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Board of Supervisors Question & Answer Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Pocopson Aged Home, Lenape Road, West Chester

Attendance: Supervisors - Barney Leonard, Georgia F. Brutscher, Ricki Stumpo; Thomas F. Oeste, Esquire, Moderator.

Public in attendance: 47 Residents and 7 Nonresidents. The meeting was called to order by Thomas Oeste, Moderator, at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator gave a background introduction for the meeting that covered both purpose and procedure for the evening. Questions had been submitted by residents in writing, compiled and written answers prepared prior to the presentation. The answers were provided by a team of consultants familiar with the project. The answers to the questions do not necessarily reflect the opinion or view of the majority of the Board nor individual members of the Board who read the answers aloud.

Questions were covered in the following topics:

- Financial Impact - 14 questions
- Taxes and Loans - 4
- Grants - 6
- Utilities - 6
- Continuing Expenses - 4
- Independent Contractor Costs and Fees - 4
- Usability and Feasibility Studies - 14
- Floor Plan, Space and Workflow - 7
- ADA Compliance - 3
- Security and Exterior - 4
- Kennett Underground Railroad Center - 6
- General Questions - 12

Slides presented as part of Q&A Session:

- Existing Denton Hollow Building Issues
- Denton Hollow Existing Floor Plan
- Summary of Space: Existing Building vs. Barnard House (2)
- Gross Usable Space and Use Breakdown
- List of Public Communications Efforts

Question and Comment Forum

Questions:

Elaine DiMonte - When will the balance of the questions be answered? (Withdrawn)
Will board consider a referendum on the ballot to determine the next steps for the Barnard House?

Response from the moderator was that that question was answered in the presentation. (Section 12 - 11)

Lisa Borel - How is the township going to protect residents, including children and pets, from safety issues associate with recycle area.

Response: Panel needs to look into this.

Will the recycle areas be closed at night to prevent dumping?

Response: Panel will look into that also.

Andrea Gosselin - The Barnard House does not currently meet code requirements. Since the township obtained detailed cost estimates for bringing Barnard House into compliance, why can't we also obtain detailed cost estimates for bringing Denton Hollow building into compliance as a legitimate option for taxpayer funding?

Response: A study for Denton Hollow was judged by the team to be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Public Resident Comment:

Lisa Borel - What are the plans for the township property on Denton Hollow? Is it for sale - will it be?

Steve Conary - There are two choices: complete the project or stop. Completing the project will cost about \$650,000. Stopping will cost about \$350,000 to repay grants. Reimburse KURC and board up the building. Plus still will be using a non-compliant, too small building. Choice is clear - complete the project.

Susan Woodward - the township is most fortunate to be in a position to repurpose an historic building while still providing an adequate township building.

Sean C. Rafferty - There are still many unanswered questions here. The only fair resolution is to allow the taxpayers to decide the fate of the project. Please put this as a referendum, on the ballot in November. Verbal addition - the current board is improper because one seat was appointed, not elected.

Jean Conary - If the project does not go to completion all money spent so far is wasted and the grants for the Phase I effort from the state and KURC may be required to be repaid. For the additional expense of completion less money that might require repayment, the net cost is about \$300,000. Verbal addition - One of our supervisors resigned for personal reasons and according to PA state law a third supervisor needs to be appointed within 30 days. The moderator added that this was a legal constituted board and there was no question regarding the legality.

Carol Haaf - I support the project and believe the Barnard House will work as a township office. The Steering Team is comprised of honest, thoughtful members and it is a shame that they are being maligned instead of being treated with respect.

Shame on us. It makes our township look bad. Verbal addition - this project has been approved by elected supervisors since 2007. Although this year's board was comprised differently, it is still legal.

Public Non-resident Comment:

John O'Neal - KURC has been involved with the planning of this project for about 7 years and has committed finances for its furtherance. We feel that such a unique opportunity cannot be lost.

Conclusion:

Since there was time left, the moderator opened up the meeting to additional questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Oeste adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.
