

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: July 11, 2007
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Location: Hellertown Borough

A. Call to Order – Jane Balum

B. **Roll Call** - Present: Jane Balum, Susan Baxter, Glenn Kern, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar. Guests: Jenny McKenna

C. Council Of Governments

1. The minutes of the June 13, 2007 meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership were approved following a motion by Glenn, seconded by Susan.
2. Treasurer's Report – Jack stated that the good news was that we have received payment of the invoices that we sent it to the State and we are once again solvent. We received a total of \$24,389 from the DCED from our LUPTAP grant. We are still waiting to hear from Northampton County on the \$20,000 we asked them for to fulfill the commitment that was made to us by the previous administration for this contribution. Charlie stated that Lorie Sywensky told him that there is a problem with this in that the commitment was made by previous County DCED staff, Drew Lewis and Stacy Schlaner, and was not properly documented. She did emphasize that we will definitely get the money. The fund balance in the SVP checking account right now is \$6,250.90 and the balance in our other account is \$17,853.25 and there are no bills from EPD that have to be paid this month. Susan questioned why the SVP letterhead was done at Town & Country and not at the school district? Jack and Charlie indicated that the school district did do a small amount but there were problems with the address and the ink that was used. Jack also said that he spoke to Dave Bonenberger at the school district last month and Dave said that they would send us their 2007 dues payment in July. The Treasurer's reports were approved following a motion by Glenn, seconded by Susan.

D. **Citizens On Agenda Items** - None

E. **Citizens On Non-Agenda Items** - None

F. Work Session - Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan

Jack stated that EPD will not be at this meeting as planned. They will be coming back to the August meeting with a draft of the plan. Jack distributed copies of the five (5) color concept plan maps that Carolyn had put together after the June 13, 2007 meeting and stated that the maps relate to the areas that they covered at the June 13th meeting which are described in detail in the minutes from that meeting. Jack stated that EPD asked that the Steering Committee go back over the list of priorities that we had listed in the May 9th minutes following the April 30th interactive workshop and email them what each of us feels is our top 7 priorities. Jack stated that these are individual priorities, not the joint priorities from the Steering Committee. Charlie stated that EPD will also come back with their fiscal models which will break out some of the costs for the municipalities and school district. Susan asked if we were going to address the concept of "Traditional Neighborhood Development" (TND) in our plan. She had read an article in one of the local papers discussing this and she wondered if that would work out in the Wassergass area where we are proposing a "Village" type of concept? Glenn felt that you would need a lot of municipal infrastructure such as sewer and water to support this type of concept. Jack stated that they will ask Carolyn and AJ to respond to this at the next meeting. Charlie stated that the recent update we all received in the "Planning Beyond Boundaries" material briefly discussed the use of TNDs. Jenny said that she felt that the Borough could be viewed as many "villages" spread out along Main Street which each need their own

identity. Susan stated that the article spoke more about creating “new” TNDs rather than putting it into an existing town. Jack stated that programs such as the Elm Street Program are aimed at revitalizing existing neighborhoods in cities.

G. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

1. **Casino Related Issues** - Jack handed out a newspaper article that reported on the workings of a committee that John Stoffa formed to study how the County wants to distribute the casino host fees. Jack stated that part of this Committee’s charge is to look at the process that we recommended to them for the distribution of the funding to the priority municipalities. The recent report of the committee’s proceedings is a concern as it appears that this Committee is getting into too much detail about how they are going to pass out this money. A County official stated at this meeting that the County may want to look at the Borough or Township’s budgets as part of their eligibility process, which Jack stated is going “way beyond” what the state legislation says about the County’s responsibility to distribute this funding. The legislation only says that the money is supposed to go to the municipalities “for municipal grants”. Other municipalities plan on using it for such things as tax relief, emergency services, etc. and it appears that Bethlehem and Allentown are not going to be restrained in how they use these host fees, so we need to be prepared to address this when we meet with this committee in October. Charlie said that they also appear to be leaning in the direction of asking us for “proof” to back up our requests such as traffic studies, so we are looking into what the cost would be to come up with “baseline traffic data”. Jack said that when he attended Tony Branco’s recent Northampton County Council Intergovernmental Committee meeting in Northampton Borough, he brought up this topic and Tony said that he would be looking for data on traffic accidents, crimes, etc with these requests. Jenny said that she has spoken to Tony and he does not feel that the money for the priority municipalities should be shared equally with Bethlehem and Hanover Townships. He does want to see traffic data, etc. but doesn’t want the municipalities to have to go to any expense to collect this data.
2. **Regional Policing** - Charlie said that he has been trying to reach Ron Stern for an update and he was out of the office. Jane said that the peer consultants have an appointment to speak to Chief Balum tomorrow. Jack said that we have advised them that they have to meet with each of the council members before they issue their draft report.
3. **Polk Valley Road Intersection Enhancements** - Jack showed the members the plan that has been drawn up for the signal on Polk Valley Road. He advised that they tried to enlist the cooperation of the property owners on the west side of 412 (McDonalds & American Family Services Foundation) to enhance this plan by agreeing and paying for enhancements to the plan by opening McAdoo Street on their side of the intersection and that was unsuccessful so we are moving on with this original plan. Charlie stated that we will have one more meeting with all of the property owners and the school district and if there is no movement we will move ahead to PennDOT for the permitting. Charlie said that they are finally getting some movement on the Walnut Street intersection: the trees will be taken down on July 30th; PPL will move their poles in early August; Verizon needs to come in and move their equipment; they hope to have something started by the time school starts.
4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem** - Charlie stated that Freemansburg and Lower Saucon Township have approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU). He is trying to get Tony Hanna or his representative to come to a Borough Council meeting to answer questions about the MOU.
5. **Hellertown - Lower Saucon Compost Center** - Jack handed out pictures taken of a tub grinder that was demoed at the Compost Center. The machine was able to grind up all of the yard waste we had accumulated since its opening in April and also all of the stumps that had been taking up space at the center. Charlie and Jack stated that the machine works so fast and efficiently that it convinced us that we do not need to have a piece of equipment such as this on-site all the time. With the cost of such a machine running close to \$400,000 it would be better used if it was purchased by the County and shared with the municipalities like Lehigh County does with the tub grinder they have. The number of people using the Center is increasing each week. The Borough has higher numbers but we are building an awareness in the Township and those numbers are increasing also. There have

been ads in the paper. Charlie said that he was contacted by a local church who was interested in having its members volunteer at the center. Jack stated that a draft of Inter-municipal Agreement that Mike Corriere and Linc Treadwell worked on will be distributed to the Councils.

6. **Tax Reassessment** - Jack stated that Ed was in California. He handed out a draft copy of the resolution calling for a countywide property tax reassessment. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
7. **Fire Analysis Study** - Jack stated that the four (4) township fire companies will be meeting with Dean Fernsler from DCED on July 23rd.
8. **SVSD Request for Procedure to Keep Track of Renters** - Jack stated that he got in touch with Dr. Fellin about this and she did not indicate that this was a critical problem with the school district. He did advise that the Borough does have some information on renters; the Township does not collect this data. Susan stated that the Board would like to address this problem. Dr. Fellin feels that the City of Easton may have a system that does track the renters and we would like to look into it. The district does not know if they have a problem or not but would like to look into it. Charlie said that he will check with the City of Easton. The Borough's system only checks adults over the age of 18.

I. Events Calendar - Jack provided the link to the events calendar.

J. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM by a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership will be held on August 8, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m. at Lower Saucon Township.