

**BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
375 CEDARCREST DRIVE
DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2016**

Chairman Richard Lasek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

In attendance were Chairman Lasek and Supervisors Palmer Brown and Edward Silvetti, Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson, Road Foreman Lance Dick, Chief of Police Roger White, Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Donald Ott, Teddie Kreitz representing Keller Engineers, and Attorney Chris Jancula.

Chairman Lasek announced this **Special Meeting** is called for the purpose of discussing the **PPP/Mariner East 2-Sunoco Pipeline Project**. It was advertised as required by Second Class Township Code on Saturday, January 09, 2016. Eighty-five letters announcing the meeting were also hand-delivered by the Blair Township Police Department to addresses most directly impacted by the proposed access routing of the Pipeline Project. The Board of Supervisors welcomed a full house of concerned Blair Township residents.

Chairman Lasek announced: "Public comment is both welcome and invited. Any persons wishing to speak will be limited to five minutes per person."

Chairman Lasek introduced Mr. Donald Zoladkiewicz, Sunoco Logistics Community Relations representative. Mr. Zoladkiewicz proceeded by introducing Sunoco Project Manager, Eric Sweeney along with Mark McConnell, Sean Connelly and Chip Amer.

Mr. Zoladkiewicz began his presentation by elaborating on the Blair Township Board of Supervisors insistence on this Special Meeting and their desire to have Sunoco proceed with plans that are in the best interest of the Pleasant View property owners. He noted the initial planned access using Hamer Drive as the construction access route has drawbacks. Primary construction access is now changed due to this as well as the insistence of the Board of Supervisors.

The history and background of the Sunoco project was presented, noting that Sunoco is a Pennsylvania based company, providing economic benefit to the area and the Commonwealth as a whole. Mariner East Project planning began approximately 2 1/2 years ago. Most Eastern refineries have either been sold or closed. Marcellus Shale gas has also added to the need for pipelines joining Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania gas production. Propane, Ethane, Butane and other natural gas products/components are all being conveyed through underground piping networks. No pumping station is planned for placement in Blair Township.

A projector was used to visually aid in the discussion as it progressed.

The existing Mariner I project uses existing lines and Right of Ways. The Mariner II project includes both a 20-inch line and a 16-inch line. Re-routing is done following the First Energy Power Corridor.

Eric Sweeney, Project & Construction Manager, then addressed the assembly. He commented that he had driven the original proposed access route, Hamer Drive, and agreed and understood the reaction that Sunoco received from the Board of Supervisors. The Hamer Drive access is no longer part of the construction route ingress or egress, instead all construction vehicles and material will access and then exit the site from Charger Highway, SR 0036. Exception are a few cement trucks and standard pickup trucks to be used in construction of a Valve Box foundation. He compared these vehicles/equipment with those involved with constructing a house foundation.

Mr. Sweeney explained the different processes in pipe installation, open cut and horizontal and directional drilling. The drilling process, once started, continues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and causes no surface disturbance. Sound barriers are put into place. The open cut installation causes a large amount of surface disturbance and requires 70% of the surface restoration before Sunoco is able to vacate the site. 1.58 miles of surface cut is proposed. Sunoco intends to begin, very soon, to cut the trees down that are in the pipeline path. Due to the brown bat, trees cannot be felled after March 31st. The cut timber belongs to the land owner.

During the months of May and June, a large influx of heavy equipment will become visible at the site. Top soil is windrowed in 75-foot rows. Trenches are cut and the subsoil is piled. Screening trucks are brought in. Mr. Sweeney explained the process of placing the pipe.

Environmental restoration is determined by the Blair County Conservation District.

Mr. Sweeney next described the horizontal/directional drilling process, noting that the area they intend to drill is known to be the hardest bedrock area in the state. The drilling will be done in 1,600 and 2,100 foot sections, and they anticipate being able to drill 60 feet per day. The noise rating of the drill is 85 decibels, equivalent to a table saw.

A Valve Box is planned in the cul-de-sac area at the top of Hamer Drive. This adversely affects the Pleasant View Phase VI Development. The cul-de-sac is built, but was non-existent during Sunoco's planning stage. The Valve Box will be enclosed in a fenced in area, 100 x 75 feet. Once completed, scheduled maintenance will be done during daylight hours, which includes the pickup and delivery of nitrogen tanks. A number of residents expressed great concern regarding the aesthetics of the Valve Box placement and the negative affect it would have with respect to the view shed and the value of their properties. It was suggested that its appearance would be similar to that surrounding a home pool area.

Questions were raised regarding the safety of the Valve Box. Mr. Sweeney assured the group that any leakage would be housed within the fenced in area. Questions regarding the possibility of an ignition problem were presented, Mr. Sweeney commented once again that it would remain contained in the fenced in area.

Placement of the Valve Box met with resistance by the residents in attendance. Mr. Zoladkiewicz explained that the boxes are required to be spaced no less than every eight miles on

a line. He assured the assembly that he would research the area further, in the event that there was a more viable location further distant from Pleasant View development. He noted that it would remain in the proximity as proposed due to the eight mile requirement, but, he would research it further. He reassured the group that the Valve Box is not a Pumping Station and that no Pumping Stations are planned to be constructed in Blair Township.

Mr. Zoladkiewicz then explained the economic benefit that the pipeline would provide for the area and the Commonwealth. The project cost is in excess of three billion dollars. He further explained the safety and engineering of the project, noting that it is monitored and operated by professionals.

Mr. Sweeney once again addressed the assembly, re-affirming that Sunoco is not placing a Pumping Station, but a Valve Box. He also stated that Mariner II is intended to be online by the end of 2016, with construction beginning this year in April. 1.58 miles of pipeline will be buried and re-contoured going east. 95% of all construction vehicles will access the Blair Township construction site from off of Route 36. The remaining 5% will consist of concrete trucks and the material used in the construction of the footer for the Valve Box, which will total 4-6 trucks for the duration of the project.

Questions about the Valve Box continued. It was noted that the 8-mile regulation is a Federal Government requirement. Mr. Zoladkiewicz and Mr. Sweeney assured the group that they are in the process of evaluating the location. The property owner, Jeff Holtzinger, was present for the meeting. When questioned about his negotiations with Sunoco, he stated he would much rather have the building lot, removing the planned Valve Box from the development's view shed. He indicated that there may be other, less obvious locations to place the Valve Box. Mr. Zoladkiewicz stated that there are three ways to acquire easements when doing a project: 1) Negotiation 2) Accessing existing line rights and 3) Eminent Domain & Condemnation.

Questions regarding the safety of the Valve Box and the pipeline installation continued. It was noted that another line, placed decades ago, is currently an 8-inch line, but will transition to a 20-inch line. Also questioned was the impact to the water and soil in the area. Should a leak occur, liquid gas immediately converts to a gaseous state. There is 1,100 to 1,200 PSI pressure within the pipeline, but that with older pipeline infrastructure systems in place, leaks are much harder to detect. There are three ways to transport this same product: truck, rail, and pipeline, with pipelines being the most efficient.

The PPP/ME2 pipeline crews will work six days a week, ten hours a day. A safety meeting is held daily at 6:00 a.m.; start-up begins at 7:00; and at 5:00 p.m. shut down commences for the day.

Supervisor Silveti commented on the areas of conflicts, noting nuisance issues, and diminished property values, among other things. It was reiterated that Mr. Zoladkiewicz would report back to the Supervisors regarding placement consideration of the Valve Box. The assembly was told, but in no way convinced, that the pipeline does not diminish the value of their property.

The Supervisors were commended for initiating the Special Meeting and for the active stance that was taken to halt any plans for construction vehicles to use Hamer Drive for ingress or egress.

Other Business: No other business was discussed.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Supervisor Silvetti seconded the motion. The Supervisors expressed their gratitude to the Township residents for attending and also to Sunoco for their presentation. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote.

In closing, Supervisor Silvetti encouraged residents in attendance at this Special Meeting to get involved in Township Commissions and Committees, noting vacancies on both the Blair Township Planning Commission and also the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority. In this regard he distributed copies of a Talent Bank Application and encouraged those present to complete one and submit it to the Township.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary/Treasurer