

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

July 29, 2014 1:00 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, Christine Vough and Ronald Reagan. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. This meeting was with representatives of PennDOT (Alan Keller, Lara Lapinski, Justin Batiuk, Carey Mullins, and Bill Houpt) concerning the Route 220/199 corridor. Their engineer, Philip Hoffman of Larson Design Group was also present, as was Athens Township Police Chief Larry Hurley, Zoning Officer Edmund Reid and Planning Commission Vice Chairman Clifton Cheeks. Robert Barnes, Director of Public Safety for Bradford County and Jo Ann Daly, Bradford County Emergency Management Coordinator were also in attendance.

Introductions were made and Cheryl turned the meeting over to Alan Keller, Traffic Unit Supervisor for PennDOT District 3. Alan stated that they will be doing a traffic signal at the intersection of Wolcott Hollow Road (SR4018) and US 220, a northbound left turn lane and a southbound right turn lane. Federal dollars have since become available and they are now able to include improvements to the US 220, Route 199 intersection. At this point they are looking at a right turn lane offset 8 feet. They are not sure at this time if a traffic signal is warranted for this intersection. They have done some traffic counts. The department is receptive for both signals, and there is money available. They are not sure what will be happening with the gas industry as far as traffic. Decisions on this intersection are still to be made.

Cheryl said if the traffic counts were done in July, they did not include all the school traffic. Alan said they take a yearly average. They also will consider other upgrades if the counts are close to the threshold that would warrant them. Ron said the traffic counters were after the trailer park and Gateway Industrial Park Road, so they missed all that traffic. Lara said those counters were not traffic counters – they were to determine the size of the trucks that travel that road so they will be able to design the proper turning radius for the intersection. Alan added that they also have people on-site who count when they do traffic studies so they get first-hand feedback. He added that they had received a letter regarding the sight distance at the 220/199, but they have checked those out and they are OK.

Bill Houpt said the crash data for the 220/199 intersection warrants an offset deceleration lane. This meets the criteria for federal funding.

Ron said there is a problem with people cutting through the Dandy to pull out onto 220, and also the people getting gas and pulling out. The people trying to turn off Wolcott Hollow Road can't see past them. Alan said with the addition of a signal,

Page Two
Athens Township Supervisors
July 29, 2014

you'll get people to migrate to the signal because they know they'll get out when the signal changes.

Ron asked if we could install different "No Parking" signs along 220 because the big trucks keep parking along the shoulder. Alan said they'll keep doing that until you kick up your enforcement and throw the book at them.

(George Ballenstedt had to work late and arrived at 1:20 PM.)

Cheryl asked if there will be a northbound turn lane at Wolcott Hollow and there will be. That may help with pull-outs from the Dandy. Susan asked if there will be "No Turn On Red" out of Wolcott Hollow Road. Lara said that hasn't been determined yet.

Ron asked if the speed limit would be reduced going south on 220. Alan said they would need a speed study to do that. He added that there is always a possibility that the speed limit would have to be higher after the study is done. Ron asked if they will be widening the shoulder for the northbound deceleration lane if they shift that lane 8 feet to the east. Bill Houpt showed the Board a very preliminary diagram of the area. The preliminary engineering phase is just starting. They anticipate a let date at the end of 2015.

Cheryl asked how traffic patterns will be impacted during the construction phase at Wolcott Hollow and US 220. Christine asked if there would be an extra lane heading north. There will be a left turn lane and a through lane. Cheryl asked about the southbound lanes and there will be a left turn lane, through lane, and right turn lane. Bill said this will help break up the traffic pattern a bit so there is less question as to where the traffic is going. Christine asked who will make the determination on a possible signal at 199 and when. Alan said they will look at that at the District level.

George asked if there will be sensors and Lara said they will have traffic detection.

Bob Barnes asked them to consider the severity of the accidents at the 220/199 intersection – not just the numbers. There were 23 motor vehicle accidents there in the last 5 years, and all but 2 had personal injuries – including 1 or 2 fatalities. He said the severity of accidents is less with a traffic control device. He asked that they consider this at the time of the traffic signal decision.

Page Three
Athens Township Supervisors
July 29, 2014

Alan said the top 5 fatal intersections in the state were all signalized. A signal is not the magic solution, and may cause an increase in accidents. Bob said the probability of a severe accident is higher at an uncontrolled intersection. Let's try to make the impact as small as possible.

Ron asked if the light at 220 and Wolcott Hollow would affect the 199 intersection. Alan said it will. He added they will have advance warning signs as well.

Christine asked them to keep in mind that there is a flea market on Mondays at the old stockyards on Route 199 and this causes traffic to start backing up on 220 south. They asked when that congestion starts and Christine said about 7:30 AM. Susan added that the stockyard property is up for sale.

Christine asked what they are doing with pedestrian traffic at Wolcott Hollow and 220. Lara said they will be providing accommodations for pedestrians.

PennDOT asked if we have any idea what the development plans are for that area in the future. Ed said the west side of 220 that Factory Direct Homes owned has been sold to the trailer park. He said the east side is still for sale. Ron said, in the short term, there is no sewer capacity in the Greens Landing area. Robin added that a 40-plus unit housing development has been approved for that area.

Discussion was held as to the right-hand turn out of the Lowe's parking lot on Elmira Street. Lara said the "No Turn On Red" is necessary because that signal accommodates pedestrians, but she will look into the timing of it. PennDOT representatives left at 2 PM. The Board thanked them for coming.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to have Cheryl sign the township letter for the Parks Marcellus Legacy grant.

Robin advised the Board that the COG dinner reservations are due by Friday and asked that they let her know at our regular meeting if they will be going.

Discussion was held as to who will attend the Tioga-Bradford Equipment Show at the Troy Fairgrounds on September 4th. George would like to go. Ron asked if we will be sending the road guys. Robin said we used to alternate and send 3 one year and the other 3 the next year. On motion of Ron, second by George, and a 'yes' from Christine, it passed to send all the road employees. Susan and Cheryl voted no to sending them all. George will also be going.

Page Four
Athens Township Supervisors
July 29, 2014

Ron asked if there will be a change to the weight limits on the Miller Road bridge and Susan said the engineers said there will not be a change.

Ron would like to schedule a joint board meeting with all the township boards. We used to do that a couple times a year and haven't done it in a long time. He would like it to be Wednesday, August 13th at 6:30 PM. Robin will advertise and send out invites. We will also have light refreshments.

Matt Hicks of the Morning Times asked if there has been any additional action with the Applebee's project and was told not at this time.

Ron wanted to purchase business cards for the Board members, but no one was interested.

Ron advised the Board that Andy Harding wants to meet with the Board concerning the building expansion to discuss their thoughts on this. No action was taken.

Cheryl took the Board into executive session at 2:37 PM. The meeting reconvened at 3:57 PM.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it passed to release all but 15% of the bond security for the Walmart project at their request, with the 15% being retained for 1 year. The project is almost complete. Christine voted no.

Discussion was held on the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau and the Commissioner's new idea of breaking away from the region and going out on our own. Ron will invite the Commissioners to our August 27th meeting, and Robin will invite Jean Ruhf of EMVB.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith, Secretary

