

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: November 14, 2007
Time: 7:10 p.m.
Location: Lower Saucon Township

- A. Call to Order** - Priscilla deLeon, Chair
- B. Roll Call** - Present: Priscilla deLeon, Mayor Fluck, Jane Balum, Susan Baxter, Glenn Kern, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar. Guest: Ron Shegda, Lorraine Shegda
- C. Council Of Governments**
1. The minutes of the October 10, 2007 meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership were approved following a motion by Mayor Fluck, seconded by Susan Baxter.
 2. Treasurer's Report - Jack stated that the Checking Account has a current balance of \$31,360.55 at the end of October. He stated that a payment of \$2,867.17 was made to EPD during October from this account. The Treasurers Report Account has a balance of \$7,136.90. The only payment from this account in October was \$47.56 for supplies for the Community Input meeting on October 29, 2007. The Checking and Treasurers Account reports were approved following a motion by Glenn, seconded by Jane. Jack advised that we have two (2) bills from EPD to approve. The first is a bill for their services for the period August 1-31, 2007 which is contained in the letter dated September 12, 2007 in the amount of \$2,415.02. Jack stated that he reviewed this bill and found it to be in order and he recommended that it be paid. On a motion by Glenn, seconded by Susan the bill dated September 12, 2007 was approved for payment. The second bill covers EPD's services for the period October 1-31, 2007 which included their preparation for the Community Input meeting. That bill is contained in the letter dated November 7, 2007 and is in the amount of \$5,610.80. Jack stated that this bill is also in order and he recommended that it be paid. On a motion by Jane, seconded by Glenn the bill dated November 7, 2007 was approved for payment.
- D. Citizens On Agenda Items** - Ron Shegda will discuss under Brief Reports and Discussion Items
- E. Citizens On Non-Agenda Items** - Glenn Kern asked that whoever makes the arrangements for the vehicles to transport the Mayor and Council President at future Halloween Parades please ensure that the vehicle can accommodate both the Mayor and Council President in one vehicle. The vehicle this year had room for only the Mayor to sit in the rear. Mayor Fluck stated he arranged for the vehicle and thought it would be big enough to hold two people but discovered when it got there that it would not.
- F. Work Session - Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**
1. Follow-up on Community Meeting - October 29, 2007 - Priscilla said that she felt that the meeting was well attended. Charlie said that they felt that the Hellertown downtown was well covered at the session. He had to obtain information for Chief Delmore recently concerning a grant they are doing for Knox boxes and he was surprised that there were at least 150 storefronts on the Main Street corridor. Mayor Fluck said that he heard there were complaints that there were no representatives there from their Planning or Zoning boards. The Mayor said that they sent out letters to the Chairs of each body and distributed copies to the members. Ron Shegda, who said he is a member of the Borough Planning Commission, said that they have not received any information on the multi-municipal plan. He thought

that at the very least the consultant should be coming to the meetings of these planning bodies to discuss the plan. Jack stated that they identified approximately 75 different community stakeholder groups who could provide input during the plan process and they never envisioned the consultant visiting individually with all of them. Glenn said that the Community Input meeting was scheduled for the purpose of inviting representatives from these groups in to see where the plan process was. Jack said that a copy of the draft report will be distributed to everyone for review and comments and the final document would have to go through the Planning Commissions before it was adopted. (Tom Opsatnick arrived at 7:29 p.m.) There was a short discussion on the multi-municipal plan process and goals and outcomes that the Steering Committee and consultants are working on. Jane said that she has been very pleased with the consultants. Tom said that it was good to hear comments from the general public about what we are working on. The Steering Committee reviewed the Community Input Session Key Points that Carolyn Yagle put together to summarize the discussion at the session.

2. **Website Information** - Priscilla said that Ira volunteered to use the school district's website as a link to EPD's and Carolyn and AJ are working with Ira to get the Power Point presentation from the Community Input Session on there so it is available to the public.

G. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

1. **Casino Related Issues** - The Partnership has been notified that John Stoffa's committee has invited us to meet with them on December 10th to discuss their plans for the distribution of the casino host fees. Jack said that he believes that the Committee will run down the list of issues that they attached to their letter, some of which are problematic for us as priority municipalities in terms of how they feel they should dole out the money. Jack and Charlie feel that this committee has gone "way beyond" what Mr. Stoffa was looking for when he met with us last year and said that he was looking for a fair and objective way to distribute the county host funding. Tom felt that the County Council has gotten involved in this and his fear is that the municipalities who will not be impacted by the casino will be getting some of this money. Priscilla stated that Lisa Boscola told us that she would ensure that the priority municipalities got this money. Jack said that as far as we can tell there is no language in the legislation mandating any of the steps that the County is considering and he and Charlie will be getting in touch with Kurt Derr from Lisa's staff to clarify this before the meeting. Jack stated that according to the papers, John Stoffa is looking for an authority at the County level, the Northampton County General Purpose Authority, to handle the distribution of the host funds.
2. **Regional Policing** - Charlie stated that he contacted Chief Bryan Ross to find out where their report is as we anticipated receiving it from them in September/October. Chief Ross told him that they had finished the report several weeks ago and had submitted it to DCED and it is now in Harrisburg being reviewed by his boss and we should be receiving it within 30 days.
3. **Polk Valley Road Intersection Enhancements** - Jack stated that there was nothing new on this. The Township Engineer is preparing the Traffic Signal application package that will be submitted to PennDOT. Charlie said that the Borough will be starting to work on the improvements at the Main and Walnut Street intersection on December 3rd.
4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem** - Charlie said that Hellertown is still waiting for someone from the City of Bethlehem to come to a meeting and provide answers to the questions that the Borough Council has about the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU). Charlie said that he has been communicating with the assistant to Tony Hanna but has not heard anything so he will have to follow-up on this.
5. **Hellertown - Lower Saucon Compost Center** - Charlie said that the numbers of residents utilizing the facility has been fantastic. There have been 2,449 visits to the facility since it opened last May. 81% of these visits have been Hellertown residents and 19% were made

by Township residents. Charlie said that they had another machine demoed yesterday that cut up some of the material there. Charlie said that he has to contact Lehigh County to see if they can help us. Glenn related how the complaints from the neighbor about the dust conditions from the access road had been resolved by paving the road.

6. **Tax Reassessment** - no update. This is Ed's issue which we will keep on the agenda.
7. **Fire Analysis Study** - Jack stated there is nothing new on this. The Township is still waiting to hear from its four (4) fire companies about their interest in participating in the concept of the Fire Services Task Force that was presented by Dean Fernsler of DCED.
8. **SVSD Request for Procedure to Keep Track of Renters** - no update. Charlie said that the Borough does have a policy that requires an annual registration by property owners with rental properties. Jack said that the policies that are in place in several municipalities do not ask for information on renters below the age of 18 so we are not sure how helpful a policy like this would be to the school district. Ron Shegda asked if a zoning change for Main Street that would require a business rather than rental units would be helpful. Charlie said that that was one of the recommendations that the consultants for the multi-municipal comp plan were going to make to encourage business revitalization on the Main Street corridor.
9. **Ron Shegda Presentation on Speed Limit Trailers** - Ron said that the information that Chief Lesser had obtained on the 3M Driver Feedback Signs showed that these devices were light years ahead of the older, bulkier speed trailers that he was originally proposing that the Township and Borough acquire to enforce speed limits on Borough/Township roads. The 3M representative demoed the signs for Township and Borough representatives and everybody likes them. They can be mounted on a speed limit pole and not only give speed warnings but they also log data about the number and the speed of the vehicles using that street which can be downloaded by the police department. They cost around \$3,500. Ron said that the crossing guards at St. Theresa's said that there is a speeding problem on Easton Road. The signs have to be combined with police enforcement. The 3M representative said that there are currently none of these signs in Pennsylvania so possibly they will work with us as a promotional. He recommends that we see if they will work with us as demonstration community. Mayor Fluck said that there is no speeding problem on Main Street; Lee Weidner did an unofficial speed check of motorists using Main Street recently and over a one-hour period determined that their average speed was 34 mph in a 30 mph zone. The Mayor said that the Hellertown PD monitors Easton Road on a daily basis and issues a lot of tickets for speeding. Jane said that Coopersburg Borough has one of the speed trailers which they put out on 309 and it does absolutely nothing to reduce the speed of the traffic. Priscilla said that the COG can only recommend to the municipal bodies that something like this be purchased, it can't spend money itself. We could recommend that grant funding be pursued. Jack said that there is information in the brochure about Safe Routes to School grants from DOT. It was suggested that Susan take the information back to the school board and if they were interested in this we could bring it back here and have the COG support it and recommend to their respective bodies that we pursue funding to purchase them.
10. **Proposed Leithsville Sewer** - Glenn said that he felt that this issue should be brought before the COG so that we could all understand the process, what the issues are, what Hellertown's take on it was, etc. Jack briefly went over the process that the Lower Saucon Authority has been following for the past 1-2 years on the proposed sewer line from Leithsville that must pass through Hellertown Borough to connect with the City of Bethlehem sewer treatment plant. The authority has been working with the Hellertown Borough Authority and has made several presentations before the Borough Council. Jack displayed a series of photographs showing the alternatives that were considered for the proposed route of the line and answered questions from the SVP members. Jack stated that the proposed line would enable the Borough to hook up restrooms at the Water Street Park and to allow the Grist Mill connect with the system. There have been some environmental concerns raised by the Borough that the Authority has addressed. The installation of the line would not adversely impact the sports fields in Hellertown - there would be no manholes in

the middle of fields and the construction would be done around playing schedules. Jack stated that there are some legal and engineering issues that need to be worked out by the Solicitors from the Authority and Borough and he believed that the Authority would take this issue off the Borough Council agenda until these were resolved.

11. **COG Website** - Priscilla asked if there were any plans to get a COG website. Charlie said that there discussions with the school back in 2006 about using a tech guy named Mike Hanson to help us with this. Ed Inghrim had volunteered him sometime ago.

I. Events Calendar - no update

J. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8: 55 p.m. by a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership will be held on December 12, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Saucon Valley School District.