



BOSS 2020 REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
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SINKING SPRING
BOSS 2020 REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
SSB COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SSB BUSINESS & COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2016

Call to Order

Charles Coleman (President) called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Present: Charles Coleman (President-D), Bernie Campbell (VP-ED), Lisa Gantner (Council/Treasurer-P), Jim Adams (Berks IDA-ED), Robert Hughes (McDonalds-ED), Robert Metzgar (Wilson SD-ED), Merlin Weaver (Berks Realtors-D), Joe Eways (Sickafus-ED), Ken Pick (Berks Redevelopment Authority), Bob Ludgate, (Ludgate Engineering Corporation [LEC] and Sam Loth, Community Development Services [CDS].

Note: Committees: ED-Economic, D-Design, P-Promotion.

Guests: Spring Committee Against PPL and Residents of Sinking Spring Borough: Jan Roland, John Roland, Tim Sanger and Sherry Sanger.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **Motion by Bernie Campbell** to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2016. **Second by Merlin Weaver.** Motioned passed unanimously.

PPL State Hill-Berkshire Transmission Line

- Sam Loth reported on the meeting between PPL representatives, Borough Council, BOSS 2020 and Borough Staff on September 22nd prior to the PPL Open House event at The Inn at Reading.
- PPL claims that the proposed route for this new **secondary** transmission line has the least impact to property owners and is the least costly overall to the utility.
- The Borough/BOSS requested documents that substantiate these claims including the reviews of alternate routes and the financial impact statements.
- The Borough asked PPL to revisit the Cacoosing Creek alternate route and report to the Borough.
- PPL agreed to work with the Borough/BOSS and provide the reports requested. To date, PPL has not released any documents.
- Bernie Campbell asked which geographic areas would be serviced by this **secondary** transmission line if it is needed in an emergency?
- Bob Ludgate answered that PPL has not made that information available but based on what the Borough/BOSS have been able to ascertain, the larger commercial areas such as Broadcasting Square and the Van Reed/State Hill Road shopping centers would benefit but to our knowledge, no residents or businesses in Sinking Spring would receive emergency back-up power from this line.

- Sherry Sanger asked if any easements had been signed with PPL for the **secondary** transmission line?
- Robert Hughes answered that he believed Pat Garrett of Sickafus properties had signed an agreement.
- Joe Eways, representing Sickafus Properties corrected Mr. Hughes stating that Mr. Garrett had not entered into an agreement and that he was not inclined to do so because the remainder of his land in the CBD would lose substantial value.
- Sam Loth said that in his preliminary conversations with lawyers, they have indicated that if PPL uses Eminent Domain, a hearing at the PA Utilities Commission (PUC) is triggered and a judge hears the case for and against. The project as proposed would likely be presented as far too expensive for PPL because of the loss in value to Borough CBD land that is designated for redevelopment.
- Jan Roland asked if the Borough had standing in this matter considering it doesn't own any of the property in question?
- Sam Loth answered that the lawyers said it would be the Borough that would bring an action against PPL at a potential PUC Hearing because the Borough has been investing funds for the revitalization program and the Borough will stand to lose a substantial amount of tax revenue if the redevelopment is not forthcoming.
- Sherry Sanger asked if anyone was looking into the 'environmental impact' of the proposed project and whether an environmental organization could be identified to oppose the project? Could that delay the forward movement of the process?
- Sam Loth said that the BOSS 2020 Committee was looking into this possibility.
- Jan Roland asked whether there has been a determination of the value lost to private citizens who are homeowners along the proposed route?
- Sam Loth said that this is one area the BOSS Committee is working on. Sam also put forth the question whether Spring Township, the Borough, BOSS members and Spring Neighbors would be willing to donate money toward a pool to use for legal representation?
- Sherry Sanger replied that it was unlikely that Spring Neighbors would be able to raise any substantial amount toward the cause but that she would be willing to circulate a letter raising this question.
- Bernie Campbell suggested that he would be willing to donate toward a pool of funding if legal services become necessary. Sam followed that he would also donate. The Spring Neighbors asked if BOSS 2020 would write a draft letter for them to distribute. The Committee agreed to have Sam Loth draft a letter.
- The BOSS Committee will research the following:
 - > The feasibility and cost of launching a legal opposition to the PPL project.
 - > What is the time frame for PPL to determine the need to seek Eminent Domain.
 - > What is the step-by-step process.
 - > How does the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) become involved.
- The following is the Public Utilities Commission website address:
www.puc.pa.gov

Treasurer's Report

- Sam Loth said that he had visited the Fulton Bank branch along Shillington Road in the Lowes shopping center and had spoken with the Branch Manager about changing signature cards on the BOSS 2020 account. The Manager asked that Lisa Gantner and Charles Coleman both visit the branch office in person and sign new signature cards. All old cards will be disabled.
- Sam turned over all the Treasurer's books and records to Lisa.

PennDOT Pedestrian Safety & Keystone Communities Grant Projects

- Bob Ludgate reported that PennDOT will not allow the widening of sidewalks in the 3900 Block of Penn Avenue because the road grade, curb lines and storm water inlets cannot be built to compatibility. This frees funding from the KC Grant set aside for this project totaling \$150,000.

- Bob Ludgate further reported that the Inspection Company chosen from the PennDOT list of approved companies has been suspended because of questionable activities on other projects. In order to build the 4400 Block new sidewalk and curb, the Borough can either wait for PennDOT to reassign a new Inspection Company or pick a new company from PennDOT's list. Nevertheless, a lengthy process must be followed.

Motion by Bernie Sanders to shift award funding from the Keystone Communities Grant for public improvements to the 3900 Block sidewalks to Inspections of the construction work on sidewalks in the 4400 Block of Penn Avenue. **Second by Jim Adams.** Motioned passed unanimously.

Phase 4 Realignment of Shillington, Mull & Penn Avenue Intersection

- Bob Ludgate reported that meetings between PennDOT, BOSS, the Borough and Cape Asset Management are underway to create a P-3 to construct this intersection project as early as 2017-2018. BOSS will be kept advised of the progress.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Sinking Spring Borough Hall**