

Borough of Hellertown  
Informational Presentation  
Public Works Facility  
Saturday, September 28, 2019

Present for the presentation from Council and staff: Phil Weber, Earl Hill, Andrew Hughes, Michael McKenna, Thomas Rieger, Gil Stauffer, Mayor Heintzelman, and Angie Thiede.

Mr. Rieger explained that this discussion will be a continuation of the last roundtable. No decisions are being made at this meeting.

Mr. Rieger- Last year, the Borough applied for grant funding for the Public Works facility from the Northampton/Lehigh Counties Local Share Grant and Monroe County Local Share Grant. We did not receive any funding. This year, we are going to reapply with a phased plan. The first phase would be for the shell of the building and site improvements. If awarded, the Borough would then apply for Phase II the following year which would be for the interior outfitting. Borough Council has allocated \$500,000.00 toward the project. A few months ago, the Borough has all non-liquid assets swept into Custody Accounts. Those accounts have already earned \$35,000.00 in interest. Council and staff are beginning the budget process for 2020 and will see if further funds can be allocated.

Borough Council and staff has looked at other possible properties to build the facility but the cost of the project, having to purchase land, and then removing that property from the tax base would be too costly to the Borough. The Reinhard site is the best option. The property was deeded to the Borough with the restriction that it must be used for municipal purposes. If the Borough does not use this property, there is a chance the school district could take the property back and sell it to a developer. This site is zoned R-2 which allows for condominiums similar to what was built on Cherry Lane or houses. What the Borough is proposing is less impact than a baseball game. It is about 8 employees with usually pick trucks and mowers unless they are completing a large project or there is snow. Site lighting will be low impact and have shading. The building is designed for the trucks to drive through so there will be minimal back-up alarms. Primary access to the building will be on Northampton Street.

Elaine Lipp- If the Borough would go ahead and build the facility, would it be able to get reimbursed with grant funding?

Mr. Rieger-If we would go ahead and build the facility, we would receive no grant funding. Also, through the grant, engineering costs incurred after the funding is awarded is reimbursable. It will take the Borough months to know if the funding is awarded. If residents support this project, please send a letter of support to the Commonwealth Finance Committee or drop off at Borough Hall and staff can forward the letter.

Dave Schweisgut noted that public opinion has seemed to change for the better toward the building and reminded the audience that the original plan when the school site was deeded to the Borough was to have all Borough offices located on this site. Building the public works facility is a much better alternative to a development.

Jenny McKenna- Since the former school was removed, the Community Center has had issues with run-off. Would that be corrected if the facility is built?

Mr. Rieger- Just like any other building that is built in the Borough, on-site stormwater improvements are required and would take care of the issues.

Mrs. McKenna- Parking is already an issue for staff at the Community Center. Would it be possible to come to an agreement with the Borough for use of some of the parking spaces in the proposed lot to be used for our staff?

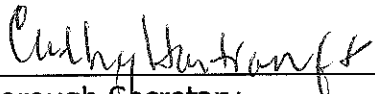
Mr. Rieger said it would definitely be taken into consideration and would talk with our engineer to see if adding a few additional spaces in the lot would be possible.

Residents asked if the lot will be open for snow emergency parking like the lot at the Post Officer. Mr. Rieger said Council will take the request into consideration.

Council invited everyone to come and look at the renderings and again encouraged residents to send letters of support for the project.

The workshop concluded at 10:15 a.m.

Adopted by the Hellertown Borough Council this 7<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2019.

  
Borough Secretary