

Milford Borough Special Meeting Minutes February 18, 2021

On Thursday February 18, 2021 the Milford Borough Council met via zoom for a special council meeting. In attendance were Mayor Sean Strub, Council President Frank Tarquinio, Vice President Adriane Wendell, Council members Joe Dooley, Peter Cooney, Treasurer Greg Myer, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta, and Borough Secretary Laurie DiGeso. Mark Spatz of HRG was also present. The meeting was advertised and open to the public.

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Tarquinio followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda was adopted by motion of Dooley/Ciervo AIF.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Jon Kameen- (not a borough resident) comment read by Laurie DiGeso from Jon "There is nothing worse for business or investment than uncertainty. The current proposal does not provide businesses a reasonably narrow range of costs. The Borough should include language into whatever the intent to vote on. That the Borough will not proceed unless grant thresholds are met- at least 70-80%. "

Fred Weber of 315 West Ann Street Milford Borough - Questions for Mr. Spatz regarding the 537 plan. Filed a RTK about survey data. In your chart you showed that you surveyed 123 homes systems. Is that right? M. Spatz- yes, if that's what the report said. As far as the number of confirmed fails – how did you come up the number of 72 suspected failures? Spatz- the company does not consider a cesspool a permitted use. That is why they would have marked a cesspool as a suspected failure. Weber- why did you survey the entire Borough? DEP did not require it. Spatz- the DEP requires us to survey a certain percentage of the Borough, the planning area was selected to be the entire Borough. The Borough wanted an assessment of the entire Borough. Weber- I called the DEP and they were surprised that the entire Borough was surveyed. Why 1600 pages? Tarquinio- this is a 537 plan for the entire Borough- not just the commercial district. Magnotta- with respect to the 537 plan, the DEP has what they call plan content and environmental assessment checklists which all 537 plans no matter how small or big have to include. That is why the report is so many pages.

Bill Pittman- How many cesspools are in the Borough Commercial district? Tarquinio- I don't think we have the number. Ciervo- it's in the study. Cooney- we should answer this question. Spatz- it's in the study. Dooley- is it more than 1? Spatz- if I had to guess, yes.

Yana and Dale Thatcher-212 Third Street- question for Mark Spatz-How will potential septic/odor problems be prevented? Spatz- the odor concern is at the downstream end- in Westfall. Actually, less of an odor concern for systems with grinder pumps. Cooney- Are we doing an OLDS ordinance? Spatz- No, right now Borough is doing an enhanced monitoring period and after 5yearsif its then deemed that an OLDS ordinance is necessary, they will consider it then.

Bill Kiger-600 7th street. This vote is very important as the first step. The second step is even more important. Would like to see the public have assurance that there will be a public hearing before the vote? Will it include financial implications for property owners? Will it address some of the impacts such as tourism, traffic, construction sprawl etc. Dale and Yana Thatcher second that question and Fred Weber third. Dooley- not willing to go along with a public hearing. A public comment period yes. Cooney- you have to have a hearing. Magnotta- You will have a period of time of review from engineers, comments from DEP, to the satisfaction of the Borough Council. Dooley- Citizens advisory committee already set up- let's let them make certain recommendations on how to move forward.

Approve Responses to 537 Plan: Mark Spatz explains process of what happens to the responses when received by HRG. First comments are received and the Borough responds. The comments will be included in the final draft of the 537 plan. It is required that the plan be done open and honestly, and includes the planning commission comments. It is also required that proof of advertisement is provided for the 30-day public comment period. The Borough has complied with all these steps. Tarquinio- we have over 200 pages of transcripts.

Fred Weber asked what the status of the advisory committee was? Tarquinio- the planning commission is already a standing committee. The first thing needed to be done is to define what the advisory committee will do and what the goals would be. Also define the types of people that should be part of the committee i.e.: business related, representing different groups and residents.

If the 537 plan is approved, we will look for people to be on the committee.

Motion to accept comments and responses as part of the ACT 537 plan by Dooley/Wendell. 6 votes in favor. Peter Cooney not in favor.

Tarquinio- two amendments to the 537 plan. One was to mention that Milford Borough would pursue additional grants and funding to lower monthly cost to make central sewer more financially sound and the other was to change dates for monitoring to reflect 5 years of monitoring from the date of plan adoption.

Motion to adopt the Act 537 plan with two amendments mentioned by roll call- Dooley-Y, Wendell-Y, Ciervo-Y, Turano-Y, Lyddon-Y, Tarquinio-Y, Cooney-N. (6 Yay- 1 Nay.)

Motion to adjourn by Ciervo/Wendell. Peter Cooney- Nay.

Adjourned 6:43pm