

**DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 28th, 2024**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors Work Session for Monday, October 28th, 2024, was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairperson Stephen Stefanowicz in the Dover Township Board of Supervisors meeting room. Supervisors present were Chuck Richards, Stephen Parthree, and Michael Cashman. Robert Stone attended the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager; John McLucas, Planning Director; Christian Miller, Solicitor; Terry Myers, Township Engineer; Cory McCoy, CS Davidson; Christopher Hamme, Public Works Director; Mark Henise, ELA Group; and Brooke Scarce, Township Secretary. There were 15 members of the public present.

This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minutes only.

DISCUSS EAST CANAL/ FOX RUN ROAD INTERSECTION

T. Myers stated that he will let Mark Henise from ELA Group explain the different drawings.

M. Henise provided the Board with a quick review of the four different drawings that were previously presented.

T. Myers stated that the south side of Fox Run Road is being considered for relocation to make it line up with the North side. The turning radii will be increased and will be able to handle box trucks.

M. Henise stated that the South side will be able to handle tractor trailers, and the North side will be able to handle 30 foot box trucks.

M. Cashman questioned what sparked the interest to land the Board in planning for improvements at this intersection.

Manager Oswalt stated that based on the local road study, this intersection was marked for improvement since at least 2005. Based off that traffic study, it was stated that in the future this intersection was going to need to be signalized along with several others. The intersection is not perfectly aligned, which can lead to sight distance issues. There have also been complaints about speeding in that area and the speed limit has been lowered with PennDOT's approval to 25 mph. However, it does not meet the warrants for a signalized light yet per the most recent review by ELA Group.

C. Richards stated that the Comprehensive Plan suggested a bypass around the Borough as development occurs in the Industrial Park area.

M. Cashman questioned if Fox Run South of Canal Road is built to handle truck traffic.

C. Richards stated that tractor trailers should be turning onto Palomino Road and then turning

left or right onto Carlisle Road rather than following Fox Run Road the whole way out to Carlisle Road.

T. Myers stated that one of the thoughts he had, because of the turning lanes causing the most amount of impact on the adjacent property owners, was to move forward with the improvements to make the alignment and not install any of the turning lanes.

M. Henise stated that most times, PennDOT requires entire intersection to be addressed to improve it rather than in pieces. If this is something that the Board would be interested in having him look at, he could go to PennDOT to see what their thoughts would be on this suggestion.

C. Richards stated that if that is an option he would be in favor of just making the necessary improvements and not add the turning lanes.

R. Stone stated that Meadow Road in the Borough was built for truck traffic but a possibility is to restrict truck traffic on Fox Run Road between Butter Road and Canal Road.

C. Richards questioned if trucks could be restricted on that section of Fox Run Road.

M. Henise said they could possibly restrict truck traffic on that section if there is nowhere else for them to turn and if there's a turning problem at the intersection.

Larry Copper from 1541 East Canal Road stated that there is a weight restriction on the bridge on Fox Run Road.

C. Richards stated that the bridge has been upgraded and there is no weight restriction.

S. Stefanowicz stated that the Engineer is suggesting minimizing the impact on the width of road by seeing if it is possible to make the improvements without the turning lanes. It would still provide the safety improvement of realignment.

T. Myers stated there would probably be shoulder improvements that would need to be completed but the safety improvements would also include the alignment of the roads.

Tammy Lohss from 1587 East Canal Road stated that it is very rare for traffic to be backed up in front of her driveway. If the turn lane is the route the Board decides to move forward with, she is unsure why it is needed since traffic does not back up in that area.

Cherie Saxon from 1591 East Canal Road stated that with all the options currently under consideration, she is not a fan of any of them because they cut way too close to her property and the noise level would increase since the house would be closer to the road. She no longer wants to live at her house if any of the designs are approved and would prefer to sell the house or have the Township file eminent domain on her property.

S. Stefanowicz stated that they are trying to come up with different designs that have a minimal impact on the property owners.

Manager Oswalt stated that there is something called a friendly condemnation where if the property owner is willing to sell their property, the process would be done the same way with the exception of going through the court process. The Township would have to get an appraisal, if the property owner is not happy with the appraisal, they are allowed to get their own but the most the Township can pay is the average of the two appraisals because it is using public dollars.

C. Saxon stated that she would like to have a more in-depth conversation on that possibility at a later date.

C. Richards questioned how much the drawings would be changed if the property owner does move forward with a friendly condemnation.

T. Myers stated that this possible project is still in the preliminary phases, but can they review different designs to shift the north side of Fox Run Road, as opposed to shifting the south side to make the realignment.

Rick Wilson from 1612 East Canal Road stated that if the people traveling on East Canal Road at the correct speeds, would the improvements to the intersection be necessary.

S. Stefanowicz stated that it is a tough question to answer. In some cases, the issue has not been speed as much as the alignment of the road and the sight distance available at the intersection.

Manager Oswalt stated that the turning lanes are not just warranted because of speed, they are also warranted because of the number of vehicles at certain points throughout the day making certain movements.

M. Henise stated that the speed is accounted for when making the warrant evaluation, but it's based on the posted speed limits and not the actual speeds.

Thaloniaus Saxon from 1591 East Canal Road questioned how far apart the speed limit signs are from each other.

C. Hamme stated that it is determined by the speed of the road set by PennDOT standards.

M. Henise stated that they are not supposed to less than ½ mile apart at major intersections.

T. Saxon stated that he travels on different roads throughout different Townships and Boroughs often. Many times, in his travels he notices that there are digitalized speed signs that tell you how fast you are going. He questioned if the digitalized signs would be an option that could be considered.

C. Hamme stated that the digitalized signs would have to be approved through PennDOT.

R. Wilson stated that at a previous meeting he had a question about stormwater management and was wondering if there was a follow up to his question.

T. Myers stated that he did notice the pipe that the property owner is talking about, but stormwater management has not yet been discussed just because we are unsure of what the layout is going to be until the Board decides how to move forward.

M. Henise stated that if the Township does acquire the property on the north side, it would allow the realignment of the intersection at 90 degrees.

With no further discussion on this matter, Chairperson Stephen Stefanowicz adjourned the Work Session at 6:39 PM to be followed by the regular Board of Supervisors meeting at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Brooke M. Scarce

Brooke M. Scarce, Township Secretary