

Minutes of the Spring Garden Township Board of Commissioners Workshop
5:00 p.m. – April 9, 2025

Persons Present:

Daniel E. Rooney, President Commissioner
David Detwiler, Vice President Commissioner
Anne Gray, Commissioner

Andrew Herrold, Commissioner
Thomas Gwilt, Commissioner

I. Commence Workshop

A. Presentation – Mike Gerding and Rich DeRicco of MW Studios Architecture and Interior Design

1. Fire Station 892 Replacement

- i) Bill from HRG reviewed the current site plan making note of the following:
 - a) There is a cross pipe that crosses the property and a 50-foot flood zone that is accounted for in the current consideration of size and placement of the building and parking lot.
 - b) The current version is a compacted version of earlier proposals.
 - c) Reviewed the grading, drainage, and retention pond information on the plan.
 - d) Noted the utility pole placement in relation to the exit drive, this version of the plan avoids the need to move the pole.
 - e) There may be a need for a zoning hearing application for the width of the apron depending on the final plan.
 - f) Commissioner Rooney inquired about the two access points from the perspective of PennDOT and if PennDOT should be consulted for insight on placement and need to move poles.
 - g) Reviewed the possible requirements for notification (flashing lights, signage, etc.) at the exit driveway.
 - h) Commissioner Gray inquired about the tree line behind the station and the potential for access from the rail trail with the existing tree or fence lines. It was clarified that most of the rough tree growth is on the rail property and access could be addressed later.
- ii) Rich DeRico from MW Studios reviewed the current plan renderings making note of the following:
 - a) The design has support spaces surrounding the core of the building with a lobby space, kitchen, living quarters, lockers, showering facilities, storage, and three bays for apparatus parking with a mezzanine that can be used for storage or basic training exercises.
 - b) Commissioner Gray inquired about the placement of the fire station numbers on the building and if the doors from the kitchen area to the outside were attached to a space for outdoor dining/gathering. Mr. DeRico clarified that there is a patio space partially surrounded by trellis or planters for this purpose.
 - c) There was discussion between Mr. DeRico, Commissioner Gwilt, and Chief Hoff regarding the bi-fold doors in the design being lower maintenance with longer usable life than overhead doors.
 - d) Commissioner Gray inquired about the size and layout of the lobby entrance, as well as the type of access or need for someone at reception. It was clarified there would be a window to see in/out as well as a buzzer and pass key system in place allowing only those with authorization to access specific areas of the station.
 - e) Commissioner Rooney inquired if scaling down the training space and the overall footprint of the other spaces could reduce the overall costs of the project.

- f) Krista Gardner noted that there are a lot of factors to consider including debt service, sewer projects, and general fund balance. Additionally, fire tax limits and ability to increase to support the project.
- g) There was additional discussion about EMS and how including space for EMS impacts the overall cost and design and what cost sharing or budget considerations can be made from the inclusion.
- h) There was discussion between Commissioner Rooney, Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Herrold, and Chief Hoff about the design aspects that could be scaled back, how live-in quarters can reduce the need for paid staffing, and how scaling back could impact the ability to have a reserve apparatus and other needs over the next fifty plus years.
- i) There was a review of a scaled back plan that included reducing the size of the lobby and office spaces, reducing the depth of the bays, and reducing the kitchen/day room space from 1000 sq. ft. to 650 sq. ft. Commissioner Herrold and Chief Hoff had a brief exchange discussing the impact or lack of impact of reducing the depth of the bays.
- j) There was discussion about having bid day alternates that could have varying ranges on cost for consideration and consideration that per Chief Hoff there is a max of six people on site at any time.
- k) CFO stated that guidance is needed on what the project outlook is for the next 1 to 5 years so that we can be mindful of the amount of money borrowed and the debt service load that is taken on. Commissioner Gray asked for clarification about the reserve fund. Commissioner Rooney noted that the impact on the taxpayers is also a consideration.

B. Other Business: None

C. Public Comment

1. Roberta Boffo of 1080 Grandview inquired if the EMS would be able to apply for grants to assist. Commissioner Rooney clarified that the EMS is a private business, so grants may not be an option for EMS.

Conclude Workshop

Commissioner Rooney Adjourned 6:11pm

Respectfully submitted,

Luther C Wike Jr.
Township Secretary

EA