

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
GOSHEN FIRE HOUSE
1320 PARK AVENUE, WEST CHESTER, PA
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016 – 7:00 pm
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, Vice-Chairman Marty Shane, and Supervisors Janet Emanuel, Chuck Proctor, Carmen Battavio, Township Manager Rick Smith, Township CFO Jon Altshul, ABC Member Erich Meyer (Conservancy Board); Eric Neast & Paul Schweiger (Gannett Fleming); Desmond Reynolds & Keith Maines (Department of Environmental Protection).

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Senya called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked Michaelle Bond, a Philadelphia Inquirer reporter, to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence:

Carmen called for a moment of silence to honor the members of the military who keep us safe both locally and abroad, to honor those who have given the ultimate of their lives in defense of our nation, and to send prayers to all those who lost their lives in the recent terrorist attacks in Brussels.

Recording of Meeting: None

Chairman's Report: Senya welcomed the many residents who were in attendance, and acknowledged amongst the assembly, Joe Mobile, a representative from Senator Dan Truitt's office. Senya then turned the floor over to Eric Neast of Gannett Fleming.

New Business:

Presentation on the Milltown Dam Assessment and Alternatives Analysis (The full Gannett Fleming Assessment and Alternatives Analysis Report is available on the Township website): Eric Neast thanked the Board and all residents who were present for the opportunity to study the Milltown Dam and present their findings in order for the Township to make the best, most educated decision on the future of the Milltown Dam. Eric presented the history of the Dam, historical pictures of its development, modifications throughout the years, its changes in ownership, as well as its recent classification by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a C1 ~ High Hazard Dam. Mr. Neast pointed out some of the Dam's known deficiencies as being:

- An inadequate spillway capacity
- The current "inundation" area upstream during heavy rain incidents
- The spillway wall built on erodible materials
- A steep slope on the downstream embankment
- Heavy reservoir sedimentation

- Limited access to the left side of the Dam embankment

Mr. Neast then presented, in extensive detail, the ten options available to the Township to rehabilitate the Dam, including cost estimates for each alternative. The alternates presented were:

1. Increasing the Embankment Height ~ approximate cost \$6,000,000
2. Increasing the Spillway Width ~ approximate cost \$9,600,000
3. Raising the Embankment and Widening the Spillway ~ approximate cost \$6,800,000
4. Increasing the Depth of the Spillway using Fusegates ~ approximate cost \$5,800,000
5. Widening the Spillway with Labyrinth Design ~ approximate cost \$6,700,000
6. Overtopping Protection ~ Articulated Concrete Blocks ~ approximate cost \$3,300,000
7. Overtopping Protections ~ Roller-Compacted Concrete ~ approximate cost \$2,600,000
8. Decommissioning the Dam ~ Extensive Dredging of Silt ~ approximate cost \$3,100,000
9. Partial Breach of Dam with Extensive Silt Re-allocation ~ approximate cost \$1,300,000
10. Continue to Lower Dam Height w/enhancements ~ approximate cost \$800,000

Public Comment:

William Leigh, Walker Lane, warned against the Township choosing to create a wetland out of the existing reservoir as this would attract mosquitos and ticks. His preference was for the low breach and small ponds alternative without surrounding walking trails.

Mike Lemeki, 4 Reservoir Road, asked if the DEP considered the wildlife impact when presenting the Dam alternatives. Mr. Neast said that was not a consideration in developing their alternatives.

Baxter Wellman, 46 Lochwood Lane, asked if consideration was given to the impact of real estate values of the homes that surround the Dam. Mr. Neast responded that the costs presented are planning, “ball park” level costs.

Gerry Connor, 46 Lochwood Lane, asked if the Dam land would ever be built on in the future. Senya advised that this topic has already been addressed, but reiterated that this is public park land and can therefore never be built on for residential purposes.

Rich Pramm, 1477 Glenbrook Lane, expressed his concern for the health risks involved in disturbing and re-allocating the sediment along the areas of the Dam and surrounding land. Mr. Neast said that samples of the sediment would be taken to determine any health risks involved. Senya confirmed Mr. Neast’s response and added that this had been done when dealing with the Hersheys Mill Dam.

Bob Sullivan, 33 Waterview Road, asked what the timing needs to be to determine the best alternative. Mr. Reynolds of the DEP said that the Township needs to be moving forward with progress towards choosing an alternative for the Dam, and that this path could take up to five years to reach a conclusion. Senya added that the purpose of this meeting was to learn about the options.

Richard Swanson, 20 Reservoir Road, stated that he prefers option 7, that he wants to see the reservoir preserved, and asked how the residents can make their preference known. Senya stated that residents can express their opinions at Board meetings like the one tonight, and that the Board needs to consider what is in the best interest of all East Goshen residents. Marty agreed with Senya's sentiments stating that all meeting on this subject will be held in public and that all residents will be notified of such meetings.

Baxter Wellman, 46 Lochwood Lane, asked how the Board is going to engage the opinions of all 18,000 East Goshen residents. Senya noted that the Board was elected to represent all East Goshen residents and that the Board now has ten options to consider regarding the future of the Milltown Dam. Senya also added that, under initial review, option 2 would most likely be not a viable option as it would involve raising Reservoir Road, which would be cost prohibitive. Marty added that the Board's decision on the Dam will most likely be one of the hardest decisions to make as it will affect a large number of people.

Chuck Heppler, 12A Reservoir Road, expressed his preference for alternative 7, and that he is also concerned about disturbing and moving the sediment that has built up over the years in the reservoir. Mr. Neast said that to remove all the sediment that has built up would be hugely expensive.

A resident of 1134 Lochwood Lane, asked that given the costs of these alternatives, could this not be put in front of all residents in the form of a referendum vote. Rick answered that under PA law, the only question that could be on a ballot would be whether East Goshen residents are in favor of incurring non-electoral debt. The referendum could not ask the more general question of whether the dam should be breached or repaired.

Lori Knox, 40 Lochwood Lane, expressed her deep sadness on changing the reservoir and Milltown Dam at all. She further stated that the reservoir is their entire view from her home, that this view was the main reason she and her family bought the home they did, and she wants the reservoir to be maintained. Senya informed Ms. Knox that this issue has been mandated by the DEP and the State, and the Board must respond accordingly under the circumstances.

Marion Albertus, Alcott Circle, expressed her desire for Alternative 7. Mr. Neast confirmed that Gannett Fleming favors this option as well.

William Leigh, Walker Lane, asked what the DEP would consider as "unacceptable progress" as it relates to the Dam decision. Mr. Reynolds (DEP) said that 5 years without any progress would be considered unacceptable.

Carmen motioned to have Gannett Fleming study the report from Ed Walsh Associates regarding Hershey's Mill Dam. Chuck seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Adjournment:

Senya thanked all who were present for their respectful attendance at the meeting. There being no further business, Janet motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm. Chuck seconded. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Rossetti Hartnett
Recording Secretary