

MINUTES OF THE MT LEBANON JOINT
MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT DISCUSSION SESSION
February 28, 2012

A Discussion Session between the Mt. Lebanon Commissioners and the Mt. Lebanon Board of School Directors was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2012, in Conference Room D of the Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 710 Washington Road.

ATTENDING

Commissioners: Mr. David Brumfield, Mrs. Kristen Linfante
School Directors: Mrs. Josephine Posti, Mrs. Elaine Cappucci
Others: Mr. Steve Feller, Municipal Manager

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Brumfield began the meeting, welcoming those in attendance. Mrs. Posti said the meetings are intended to provide the community an opportunity to see first-hand the collaborative work being done between the two taxing bodies. Mrs. Cappucci stated that the representation at the meeting was of the presidents and liaisons of the two governing bodies. Mrs. Linfante stated that the meetings were for discussion only and that no official actions could be taken on any agenda item, rather the representatives at the meeting would take shared information back to their full boards to initiate any further discussion or action.

GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS BOND

The commissioners shared information regarding their discussions with LINC about a guaranteed energy savings bond that they are considering with the school board directors. Mrs. Posti stated that she would take this information to the appropriate people at the school district.

WEB HOSTED VIDEOS

The commission is interested in upgrading their websites to enable web-hosted videos. The school district had already provided information on the systems they use to the municipality.

USE OF HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT PERMIT FEES

The school district provided the commissioners with a comparison chart of permit fees for school construction projects in neighboring communities, which showed that permit fees in other areas were significantly lower (from 0.06% to 0.45% of project costs, while ours are 0.75%), and that some towns waived fees altogether. The district would like the commissioners to consider reducing the permit fee to reflect only expenses actually incurred by the municipality for the project, and refunding any excess. This would allow those funds to be used by the district for the school project and would lower the tax burden on the community.

Mr. Brumfield stated that the commission had considered such a request before, and had issues with how to fairly charge private entities or other schools if fees are altered for the school district. He said would ask the commissioners to consider this request again, and to also consider the possibility of using the permit fees on joint projects if no refund were made.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/STRATEGIC PLAN COOPERATION AND SHARING

The school district has already shared information regarding their Strategic Plan with the commission. Any additional information that might be useful to the commission will also be shared. There is a municipal representative on the school district's strategic plan committee, and the district offered to provide a representative to the municipality's committee if they wanted to have someone.

PARKING AT MELLON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

The school district asked whether the commissioners would consider changing some parking along Castle Shannon Boulevard, between the library and Hemlock Street, from 2-hour parking to permitted spaces that could be used by school district employees, as is the case on other streets near Mellon and Washington schools. Those spaces are currently posted as 2-hour parking to limit commuters from parking there. The commissioners agreed to consider this issue, after consulting with the Police Chief.

SPECIALIZED RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

The commissioners shared information regarding battery recycling receptacles that they will be using at the municipal building and asked if the schools would consider doing this. The receptacles would be placed in the building, collected when full and mailed to the recycling provider, at a cost of \$79 per receptacle. Other recycling receptacles in the school are managed by the PTAs. Management and maintenance of the receptacles are an issue the school district would have to consider.

Mrs. Cappucci and Mrs. Linfante are both liaisons to the joint municipal/school district Environmental Sustainability Board, and will take ask that board if they would be interested in helping with this program.

HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The closure of Horsman Drive has occurred, and traffic is flowing smoothly. Students are being observant and tolerant of the changes. The Junior Commissioner has reported to the commission that the changes due to construction are going well. All questions regarding the high school construction should be referred to the High School Principal, Mr. Brian McFeeley. Changes in traffic patterns are posted on the school district website approximately one week before the change occurs.

VETERANS MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Construction of the memorial is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day. No construction is occurring right now, but the construction fence is blocking the sidewalk that students use to travel from Dixon field parking to the high school. Mr. Feller stated that fence will be pulled back from the sidewalk to provide a safe walking area.

RECREATION/FIELDS MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The municipality is interested in upgrading playing fields as many are in poor shape. Potential solutions include soil additives that would help with drainage, and would cost approximately \$8,000-\$20,000 per field and take about two weeks each to complete. Improving drainage at some of the fields, such as Bird Park, would cost about \$60,000 to \$70,000 and take two months to complete. Adding turf to a field is another possibility the municipality is considering. Mellon and Jefferson school fields would be the most likely, and though they are school district fields, Mr. Brumfield said the municipality would consider paying for the turf and installation if the school district would maintain them. Legal issues for this agreement would have to be examined. Mrs. Posti agreed to discuss this issue with the school board.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

Mr. Brumfield stated that the municipality and the school district should consider shared purchasing and use of equipment whenever possible. There are liability and contractual issues that would have to be worked out in some cases. Both the municipal and school district maintenance staff do work together and share some tasks already. The staffs will be asked to consider further ways to share resources. The school district and the municipality share resources in other areas as well.

Mrs. Posti stated that due to the high school construction, the theater department would need to store equipment, props and costumes, and would likely fill three trailers that need to be stored somewhere and asked if there was room at the municipality. Mr. Brumfield and Mr. Feller though there would be room at the public works facility and will explore this option.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Lusardi, a Mellon Middle School cafeteria worker commented on the limited parking at Mellon School.

Barbara DeMaio commented on parking at Mellon School and asked if more parking could be developed on the area of the current track if the work is done on the field.

David Huston commented on permit fees, the municipal budget, parking at Mellon Middle school, the school district's use of the Lutheran Church parking lot and whether the theater storage could be housed there.

Bill Lewis thanked the commission and school board for holding public discussion meetings, asked about joint purchasing groups such as SHACOG, and stated that the library had used public works for book storage in the past.

Elaine Gillen asked why the meetings are no longer called Joint Steering meetings, and if Mrs. Linfante is the commissioner's liaison to the school board.

Elaine Labalme thanked the commission and school board for the holding the meeting and for their time and commitment.

CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM