

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Public Hearing

Monday, May 4, 2015

Chairperson Agostine called a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors to order at 6:02 p.m. followed by the salute to the flag. Supervisors Church and Lee were present, as were, Solicitor Bauer, Zoning Officer Miller, Engineer Jonas, Secretary Yeast, and fourteen interested persons.

CALL TO ORDER

Atty. Bauer explained that he has been retained by the Township to represent its interest in regard to extending services by Time Warner along Route 97. Complaints have been raised by residents about lack of service in this area. Time Warner has been invited to tonight's meeting, but chose instead to meet privately with the Board. It is understood that, if favorable resolutions are not forthcoming, the Board can still pursue legal remedies involving Time Warner.

PURPOSE OF HEARING:
To hear public input regarding Time Warner extension of cable service
CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

Jeff Tinney, 10250 Tiger Lily Lane, explained that, in the past, when he inquired to Time Warner about extending cable out to Shunpike Estates, he was quoted \$60,000.

PUBLIC INPUT

Atty. Bauer responded that Time Warner has requested a six week time period to perform a technical assessment of feasibility. The Board agreed but retained all rights and responsibilities to pursue legal avenues if Time Warner refuses to cooperate.

Mr. Tinney expressed frustration with Time Warner's policy for extending services, adding that it took them (3) days to determine a \$60,000 cost.

Atty. Bauer further explained that Time Warner may offer services to a portion of the affected property owners on Route 97, or all of them.

Supervisor Agostine added that the cost assessment involves existing pole placement, and if they can coordinate with the other utilities to use these poles.

Pauline Percy, 9490 Perry Highway, expressed her support for the extension of cable services. Ms. Percy asked what other areas of the Township do not have cable.

Supervisor Church responded that we do not know. Summit Township has limitations on what we can do per the franchise agreement. We are trying to instill as much pressure as possible on Time Warner for the benefit of the residents who have no cable service.

Supervisor Agostine explained that Summit Township can only pursue remedies to extend cable services, while still being aware that internet and phone service would more than likely be included.

Cathleen Percy, 9490 Perry Highway, also supports the extension of cable services south along Route 97.

Ryan Crawford, 10175 Tiger Lily Lane, asked how far along Route 97 will the technical study include. Agostine responded, from just north of Marsh Road, south to the Township line. Discussion ensued regarding two portions of the assessment, involving (2) separate, (1) mile segments each.

Steve Glass, 175 Kayla Way, asked what time-line has been offered by Time Warner to complete this assessment. Agostine responded, six weeks.

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Bonnie Leuthold, 9680 Perry Highway, expressed frustration with miscommunication by Time Warner in regard to the required density for extension of services. They were originally told it was 10 residents per mile. Mrs. Leuthold further expressed extreme frustration with the telephone services.

Supervisor Lee added that the Township has counted approximately 20 residents in each one mile section being considered.

Steve Glass, 175 Kayla Way asked what results for feasibility Time Warner will require. Atty. Bauer responded that he would assume it is totally financial, adding that they are also considering fiber optic cable vs. co-axial, and underground power also increases costs.

Atty. Bauer explained that after the study is complete, Time Warner may voluntarily provide the services, and construction will ensue.

Supervisor Church added that if Time Warner determines it is financially unfeasible to extend services, the Board will continue to pursue what legal options are available.

Discussion ensued regarding Federal Subsidies to extend cable services to rural areas offered in the past. Atty. Bauer explained most of those subsidies were taken by companies with even more rural communities than Summit Township.

With no further input from the public, motion by Lee, seconded by Church, to close the hearing at 6:23 p.m.

Vote: 3/0

HEARING CLOSED

Respectfully submitted,

Christene S. Yeast
Recording Secretary
5/5/2015