

**DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 27TH, 2020**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors' Work Session Meeting for Monday, January 27th, 2020, was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Stephen Stefanowicz in the Meeting Room of the Dover Township Municipal Building. Supervisors present were Michael Cashman, Stephen Parthree, Charles Richards and Robert Stone. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswald, Township Manager; Township Public Works Director, Michael Fleming, Township Zoning Officer, John McLucas, Township Solicitor, Charles Rausch and Township Secretary, Tiffany Strine. There were 16 citizens present. This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minutes only.

STREET OBSTRUCTIONS ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Manager Oswald stated that this work session is being held for the purposes of discussing the Dover Township Street Obstruction Ordinance. Manager Oswald informed the Board of Supervisors that there have been some enforcement issues with regards to street obstructions within the Township which warranted the need for discussion.

J. McLucas stated that he has been encountering countless basketball nets and other obstructions in the roadways within the Township. J. McLucas stated that there is currently no good enforcement mechanism for such matters. J. McLucas added that letters have been issued to residents in the past when needed. J. McLucas has since created and implemented fluorescent stickers with the pertinent information for notice and has been applying these notices when the need arises. The notice advises the resident of such obstruction and that the obstruction needs to be removed immediately. J. McLucas stated that issues have begun to arise after notices have been provided and no good-will action was being taken by the resident.

J. McLucas, Manager Oswald, M. Fleming and C. Rausch have met to discuss the issues of street obstructions and non-compliance. J. McLucas stated that other areas of concern are for large trailers within the street. There is currently a fine attached to street obstruction violations in the amount of five (\$5.00) dollars. The fine fee has not deterred the unlawful actions. J. McLucas would like to see a more sustainable action to help resolve these repeat issues.

J. McLucas provided a sample of another local area ordinance regarding streets and sidewalks, focusing on street obstructions and prohibition of certain obstructions. By applying the content presented into the Dover Township Ordinance, the ordinance will then better cover and encompass a more thorough coverage of street obstructions as well as stiffer penalty.

M. Fleming provided images depicting various obstructions throughout Dover Township. M. Fleming added that the current Dover Township code does not contain any matter that helps the Township to better enforce or maintain various obstructions such as overgrown vegetation, storage trailers and so forth.

M. Fleming noted that we should remain mindful of the American's with Disabilities Act that is regulated by the Federal Government and bestowed to Local Government to control. Dover Township has to provide for an impaired individual to be able to access certain pathways. Certain pathways are currently compromised by overgrown and matured vegetation, thus causing concern. Dover Township equipment, Fire Department equipment, local school buses, waste haulers and so forth are constantly maneuvering in and out of the roadways and Dover Township would like to have more means for enforcement of street obstructions for all around better safety practices. M. Fleming stressed the need for such as the presented ordinance for purpose of safety. Pedestrian safety, sight distances, sign visibility and so forth are all effected and in need of betterment.

R. Stone stated that he feels that we are simply enacting ordinances to comply with laws and regulations currently in place.

Manager Oswalt noted that there is a difference of violations of the Dover Township Zoning Ordinance. A violation of the Dover Township Zoning Ordinance is a civil complaint versus a citation. A civil complaint is more difficult to file and takes more time to process. By taking the measure to compile all the needs of violations under one category, will then allow for necessary issuance in a quicker time frame.

The enforcement of violations was considered. It was considered to give certain personnel the authority to issue violations if presented.

R. Stone stated that he does not want to see the men and women in the field, for Dover Township, to enforce such violations and would prefer to keep the enforcement of these matters within the current parameters.

Chairman Stefanowicz inquired if a lack of recreational area is a concern that is creating many basketball nets being utilized within the roadways.

M. Fleming stated that such a complaint might be voiced.

J. McLucas would like to see a pragmatic standpoint taken to issue a notice when necessary, allow for correction and if no correction is made, further action can be taken. The fees and or cost of the fine is set by the Magistrate's office in these situations.

M. Cashman stated that he would like to see uniformity and consistency with the inspecting of all areas of the Township.

J. McLucas would like himself, M. Fleming and Solicitor Rausch to draft an amended ordinance incorporating components of the existing ordinance and the presented ordinances for the Board of Supervisors review.

The Board of Supervisors collectively informed J. McLucas that they would consider a newly amended ordinance for Dover Township, encompassing the new and necessary components

discussed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Stefanowicz at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Tiffany Strine, Recording Township Secretary