

A Public Hearing of Bloomsburg Town Council was held Monday, September 17, 2007, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, 301 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA. Present were Mayor Claude Renninger; Council Members Don Pursel, Bill Brobst, Paul Kinney, Terry Lemon, Dan Knorr and Paul Houseknecht and Town Administrator Carol Mas.

PUBLIC HEARING – FORMATION OF BLOOMSBURG AREA JOINT FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

Mayor Renninger opened the hearing by explaining the purpose of the hearing and the procedure for taking comments from the audience.

Bill Seigel of SEDA-COG reviewed the benefits of forming an authority and gave a brief overview of the process the county and town have gone through over the past year.

Florence Thompson of 424 Iron Street commented that a legal notice was not sufficient advertisement for the hearing. She questioned the county's involvement and wondered why the town was not forming the authority on their own since Bloomsburg residents will feel the brunt of any tax increase to pay for flood protection. She also asked if the county was willing to assume part of the debt. Mr. Seigel explained that an authority will be a separate entity with the responsibility of funding the project. A flooding event affects the entire county not just Bloomsburg proper so partnering with the county really enhances the project.

Bill Brobst shared in some of F. Thompson's concerns. Bloomsburg has always been known as the "local sponsor". He asked if the authority would now be considered the local sponsor and if the authority can assess graduating fees as Sunbury did. B. Seigel said the intent of the authority was to become the local sponsor and an authority has the power to assess fees for those they service. He believed Sunbury had a flat fee and that they had determined all residents connected to the sanitary sewer system benefited from flood protection.

B. Brobst was also concerned about the reference to the Army Corps project in the resolution and the dated information within the study. C. Renninger explained that the authority will initially be responsible for the project but would not be limited to this one project in the future. B. Seigel said the authority would assess the value of the data independently to assure that during design and engineering the best project would be constructed.

Mary Ann Dalkiewicz of Sunnyside Drive in Fernville posed several questions. B. Seigel's answers follow each question. Will Hemlock Township be sharing in the cost since they have a seat on the Board? Response is no. Will there be a future cost to the residents of Fernville for the protection? Any future cost would be up to the authority. Why is an elected official to be appointed? It states that no more than one be an elected official; it does not have to be one. Does Wilkes-Barre operate under an authority? Yes they do, as does Sunbury and Lock Haven. What is the date of the completed project? There is no date for completion at this point in time. Ms. Dalkiewicz is not opposed to flood protection as she gets flooded in not flooded out which she considers a safety issue.

Jean Golomb inquired as to the qualifications the town and county are looking for in the members appointed to the board. B. Seigel said the committee looked at educational background, expertise the member could bring to the board, dedication and interest in the mission of the authority.

Ken Criswell of Reiter Automotive Systems read a prepared statement from the President of the corporation expressing what flood protection means to their facility.

The hearing concluded at 6:40pm and a Special Meeting of Council convened.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-17-07.01

On a motion by B. Brobst, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution No. 09-17-07.01 signifying the desire and intention to organize a municipality authority jointly with the County of Columbia for the purpose of undertaking a flood control project and appurtenant facilities; setting forth the proposed Articles of Incorporation; appointing and affixing the terms for the first members to represent the Town on the Board of the Authority; authorizing the execution of the Articles of Incorporation and doing all matters necessary for creation of the authority.

ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF RETIREMENT FROM BARBARANN ADAMS

On a motion by T. Lemon, seconded by P. Kinney and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the notice of retirement from Law Enforcement Administrative Assistant Barbarann Adams with much regret and commended her on her years of service.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTANCE OF MICHAEL UPTON FORM BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY BOARD

On a motion by D. Pursel, seconded by P. Houseknecht and voted on unanimously, Council accepted the resignation of Michael Upton from the Bloomsburg Municipal Authority Board with deep regret.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

CAROL L. MAS
Town Administrator & Secretary