

Moore Township Board of Supervisors
2491 Community Drive
Bath, PA 18014
May 26, 2022

The Workshop Meeting for the Moore Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) was called to order on Thursday, May 26, 2022 by Chairman Daniel Piorkowski at 6:00 PM. The meeting was conducted at the municipal building. Those present included Chairman Daniel Piorkowski, Supervisor Michael Tirrell, Township Manager Nicholas Steiner, Township Engineer Kevin Horvath and Engineer Sean Dooley from Keystone Consulting Engineers (KCE), Public Works Director Craig Hoffman, and resident Randy Silfies.

MULTI-YEAR ROAD PLAN

Mr. Sean Dooley of Keystone Consulting Engineers gave a presentation regarding the status of the long-term road maintenance plan the Township is developing with Keystone. The presentation is informational to spur discussion and highlight the fiscal limitations. The presentation slides can be viewed at <http://mooretownship.org/forms/mtroadprogram.pdf>.

Attendees asked questions and made comments throughout the presentation. The presentation posted online has been formatted differently based upon feedback on how information was presented during the initial presentation.

One of the more controversial ideas was conversion of certain paved roads to gravel roads. Mr. Silfies acknowledged his road, Derhammer Rd, would probably be a candidate for this type of conversion. He's accustomed to dealing with potholes, but if it is converted to gravel, it will be dangerous for residents like him who ride motorcycles. Mr. Dooley noted this would be a political decision at the end of the day noting funding is the real problem and not an easy decision to make.

With regard to a dedicated funding account, Mr. Steiner asked if the fund would be just for emergencies and not for regular road maintenance. Mr. Dooley thinks they should create a rainy-day fund so the regular maintenance isn't impacted. The fund would then be built up further to target anything other than annual maintenance. Mr. Steiner said they're looking into grants to purchase equipment to do more work inhouse noting they're trying to get more grants for police as well to reduce the tax burden. Another idea is to attrit in the Public Works Department. As employees retire, they may need to do more targeted hiring in which a new person with the required skills would allow the Township to do more with less. Mr. Hoffman noted winter impacts the budget, and the equipment is aging further driving up the costs. He also mentioned that while they are targeting surface treatments in one maintenance area for the contracted work, Public Works is working throughout the Township to address problems prior to the surface treatment. He's trying to look at all the data to decide on which areas to work on. Mr. Steiner asked Keystone if they're aware of any grants. Mr. Dooley isn't aware of any paved road grants and noted the federal government grants are provided to the state based on certain classifications for individual roads. From that list of roads, federal funds are targeted. He doesn't see local roads getting federal or state funds, and the cost to receive the grant usually doesn't return a lot. Mr. Silfies said it's depressing they can only spend \$244,000 on road maintenance and repairs. Mr. Steiner said the skid loader they're purchasing came in higher than expected and noted the paver they're looking to purchase could end up costing an extra 8-10% if they need to wait until next year. They plan to use any money left over from winter maintenance to use on road maintenance. Mr. Silfies said if there was a referendum for a dedicated tax on the roads, the public would be receptive. He thought there would be a room full of people, and nobody is here. Mr. Tirrell doesn't think they can put a dedicated tax on the roads. Mr.

Silfies asked how many full-time officers the Township has, and Mr. Steiner said eleven. Mr. Silfies said when he was a kid, the Township only had two, and Moore still has less than 10,000 residents.

Mr. Tirrell asked if slide 21 is cost to do work inhouse or contract. Mr. Dooley said they're contracted costs except for the crack sealing. Mr. Tirrell asked if they have equipment to double oil and chip. The Township does not, and Mr. Dooley recommends the Township not invest in the equipment as it's specialized, comes from Germany, and the private crews will do it all in one day. He's seen other places try, and it hasn't worked out. Mr. Hoffman gave the example of PennDOT oil and chip versus AMS. AMS oil and chip is a great value. Mr. Tirrell asked if they have the equipment to do mill and overlay. Mr. Hoffman said the Township currently doesn't have the equipment. The skid loader will go a long way, and they'll be able to do the work with the paver. Mr. Steiner noted they are still learning what the crew can do with the equipment they have. Mr. Dooley would like to know the cost per road mile to do the work inhouse. Mr. Steiner said there's a set number of items that can be brought up on referendum, and there's only so much earned income tax can be increased. He asked if Upper Nazareth had a dedicated portion of tax for roads. Mr. Hoffman thinks they took surplus funds to create the fund. Mr. Piorkowski asked if one of the best things they can do is get the water off the roads to preserve the lifecycle. Mr. Dooley said addressing drainage, crack sealing, and oil and chip are the cheapest ways to hit the most road miles possible. Mr. Steiner also mentioned people need to understand there are roads that will need to be patched and repaired for the oil and chip. Mr. Dooley said the department ideally would be doing the road repairs in one year, and the oil and chip the following year. Mr. Hoffman also mentioned the public doesn't understand the Township has a right of way to assist in getting the water off the road. Mr. Dooley assumes there are areas they must do more than grade. Mr. Hoffman is just scratching the surface noting if the road lane is nine foot wide, and the road needs to be eleven foot wide, the Department is cutting back to the edge of the road. They're not extending the width of the road as may be necessary. Mr. Dooley said they may need to start getting permission to grade outside the right of way to accomplish some of these goals.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Piorkowski made a motion adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM

Mr. Tirrell seconded the motion

Public comment

None

Motion carried with all Supervisors present voting aye

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas C. Steiner
Township Manager

Not intended to be word for word, but a synopsis of the meeting.