own a 5,000 square foot house versus a person who owns a 1,200 square foot house. He noted that all the residents are charged the same. Mr. Wolfe noted that there is an analytical study that goes with this and the Township would need to hire a

consultant to determine how many residential units we have, calculate the impervious coverage, come up with an average and then apply that average equally to all residential units. He noted then we would have to compute the impervious coverage of all the non-residential parcels. He noted there is an effort to get this done, someone who will digitalize and compute the information. He noted that you have 22,000 parcels in the Township and not all are developed. He suggested that only 60% are developed.

Mr. Seeds questioned if we have more commercial property than Hampden Township. Mr. Wolfe answered that it would probably be about the same. Mr. Seeds suggested that we have twice the number of residences. Mr. Wolfe answered that Lower Paxton may be somewhat comparable for single family residences but we exceed Hampden, Susquehanna and Derry Townships in multi-family units. He noted if you think about the I-83 corridor you have nearly 5,000 multi-family units in that area. Mr. Seeds noted that he did not think they mentioned how they would handle an apartment building. Mr. Wolfe answered that it would be a non-residential unit. Mr. Seeds noted that we would need to charge the owners of the apartment buildings as they have lots of impervious area.

Mr. Hornung questioned what happens when someone is not hooked up to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Wolfe answered that their data base is more complete than ours as they bill sanitary sewer and trash on the same bill. He noted that we will have to develop a data base as our sewer system only covers about 80% of the community and we don't bill for trash. Mr. Hornung noted that we would bill the other 20% also for an ERU. Mr. Wolfe noted that we would need consulting services to build that data base.

Mr. Seeds suggested that they did not have a difficult time as they had public meetings and educated the people, explaining that they need to fix it and this is the best way to fix it. He noted everyone pays including the non-profits that are contributing a lot of water with all their parking lots. He noted that he likes the idea.

Mr. Hawk noted that it took some time to put the plan in place as it was very comprehensive and very logical. He noted that you will need an outside source to help get through the maze of work.

Mr. Wolfe noted that you must be aware that the Central Dauphin School District has 11 developed parcels in the Township with seven elementary schools, two middle schools and one

high school in addition to the Technical School. He noted that you will have to address the issue with them as their bill will not be small. He noted that you have large churches who will have large bills due to the amount of impervious coverage. Mr. Seeds noted that they did not mention how much kickback they got from the school district. He noted when Central Dauphin raises the taxes, they will blame it on Lower Paxton Township. Mr. Wolfe noted that Hampden's basis was to develop a truly defensible fair fee that would be paid by all users; however the sanitary sewer is a fee that is paid by all users to include governmental entities and non-profits and religious institutions as they all pay based on EDU's. He noted Hampden is levying that fee on all users.

Mr. Seeds noted that we heard from Al Bienstock that the nice part is that they have had meetings with DEP and they are on the cutting edge; therefore they are telling DEP how to run the program. He noted that Hampden Township can make their own rules at this time which is better than DEP telling them how to do it. He noted that it is nice when you can put your own plan together and get DEP to say it is good.

Ms. Lindsey questioned if there was much feedback when the sewer rate was increased. Mr. Wolfe answered yes. He noted the more often it goes up the more you will get complaints. He noted that our rate is higher than Hampden Township's but we are doing a lot more work. Ms. Lindsey suggested that we should do an article in the newsletter in the near future. Mr. Hornung noted that is the next one he has scheduled.

Mr. Seeds suggested if the other Board members want to meet with Hampden Township they would do it again so we are not in violation of the Sunshine Act. Ms. Lindsey noted that we could invite them to our Township for a workshop meeting. Mr. Hornung questioned if we need more information at this point as the big question that needs to be answered is where to get the money. He noted that we need to do about another \$100 million in sanitary sewer work, and repairing storm sewer work would be about \$50 million, and the MS4 will be another \$50 million and that is probably only an initial stab at it. He noted that we are up to \$250 million and it is not in the budget. He noted that one of the things that he will talk about in the newsletter is how we fund each component. He questioned if we fund the MS4 on the storm sewer funding or do we fund it through the general budget. He noted that the storm sewer and MS4 are quite similar. He noted that you could lump them together at \$100 million and start working on it. He noted if you look at our budget, without the sewer authority, it is around \$30 million. Mr. Wolfe

noted that the budget this year for sewer is \$32 million with \$10 million for capital projects. Mr. Hornung noted to add another \$100 million, even stretching it over 20 years is another \$5 million a year. He noted that is a substantial amount and we have to decide how long we want to spread it out. He noted that the other concern is what DEP and EPA will require. He suggested that we don't need to have more meetings as much as making decisions for how we are going to fund the mandates.

Mr. Seeds noted the question is do we want to raise property taxes or set up a storm sewer authority. Mr. Hornung noted that is the question we need answered. We need to come to an agreement for the direction we want to go. Mr. Wolfe noted that he can put together some action items for the Board to consider for moving forward.

Mr. Hawk noted that he would prefer an authority so the people understand where it is coming from. Mr. Seeds suggested that it is fair too. He noted that the schools will have to find the money somewhere, but it is fairer as everyone pays.

Mr. Tim Murphy noted that the user fee is a better approach and makes more sense as it is more equitable across the board. Mr. Seeds noted if you look at the money the churches have and they are not paying property taxes. He suggested they will not fight it when we explain to them that we have to do this somehow. He questioned what the fairer way to do it is.

Ms. Lindsey noted that you don't want to raise the property taxes so you have no other choice but to do it.

Mr. Crissman noted that conceptually it sounds good to him, as a resident pays a flat amount, but he would like to have more information from another community that has done it longer as he would like to know what the trend is. He noted if it is \$13 now, what will it be next year or the following year. He noted if we can look at another community that has done this over a period of four or five years, if there are any, what does it do. He noted either I pay \$13 this year and next year it keeps increasing or if I pay it in my taxes, it would still go up each year. He noted that a Lowe's versus a residential unit should have a different fee. He noted that he is concerned for what he will pay now versus what he will pay in the future. He stated, if he would be paying the same under both systems, why switch to create a new system. Mr. Seeds noted that you would pay more if you put it on the taxes as the non-profits won't be paying anything. Mr. Wolfe answered that is not correct because all the undeveloped properties will pay. Mr. Seeds

noted if it is levied on property taxes than the homeowner will pay more because the non-profits are not paying property taxes. Mr. Wolfe noted under the Hampton Township system vacant properties pay nothing. He noted that non-profits and religious institutions and governmental agencies pay their fair share. He noted under the tax system, all properties that are taxable pay, and the governmental and non-profits would not pay because they don't pay real estate. He noted that we have far more undeveloped property in this township than we have tax exempt. He noted the tax payers would be spreading the cost out over a bigger universe in Lower Paxton than you would if you were doing it just among users of the developed property. Mr. Seeds noted that it is not fair for someone who owns 100 acres to pay a higher property tax as they are not adding to runoff.

Mr. Crissman noted if the schools are going to have to pay, you know who is going to pay, we are since we will pay a higher school tax. Mr. Seeds noted that people will have to give more to their churches and non-profits to come up with the money. Mr. Crissman noted that he is not sure which way he wants to go yet.

Mr. Seeds noted that there is a Township outside of Pittsburgh that has been doing this for a few years. Mr. Wolfe answered that there are three or four municipalities that are doing this but they are different since they have a combined sewer system. He noted that there are no municipalities in Pennsylvania that have a separate system that has been able to do this except those that started in the last two years.

Mr. Hornung noted that we may have more property that is tax exempt but if you added the appraised value of the non-profit public entities...Mr. Wolfe noted that is part of the math that someone would have to do. Mr. Hornung noted if we make the schools and churches pay we will all pay for it.

Ms. Alexandra questioned if this fee will be forever or is it just to get the \$250 million. Ms. Lindsey noted that it will be forever as things will break down over time. Mr. Hornung noted that he would hope at some time that it would go back down but it won't be in our lifetime. He noted that DEP always seems to come up with new requirements and it never goes the other way. Mr. Seeds stated that hopefully, at some time, it will level off and we will only be maintaining the system.

Mr. Hornung noted that Mr. Crissman is undecided at this time and he would like to get to a point where we move forward. He noted that four are convinced that we want to go with the separate authority. Mr. Wolfe noted that he knows what to do to move this forward.

Review of proposals to provide property acquisition services for
the Jonestown Road bridge replacement project

Mr. Wolfe explained that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires the Township to retain an engineering firm to do the acquisition for the Jonestown Road Bridge Project. He noted that the bridge is in the design stage it is jointly working with West Hanover Township to do this. He noted that both municipalities went through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to select HRG to do the design work. He noted that it did not include the acquisition process and there is a need to acquire acquisition from four or five properties. He noted that he advertised for RFP's to do this and received two, one from HRG and one from Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT). He noted that JMT is out of Camp Hill. The Township has never worked with them before.

Mr. Wolfe noted that he reviewed the proposal and it seems to be more than sufficient. He noted that both contain costs for services with HRG being a little more than \$12,000 and JMT costs for services was between \$7,000 and \$9,000. Mr. Seeds noted that JMT included the cost of the appraisals. Mr. Crissman noted that he did not see where it included the appraisals. Ms. Lindsey noted that a sub-consultant would do the appraisals. Mr. Seeds noted that they stated that they use Howard Hanna for the appraisal. Ms. Lindsey noted that they list John Dudash as their appraisal person. Mr. Seeds noted that they would have to be bonded. Mr. Crissman noted that they don't state the cost for the appraisals.

Mr. Hornung noted that their numbers do not add up. Ms. Lindsey noted if you look on page 26 there is a fee for residential or commercial appraisals. Mr. Hornung suggested that they have over \$9,000 in appraisal costs so it would exceed their costs. He noted that he does not understand what they are saying. Mr. Wolfe stated that it lists one appraisal at \$2,500 for resident and \$3,500 for commercial. Mr. Wolfe noted that he can call and get an explanation for the total fees. Mr. Seeds noted that he would like to give some work to someone else if it would be cheaper. Mr. Wolfe noted that he will get answers to the questions the Board has.

Resolution – Penn Colonial Pool

Mr. Wolfe distributed Resolution 16-31-09 for Penn Colonial Pool for approval for a Local Share Grant application. He noted that they missed the Board's Local Share meeting but they have provided an application that he received at the end of today requesting Board authorization of their grant application for \$20,000 to help fix the pipes that serve the pool facility which are leaking. Mr. Wolfe noted that this resolution authorizes the grant submission.

Mr. Crissman noted since we have already ranked the other submissions... Mr. Wolfe noted that ranking is a separate item. Mr. Crissman questioned if we need to re-rank the other applications if we approve this additional one. Mr. Wolfe recommended that it be put last since you have already gone through the ranking process. Mr. Crissman noted that he does not mind approving it, but he does not want to go through the ranking process again.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve Resolution 16-32-09 for a Dauphin County Local Share grant application for Penn Colonial Pool for \$20,000. Ms. Lindsey seconded the motion. Mr. Hornung called for a voice vote and a unanimous vote followed.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to put this Resolution at the bottom of the ranking for Local Share Grants. Ms. Lindsey noted that we should follow up with Penn Colonial Swim Club to let them know that they missed the date, but we approved the resolution and they are at the bottom of the ranking for grants. Ms. Lindsey seconded the motion. Mr. Hornung called for a voice vote and a unanimous vote followed.

Discussion regarding the format of Supervisor's workshop meetings

Mr. Hornung noted that there has been some discussion as to the formality that goes on when the Board meets for Workshops. He noted that we used to have those meetings in this room and then we moved them to Room 171 in an attempt to film them. Ms. Lindsey suggested that many people do watch the meetings as they are interested in what is going on and what is happening.

Mr. Hornung noted that the workshop meetings are more interesting than the business meetings. He noted that he was the one who pushed it out into the other room but it has gotten very formal and it seems to restrict the general flow. He noted now, the people in attendance can chime in and it seems to be more conducive to getting everyone's opinions and sharing ideas. He

noted when you are in Room 171, people need to stand up and say their name; it is formal it seems to restrict it. He requested Mr. Wolfe to put this on the agenda to kick it around. He noted that there are other options, noting if we do it in this room there are no TV cameras but if we do it in Room 171 we used to have the table down below to create more informality, but due to the camera system we couldn't film it well. He noted that sound wise and camera wise we need to upgrade the system anyways.

Ms. Lindsey noted that we have money, it is the end of August and she has been sitting here almost three years and we have been upgrading the system for three years, and we have done nothing. She questioned why we can't upgrade the system. She noted that people complain at home they can't hear the Board members. She noted when we go to the COG meetings in Hampden Township, they have a platform microphone and if we used those microphones, people would be able to hear us at home. She noted that we put the money aside to upgrade this for three years, and we have been saying we have to do this and people are watching. She noted that they come up to her at church or in the grocery store, people are watching and it is only fair to the residents that are watching as they can't come in because it is a lot of older people. She noted for years she watched it at home on Tuesday nights and if we put the money in the budget we should look into it and get it taken care of. She noted then we will have the capability of better hearing and seeing.

Mr. Seeds noted that he agrees with Ms. Lindsey but sometimes people may be bashful about speaking on television. He noted that there is not as much give and take since we are now televised. Mr. Hornung suggested that it is the formality for where we sat as compared to a round table. He suggested need to develop a system of cameras and microphones where we can sit in this type of environment in Room 171. Ms. Lindsey noted that we did try that. Mr. Hornung noted that we had to stop as we couldn't get the cameras to view us. He noted if we revamp the system we could go back to that format and get some of the formality out of the meeting and it would become a little more informal providing the best of both worlds.

Mr. Hornung noted that we may not sit behind the dais but in the floor area.

Mr. Crissman noted to become more informal would be to move from the dais down on to the floor for workshops with the tables across the bottom as it removes the hierarchy, the formality of what we have been accustomed to, not only for us but every governmental agency.

He noted for the informal give and take, we are closer, noting even in church where the minister comes down from the pulpit to talk the congregation. He noted that there is the closer interfacing. He noted that we could accomplish that by sitting down for the workshops and for the more formal, up for those meetings. He noted if we sit in the lower area we can't do it because of the current system in the room.

Mr. Seeds noted that we were too crowded when we tried that. Mr. Wolfe noted that there was a crowding issue as well. He noted when you get closer to the cameras you have to sit closer together. Ms. Lindsey noted if we upgrade the cameras it may work. Ms. Lindsey questioned if the Board has ever been to Hampden Township, they have very a good microphone system and it would be much clearer. Mr. Wolfe noted that the current microphones were brought from the old building.

Mr. Hawk noted that he is all for transparency as you get more interaction from all the Board members in this kind of format and he likes that as opposed to being all spread out. He noted if we can accomplish what Mr. Crissman suggested it would be an ideal thing. Ms. Lindsey noted that the residents for the past three years have been used to watching the workshop and she hears they like it as they know what leads up to the next meeting. She noted that they also know what is going on in the Township.

Mr. Hornung noted that the direction that we are looking to go to is to upgrade the cameras and microphones so we can have an informal meetings in Room 171. He noted that we want to make it more informal.

Mr. Murphy noted that he understands this. He noted that this is the agenda item that he came for. Mr. Crissman noted that he would support it for workshop meetings only as there needs to be a decorum, a professionalism that exemplifies a first class district and community. He noted that he does not want to step down from that value system. Ms. Lindsey noted that it would be for the first and third meetings of the month.

Mr. Hornung agreed that it would only be for the workshop sessions. He noted that we have to figure how to do the microphones and we will work our way through the process. He noted that you can't have microphones out there all the time or you will pick up what everyone is saying in the audience.

Mr. Murphy questioned if there was money in the budget to do this. Ms. Lindsey answered yes as we had it in the budget, \$50,000. Mr. Wolfe explained that we put money in budget for additional technology enhancements. He noted that we have been spending it on the upgrades for the servers, from Windows 98 to the Cloud. Ms. Lindsey noted that last week we looked at it and it was \$50,000. Mr. Wolfe noted that was in the Strategic Plan. He noted that we have continued to carry it through.

Mr. Crissman noted that we are three minutes late for the next meeting.

Adjournment

With there being no other business, Mr. Crissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

William B. Hawk
Township Secretary