

**LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 26, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Scott-Harper  
Michael Pickel  
Thomas Szakas  
David Connors  
Steven Zurl

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ken Battin, Township Manager  
Shane Kinsey, Director of Public Works  
Dawn Maciejczyk, Township Secretary  
9 Audience Members  
McMahon and Associates Engineering Firm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Scott-Harper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**I. STATE ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT**

Mr. Scott-Harper thanked everyone for coming and introduced McMahon and Associates Engineering Firm. He reviewed that the Board of Supervisors started looking into the cost and need of sidewalks a couple of years ago. The Township originally applied for a grant with a hand-written plan that was rejected. Mr. Scott-Harper said that in our workings amongst people we found out that the Township really needed a plan from an Engineer to get somewhere with the grants. The Board of Supervisors instructed the Township Manager to put the project out for an RFP (Request for Proposal) and a couple of Engineering Firms replied. McMahon and Associates was the one who was the most qualified and had the most experience in applying for grant money. This is still in an investigative stage. The Board has not committed to putting in the sidewalks at this time. We are getting the report/update from McMahon Associates tonight at the same time as you.

Steve Giampaolo, McMahon & Associates, said we are a Transportation Engineering Firm. He has with him, Dan Wanger and John Tyson. Mr. Giampaolo said first he would like to review the project limits. This project would go down the south side of State Road from Route 841/Goddard Park down to Schoolhouse Road. He said they also looked at other phases of the project and this would be Phase 1. A possible Phase 2 would be Schoolhouse Road to the Church of Nazarene and other Phases could include Rose Hill Road to Schoolhouse Road. Because of funding you cannot do it all at once. There just is not enough money available to make that happen.

Municipalities have to create a project that has a purpose and a need but that it can also fit within a certain budget that is attractive to the people who are reviewing the grant. The purpose of this project would be to create a safe continuous pedestrian access route within the project limits. The provision of a new sidewalk within the project limits will provide connectivity between the Avon Grove High School and Middle School campus and Goddard Park, including the residential areas north and south of State Road and to the west of Goddard Park. In addition, this would also establish a new pedestrian network with the potential of connecting existing sidewalks in the future.

The Design approach of the sidewalks would have two options. Option 1 would be no buffer and option 2 would be a 3' wide buffer. The curb height would be 8". The roadway design would have to be considered. Lane widths of 9 to 11 feet and additionally

1 to 2 feet offset for curbed lanes. Mr. Giampaolo is recommending that London Grove Township go with 10-foot-wide lanes and a 1-foot curb offset. He said they will also conduct a turning analysis for school buses. This design would provide safety for pedestrians and maximize sight distance at all cross streets (SR 841, Heather Grove Lane, Worthington Drive and Schoolhouse Road). The Board of Supervisors would have to negotiate sidewalk easements with each property owner individually when the time comes.

The sidewalk project schedule milestones are Preliminary Engineering Design which is where we are currently. We will work on securing funding from September 2017 to August 2018. Then we will fall into the final design, the right-of-way acquisitions, bidding and construction commencement. If the Township funded this project it would be from September 2017 to September 2018, PennDOT Multi-Modal funded would be from September 2017 to Summer 2019, and TAP (Federal) funded would be from September 2017 to August 2020. Tonight, we are just reviewing where we are so far and displaying the plans for the Township residents. We will also discuss individually how this project could affect the different homes along State Road.

Mr. Scott-Harper asked Mr. Giampaolo if the sidewalks need to be 5ft wide. Mr. Giampaolo said yes, they do. Mr. Zurl asked are there utilities on that side of the road that will be affected by this project? Mr. Giampaolo said yes, we will have to move some of the utilities. Mr. Zurl asked if the road width would change? Mr. Giampaolo said no. Mr. Szakas said are people on both sides of the street affected? Mr. Giampaolo said no it will only be the one side of State Road that will be affected. The inlet boxes on that side of the street are in rough shape and should in their opinion (McMahon) be replaced. They are not adding additional inlets, there is no need. Mr. Szakas said just to be clear, once the sidewalk is in the burden of up keep is on the homeowner correct? A resident said just to be clear, I am not able to go out and shovel snow and cut grass, I already have to pay someone to do that. Mr. Szakas asked Mr. Scott-Harper how does that work, if someone cannot/ is physically unable to maintain these sidewalks? Mr. Scott-Harper said that's why we need to negotiate with the individual homeowners.

A resident said how long will it take to complete the sidewalks once construction has started? Mr. Giampaolo said its ideal to go to bid in the winter so that the contractor is ready to go once the weather breaks. If they start in approximately March they should be complete by approximately the end of September. We just started one in April and it should be complete by October. A resident said will there be a lot of lane closures during this time? Mr. Giampaolo said that the contractor has to maintain access to every property. They will have to stage the project in a couple of different stages. When the contractor is actively working during the day they will close down the one lane and have flaggers and then reopen at night. There is no way a contractor can begin until the school traffic dies down.

A resident asked will the homeowners be compensated for the trees that are being taken down and the landscaping that is being disrupted? Mr. Battin said that would all be part of the individual right-of-way acquisition with each individual homeowner. Every property is unique some have very little being disturbed and some have a lot that will be disturbed. Resident said will the Township be contacting each homeowner to discuss compensation? Mr. Scott-Harper said first we have to find out what affect on each property then we can discuss with the homeowners what we can and cannot do and we go from there.

A resident asked is the Township looking to fund this themselves? Mr. Scott-Harper said in his opinion no. I'm counting on getting funding. Resident said what if the Township

does not get funding? Mr. Scott-Harper said we will face that decision when we get there. We have saved over the past 5/6 years. A resident said are the future phases to take place on the same side of State Road? Mr. Giampaolo said no we need to cross at ABVM because the grade is too high.

A resident said then we need to discuss drainage for the rain water. I drove down State Road the other night in the middle of the rain storm and the road was completely flooded out. We are removing impervious cover by adding a sidewalk which is going to add more rain water that we need to figure out where the water will be going. Mr. Giampaolo said there is a water basin in Heather Grove Township right now that collects the rain water from the storm drains. The resident asked is that basin large enough to account for the extra water that we are going to have? Mr. Giampaolo said we would have to have the Township Engineer look at that. Resident asked are there street lights that are coming along with this project? The Board said no. A resident asked if you decide not to do the sidewalks can you at least fix the drains on State Road? Mr. Scott-Harper said right now we are looking at sidewalks, you are asking me what if questions that I can not answer. A resident said 5 years in a row I have called the road department I have a sink hole in my yard I know it is related to a water drain I have worked for a borough for many years and every time that has chances there is a busted water main or sewer line. They tell me no its not broke, I have never seen a film or camera be put down between 449 and 435 to check and see. The road crew comes out and just dumps dirt in it they leave and two weeks later I'm back on the phone. As soon as it rains it just washes right out. There used to be one sink hole now there is three. This is a huge problem, if sidewalks are put in and this is not corrected it is going to sink and crack and I am not going to be responsible for the sidewalk collapsing.

The objective for the sidewalk is for the safety of the kids? Can't we just control the crossing guards? Mr. Scott-Harper said the Township does not control the crossing guards. I agree this is something that is needed for safety but the kids walk on both sides of the road right now.

The Pastor from Nazarene said the first conversation he ever had with Monsignor Graph the first time he ever met him back in 2002 was are you with me to put a sidewalk in along State Road. I would like to thank all of you for even having this conversation. Our kids are not safe walking on that road and there are a whole lot of them that walk. I am disappointed that it is not going all the way down to the Charter School but I understand. What this project does is encourage the kids who walk to the Garage in West Grove to walk down the sidewalks on 841 instead of walking down Rose Hill Road, which is worse than State Road. I thank you for this and I understand the concerns of the property owners but we need to make this safer for the kids.

A resident asked what is this going to cost the homeowner? Mr. Scott-Harper said this is not going to cost the homeowner anything this is a project that is funded by the Township. Another resident asked what is going to happen to our property values? Mr. Connors said I would like to think that your property value should go up as this is for safety. Another resident said no the property value will go down because you are losing property.

At 455 State Road, there is a drainage issue on my property. Mr. Kinsey said this lady does have a drainage issue there has been temporary measures taken at this time but it is an expensive fix. The gentleman that has the sink hole issue the Township has no structures there what so ever, this is a situation where the Municipal Authority has gone out and looked at it and filled in the hole, the Township has not. It could be a water or sewer line I'm not sure. There is a main hole in front of my house so who is responsible

for that? Mr. Kinsey said that would be the London Grove Township Municipal Authority.

Mr. Scott-Harper said at this time, we will adjourn the meeting and you may walk around and look at the diagrams and ask individual questions to the Engineers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Pickel to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m., seconded by Mr. Szakas and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Maciejczyk  
Township Secretary