

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: August 8, 2007
Time: 7:07 p.m.
Location: Lower Saucon Township

B. Call to Order - Priscilla deLeon

C. Roll Call - Present: Jane Balum, Mayor Fluck, Susan Baxter, Ed Inghrim, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar.

D. Council Of Governments

2. The minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership were approved following a motion by Jane, seconded by Susan.
2. Treasurer's Report – Jack stated that the Checking Account has a current balance of \$28,352.25. He stated that as reported at the previous meeting, we did receive funding of at least a 1/3 of the \$62,000 LUPTAP grant from DCED. We are still waiting for the \$20,000 contribution that was promised to us by Northampton County. The Treasurers Report Account has a balance of \$7,250.90 and it reflects that we did receive the 2007 dues payment of \$1,000 from the Saucon Valley School District. Several payments for PACOG dues, advertising and SVP letterhead have been made from this account. The Checking and Treasurers Account reports were approved following a motion by Ed, seconded by Susan. Jack advised that we received a bill dated July 6, 2007 from EPD for their services from June 1-30, 2007 in the amount of \$14,044.22. The bill includes EPD charges plus those of Teresa Sparacino for her Main Street - Hellertown work and Skelly & Loy for their work performed on the traffic and infrastructure areas of the plan. Jack stated that he reviewed the bill and found it to be in order and he recommended that it be paid. On a motion by Susan, seconded by Ed the bill dated July 6, 2007 was approved for payment.

B. Citizens On Agenda Items - None

C. Citizens On Non-Agenda Items - None

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

Jack stated that EPD will not be at this meeting. Priscilla stated that EPD had asked the Steering Committee to submit to them our top 7 priorities from the list of high priorities they culled from the interactive workshop. So far only three members of the committee have submitted these priorities to them. Jack handed out sheets that the members could fill out tonight or take home with them and send back either directly to Carolyn and AJ or drop off with Jack & Charlie. Jack stated that these are individual priorities, not the joint priorities from the Steering Committee. Jack stated that EPD will be back in September with a draft plan to share with us. A Community meeting will be arranged sometime in the fall. Charlie stated that Mike Schlossberg, the Borough Business Revitalization Coordinator, will be hooking up with Teresa Sparacino to share with her the work that the Borough Business Revitalization Committee has already done on downtown Hellertown.

B. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

1. **Casino Related Issues** - Jack handed out a newspaper article that reported today that the Sands Bethworks Casino would be asking the PA Gaming Control Board for a delay in their opening until 2009 due to difficulties they are experiencing with the demolition of the Bethlehem Steel buildings. Jack stated that we are anticipating an invitation to attend a meeting in October of John Stoffa's committee that he established to make recommendations to Northampton County on the distribution of the casino host county fees. Bob Pfenning, who is a member of the Committee, advised him that they met on the 2nd Monday of each month which would be October 8th but that is Columbus Day

which may be a holiday for the County so we will have to wait and see. Priscilla recalled a meeting with Lisa Boscola where she stated that the “priority municipalities” would be guaranteed to get the money and that all the County was supposed to do was to make recommendations to DCED. Jack stated that the legislation states that DCED is responsible for the distribution of the funding. Jack stated that the delayed opening of the casino will mean that the host fees will not be available until sometime late in 2009.

2. **Regional Policing** - Jack stated that Chief Ross, the peer consultant, indicated that he and Chief Graeff would be available to interview the Mayor and Council members during the week of August 13-17, 2007.
3. **Polk Valley Road Intersection Enhancements** - Charlie stated that we have a meeting set up for August 15, 2007 with the property owners on each of the corners. We will be dealing with the new owners of the shopping center since it has been sold. He did talk to Wally Zimpfer at the school district but he will be on vacation. He advised that we tried but were unsuccessful in getting the property owners on the west side of 412 (McDonalds & American Family Services Foundation) to improve the plan by agreeing to open and improve McAdoo Street on their side of the intersection, so we are moving forward with our original plan and will be submitting it to PennDOT after this meeting for the permitting.
2. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem** - Charlie stated that Freemansburg and Lower Saucon Township have approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU). He has not gotten any feedback from Tony Hanna or Darlene Heller at the City of Bethlehem on Hellertown’s request to have someone come to a Borough Council meeting to answer questions about the MOU.
5. **Hellertown - Lower Saucon Compost Center** - Charlie advised that the Compost Center has been open now for almost 3 months and over 1,200 borough and township residents have utilized the facility. The Borough has higher numbers but we are building up an awareness in the Township and those numbers are increasing also. We had a tub grinder at the Compost Center in July that in about 2 hours was able to grind up all of the yard waste we had accumulated since the April opening. That performance convinced us that we do not need to have a piece of equipment such as this on-site all the time and it would be better if it was purchased by the County and shared with the municipalities like Lehigh County does with the tub grinder they have. Some residents are taking the leaf material that is available at the Compost Center. There have been complaints from the adjacent residents about the dust from the entrance road which we are addressing. We are also looking into signs at the curve on Springtown Hill Road where you enter the facility and also signs on Route 412 telling people where the facility is located. Jack stated the Township Council will be looking to adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement at their upcoming meeting and after that we will put together an interim budget so that we can show what the cost has been to operate the facility in 2007. Charlie said that he was contacted by a local church who was interested in having its members volunteer for one of the days in September.
2. **Tax Reassessment** - Jack handed out a draft copy of the resolution calling for a countywide property tax reassessment. He advised that he brought this topic up at the County Intergovernmental Committee that Tony Branco held recently that several Northampton County committee representatives attended and it got a very negative reception. Ed stated that there are a lot of misunderstandings about the impact of a reassessment. A certain percentage of people will see an increase in their assessments. One of the recommendations that his group made was to build in senior tax relief so they did not get hit with this type of increase. Ed said that the school district could not go down this road much longer waiting for change and they may have to go to Plan B which was to have the school district file appeals on each property sale. Ed said that he will look over the resolution and bring it back.
3. **Fire Analysis Study** - Jack stated that the four (4) township fire companies had the meeting with Dean Fernsler from DCED in July and it was a good meeting. Mr. Fernsler recommended the creation of a Fire Services Task Force which is made up of representatives from the fire companies, the township and residents. The fire companies are discussing this recommendation and will be getting back to the Township with their response.
4. **SVSD Request for Procedure to Keep Track of Renters** - Charlie said that he did check with the City of Easton and they only keep track of renters 18 years of age and older just like Hellertown

does. Jack stated that Richland Township also has an ordinance requiring the registration of renters. Ed said that even a system that tracks adults would be helpful as the school district could match the surnames of the children attending school with the address. Jack said that we can keep this on the agendas and bring back additional information.

6. **Diane Elliott request for comments on PA land use reform** - Charlie said that Diane Elliott sent around an email stating that she was going to a conference in October and was going to be talking about sprawl and she was looking for feedback. The group suggested that we provide Diane with a copy of the draft EPD report which might help her out. Jack said that he would speak to Carolyn about this. Jack handed out copies of the article that had run in the Morning Call about Traditional Neighborhood Development. He had sent the article to EPD and asked them to comment on it regarding our plan when they come back in September.

I. Events Calendar - Priscilla stated that Community Day is next week. The Halloween Parade will be on October 21st. The Saucon Valley Conservancy will be holding its first Barn Tour on September 15, 2007 which will cover ten (10) barns in the area.

J. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by a unanimous voice vote.

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