

**LOWER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
September 18, 2019**

The Lower Nazareth Township Board of Supervisors held a special meeting at the Lower Nazareth Municipal Building on Wednesday September 18, 2019. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Present were:

James S. Pennington	-	Chairman	Gary Asteak	-	Solicitor
Bert R. Smalley	-	Supervisor	Lori A. Stauffer	-	Manager
Amy L. Templeton	-	Supervisor	Tammi Dravec	-	Secretary/Treasurer

Absent were:

Martin Boucher	-	Vice Chairman
Robert J. Hoyer	-	Supervisor
Albert Kortze	-	Engineer
Lori Seese	-	Planning/Zoning Administrator

Solicitor Asteak reported that we have received notice that the Newburg Inn is up for tax sale next week. He noted that the Township previously expressed interest in this property in order to complete future intersection improvements at Route 191 and Newburg Road.

A motion was moved by Ms. Templeton and was seconded by Mr. Smalley to authorize Township Manager Ms. Stauffer and Solicitor Asteak to monitor this sale. The motion carried.

Bob Brown, 4644 Steuben Road, inquired what the plan was for the intersection improvements, noting that traffic congestion makes it very difficult to travel through that intersection, especially at certain times of the day. Mr. Pennington noted that we held public meetings several months ago to discuss the improvement plan which includes needing all or portions of properties; Newburg Inn, the white house on the corner, and a piece from the bank. PADOT will need to approve the plan as both Newburg Road and Route 191 are state roads. While they are state roads, the Township will need to fund the project which is proposed to cost \$4-\$6 million. We have been actively trying to obtain assistance to fund the project.

Mr. Brown inquired about the warehouses proposed for the area between Routes 946 and 191 and how it will increase traffic on Route 191. Mr. Pennington stated they were not approved at our previous meeting. The Board did take action to approve a settlement after years of litigation trying to prevent the warehouses. Mr. Pennington noted that this development may further pressure PADOT to assist us with improving the intersection. Although Mr. Pennington noted that we are one of many looking for assistance to fund projects.

Brent Vosseller, 4471 Sarah Marie Court, is a member of the fire company and noted their struggle to traverse the intersection to get to emergency calls.

Ms. Stauffer reported that the Township is constantly working to get PADOT to see the importance of improving this intersection. But even with funding in place it would be 5-6 years before we a shovel would hit the dirt.

Mr. Pennington added that the improvement to the intersection would include the split at Route 946/Daniels Road, which is also a state road.

Mr. Vosseller inquired about the acquisition on the Newburg Inn. Solicitor Asteak stated that at a tax sale the property could be purchased for the taxes due; however, you also acquire the mortgage for the property, which in this case is for more than the appraised value of the property. If the no one purchases the property at the tax sale it goes to a judicial sale and then could be purchased for the taxes due. Solicitor Asteak stated that the bank will more than likely want to keep the property so it would not make it to judicial sale.

Mr. Vosseller asked about eminent domain, Solicitor Asteak stated that while we could go that route, it would preclude us from obtaining grants and funding. Mr. Pennington added that it is also a costly and lengthy process. He also inquired about phasing the project. Mr. Pennington said that wasn't a possibility and that PADOT would not see that as cost effective.

Mr. Pennington closed the meeting by saying we sympathize with everyone as we also travel through that intersection daily. We are diligently working to make these improvements.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56AM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Tammi Dravec
Secretary/Treasurer