Meeting Notes

- Thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak,
- My name is Doug G., 55 Bridle court, Etters. I am here representing the NT R B Goodlander
- Member for over 17 yrs.
- The R B asked me to express to you their displeasure in your recent action to eliminate the part-time recreation director's position, as this position served as the R B support staff for the past 16 years
- I want to quickly review with you 1) the R B documented need for staff assistance, 2) the economics of maintaining this position, and then lastly to ask for your assistance in addressing this situation.
- Let me begin by stating that the R B serves to provide recommendations and guidance to the supervisors and staff on all things associated with recreation in the twp. this board meets once a month to review recreation issues and act on these issues. We take actions and make recommendations in an attempt to ensure that recreation activities and facilities are easily accessible to all twp residents.
- These board members are not employees of the twp, and serve to provide guidance on rec issues but we board members are not there to run programs or provide day to day efforts.
- This board serves like all other boards in the twp, where staff is assigned to the board to carry out its day to day activities, and the various boards direct those efforts and provide guidance to staff. The planning commission relies on staff such as Rod and the twp engineer to provide it day to day activities; you rely on all staff and principally Don to carry out the day to day efforts you act on as a board. Our board needs similar support if it is to be effective.
- Newberry twp, primarily due to the day to day efforts of the part time rec staff, has been able to successfully build out 3 parks (Shelly, White Oak, and Cly) and is currently in the process of building out 2 more (Apple Orchard pocket park, and the new regional Lexington Park). We are proud of these accomplishments which can be attributed to the twp citizens, the rec board and its staff, and you supervisors, and we are concerned that this progress may now be brought to a halt.
- Let me bring you up to speed on some of the major activities that the part time recreation support staff has been expected to carry out:
    - Oversee and support twp sponsored community events (community days, egg hunt, etc)
    - Represent twp on R L senior center board (important community effort)

- Work with neighboring municipalities on regional efforts (important for efficiency, such as the recent shelly park/york haven effort, and the skate park study)
- Park maintenance checks and activities (ensure parks are functional, arrange for replacement and repairs (fighting with manufactures to get equip under warranty))
- Park safety checks (important for community safety)
- Coordinate outside organizations use of the parks (very contentious, fighting for park use: baseball, softball, football, lacross, soccer, etc)
- Develops and oversees agreements with outside organizations relating to their cost and responsibilities as they use the parks (not easy),
- Responses to day to day problems with use of the parks (can't get into the storage shack, blown fuse, trash pickup, field conditions, etc)
- Arrange for porta poties for the parks, and address problems with those arrangements (address complaints from users, etc)
- Line up use of pavilions and payments for use of these facilities (this has been an increasing obligation, which is good)
- Line up volunteers for twp activities (this is a major job for twp sponsored events, working with school groups, church groups, honor societies, private organizations, etc.)
- Review land development plans and prepare them for review by the recreation board (we review for compliance with the twp ordinances relating to rec obligations)
- Prepare general information for the rec board to consider at its monthly meeting (park development, park use, community events, etc)
- Attend and prepare minutes of monthly rec board meetings
- Develop grant applications for twp facilities (this is a major part of the job which I will address further in a minute or so)
- Work with granting departments and organizations to research various funding opportunities and search out information on these potential grants (generally means going to trainings, meetings, and contacting agency staff)
- Develop and submit grants for those funding sources relevant to our activities.
- Work with engineering firms and contactors to ensure that park facilities are implemented according to schedule, plans, and grant requirements (this is a major and very important activity which ensures grant payment, and a functional facility. We have just begun moving on activities in the Lexington park and will soon begin on Apple Orchard)

- These activities are substantial and are not able to be carried out by board members. Board members cannot provide these day to day activities, and without someone to carry out these tasks the rec board is ineffectual in its charge to ensure recreational opportunities are provided to citizens in the twp.

- Earlier on I did allude to the grant writing element of the part time rec Board's support staff, let me take a minute to review the accomplishments of the rec staff in obtaining various grants to support twp parks:
  - 50,000 from DCNR for White Oak
  - 30,000 from DCED for Cly
  - 86,000 from DCNR for Shelly Park tot lot
  - 20,000 from York county for regional skate park study
  - 150,000 from DCNR for Shelly Park/York Haven combined project
  - 100,000 from York County Community Block grant for Shelly/YH
  - 10,000 from York county for engineering for the Shelly/YH project
  - 60,000 PP&L for Shelly/YH
  - 500 from PTO for Shelly/YH
  - 1,000 from Northeastern SD for Shelly/YH
  - an additional 50,000 DCED WAM money in the works (not final) for Shelly/YH
  - 100,000 York County Community Block grant for Conewago Heights stormwater project
  - 10,000 from Jim Gibson for Lexington park
  - 70,000 from walmart (2 times what they were obligated to provide)
- This funding to the twp, is directly attributable to the rec staff developing and overseeing these grants which total to over $700,000 coming to the twp, using a staff person paid ~~less~~ than 20k a year for these efforts (last year approx 17k of here total payment package was for activities relating to the recreation).
- Grant writing is a skill and an art, which we had a trained staff person proven to be successful in these efforts until that position was recently eliminated.
- This position brought in well more than their cost of employment, just in the grants listed above.

- Lastly I would like to draw your attention that the ordinance that formed the parks and rec board, (ordinance number 226 of 1989). Section 4 of that ordinance outlines the powers and duties of the rec board. In letter c. under that section, it states that the rec board is to: "select, employ and discharge all recreation personnel necessary in carrying out these duties set forth herein".
- The rec board is disappointed that this provision of the ordinance was not carried out, and that the action of the supervisors to eliminate this position was done without any discussion with the rec Board. We would contend that this personnel action would be in violation of the ordinance establishing the rec board.

In summary:

1) we are proud of the accomplishments of the twp in relation to establishing recreational opportunities for its citizens, you the supervisors were responsible for establishing this successful program and I commend you for your past efforts.
2) we believe that there is a strong need for dedicated staff in the twp to oversee recreation efforts, and there is a significant workload to be accomplished.
3) We have shown that the staff assigned to the rec board has brought in many more dollars to this township, than what they cost to employ, thru the successful solicitation of grant funds from various sources. Recognize that the cost for the part time rec staff represents less than 1/2 of a % of the total twp budget, with the total cost of the part time staff person no doubt costing less than the benefit package alone for a full time staff. To eliminate a position which makes money for the township seems to be counter productive in a time when we need to search out any way we can to bring money in to our community.
4) Lastly we believe that the action taken to eliminate this position is in violation of the parks and rec ordinance.
5) Based on these facts, we would request that the supervisors provide an opportunity for the rec board members to meet with the supervisors in executive session, to discuss this personnel issue, and to come to some resolution in how we will move ahead to ensure that recreational activities and facilities will continue to be provided for all the citizens of the twp.

I thank you for your time and hope that you will honor our request to meet with you to determine how this issue can be resolved.