

**WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
7171 ALLENTOWN BOULEVARD, HARRISBURG, PA 17112  
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016**

**WORKSHOP SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:15 p.m.**

Chairman Klein called the workshop to order at 6:15 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Harold Harman, Supervisor	Adam Klein, Chairman
Steve Kurtz, Supervisor	Don Steinmeier, Secretary-Treasurer
Gloria Zimmerman, Vice Chairman	

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**OLD TOPICS: None**

**NEW TOPICS**

HRG-Route 39 & Devonshire Heights Road/Douglas Road- Al Brulo and Eric Stump from HRG were present to review the intersection improvement project for the board and residents. Mr. Brulo explained the project will accomplish three things: (1) realignment of the intersection (2) installation of a flashing beacon; the beacon will flash yellow on Route 39 and flash red on Devonshire Heights Road/Douglas Road (3) drainage improvements. Initially the township wanted to install a traffic signal, but a traffic volume doesn't meet the warrants and therefore a beacon will be installed.

Mr. Stump explained that the project is proposing to realign Douglas Road at the intersection of Route 39 and Devonshire Heights to create a "T" intersection. If the volume of traffic ever increases to meet the warrants, the equipment installed can be upgraded to a traffic signal. A right turn lane will be added along Route 39 to turn onto Devonshire Heights and Douglas Road. The drainage improvements will include an underground infiltration system. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer or fall. The start date depends on when the permits are received from PennDOT and obtaining the right of ways. Road detours will be for approximately four to six weeks.

Mrs. Zimmerman asked if any house numbers or address changes will be necessary as a result of this project. Mr. Stump stated he doesn't think there will be any changes but he will double check.

Mr. Steinmeier commented that he has been working with PennDOT since the initial meetings regarding the request to install a traffic signal. He said that the installation of a flashing beacon is the best solution at this time, but eventually a traffic signal will need to be installed.

Bill McCahan, 7230 Jonestown Road- Mr. McCahan commented that prior to installing the curb at the church, people were using the parking lot as a short cut and there were a few accidents. He said the installation of the curb has helped slow down traffic.

Richard Hackman, 564 Hershey Road- Mr. Hackman asked for confirmation that the flashing beacon will be at the intersection. Mr. Stump confirmed the location will be at the intersection. Mr. Hackman commented that the majority of accidents happen when motorists are trying to turn left onto Devonshire

Heights Road. Mr. Stump stated that signs will be installed in both directions that will indicate that there is a signal ahead.

Christy Jacobeen, 557 Douglas Road- Mrs. Jacobeen asked when the right of way information will be provided to the residents. Mr. Rosario stated that the township will send a letter to residents in the next few weeks to set up a meeting.

Justin Jacobeen, 557 Douglas Road- Mr. Jacobeen asked how without modifying the rise in the road the installation of the flashing beacon at the same place will be beneficial. Chairman Klein said that the installation of the flashing beacon is not a perfect solution, but it will at least alert motorists. Chairman Klein commented that since Route 39 is a state road, the township can't make any modifications to it. He said the addition of the right turn lane should help with the flow of traffic. Mr. Jacobeen said another concern he has is the traffic going westbound out of Hershey in the evening after an event. He said if someone is stopped to make a right or left hand turn the warning light will be brighter than the rear lights on the vehicle. His concern is the approaching vehicle is going to see the flashing light before the vehicle lights and the driver reaction time will be affected. Mr. Stump said the flashing beacon light will be as bright as a regular traffic signal light. Mr. Stump commented that the right turn lane will be fourteen feet and will allow traffic to slow down to make the turn. There was discussion regarding the addition of the right turn lane. Mr. Jacobeen commented that additional signage is needed for more advanced warning. Mr. Jacobeen asked about the cost of the project. Mr. Stump said the approximate construction cost is \$440,000.00. Mr. Jacobeen said even after the project there will still be limited sight distance and he thinks there will need to be more warning signs installed. He said this project is not a fix all and yet the township is going to spend \$440,000.00. He commented that is a lot of money to spend and yet there will still be problems.

Chairman Klein said that he agrees that the project is not a fix all, but it will help the flow of traffic for that area.

Mr. Steinmeier said that the board wants to solve the problem but PennDOT won't allow the installation of a traffic signal. Mrs. Zimmerman commented that the only reason the township is getting the flashing beacon is because the board met with Commissioner Haste, Representative Marsico, HRG, and PennDOT.

Norman Kuntz, 582 Hershey Road- Mr. Kuntz asked if the speed limit can be lowered. Chairman Klein said Route 39 is not a township road so we have no control over the speed limit.

Mr. Steinmeier said with new developments and businesses on Route 39 there will be more traffic signal lights.

George Gish, Property Owner -Mr. Gish commented that he thinks the \$440,000.00 is a lot of money to spend for a marginal improvement to the intersection and that a traffic signal would be a huge safety improvement.

Richard Hackman, 564 Hershey Road- Mr. Hackman asked why traffic signals will be approved for new developments and businesses. Mr. Stump explained that large developments or businesses that will increase traffic can warrant traffic signals. Mr. Hackman asked if the township is aware of any new developments on Devonshire Heights Road that would warrant the installation of a traffic signal. Chairman Klein stated that at this time the board is not aware of any future developments for that area.

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:55 PM**