

To: Penn Township Board Of Supervisors
Amos Seiders, Ken Sheaffer, Glen Martin

CC To: Solicitor Marcus McNight, Township Secretary Pat Sangialosi, Township Engineer John Shambaugh, Township Consultant Buck Shuller, Parks & Recreation Chairman Ron Tritt

From: Steve Fosburg
Resident, Penn Township

Date: April 10, 2008, Board of Supervisors Meeting

Re: Proposed Penn Township Community Center and District Judge Office

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to address the Board Of Supervisors on matters regarding the Community Center and District Judge Office space.

I. Opening Remarks

My wife and I recently moved to Penn Township, we spent close to 1-1/2 years searching for a location where we wanted to locate and retire. Penn Township was ideal—not too far from Carlisle that has all the amenities one needs but still live in a farm rich rural area. Coming from a large Metropolitan area I appreciate the community warmth and friendliness witnessed here in Penn Township. Since I'm retired I have time to be involved with the community and, why I volunteered to work with Parks and Recreation Department to help construct the playground facilities at the Centerville School in Centerville.

I met good people while the playground project was being completed and, I learned some history about the school and how the township obtained the land. I believe the Parks and Recreation Department is a good idea and I was looking forward in helping the township renovate the school and make it into a Community Center. As time passed, I started hearing that renovation maybe too costly—later heard about the possibility of space for the DJ's office and the new building would be shared space i.e., Community Center and District Judge Office. Now the building program seems to be DJ building only. The Community Center is on hold until additional funding can be obtained. Remarks in the Sentinel March 24, 2008: ““We're trying to proceed in an organized fashion and not overextend ourselves,” Sheaffer said. “Our goal is to do this without having to raise taxes.”” I disagree with Mr. Sheaffer's statement. There should be some monthly return for the township and absolutely no tax increases relative to the DJ's office space.

II. Learning From Others

Cumberland County has looked at other Municipalities, Townships and Fire Departments. I spoke with was the Shippensburg Fire Department. In their planning they designed the 2700 square feet for the DJ's office but also a 20 ft x 40 ft training center for use by the Shippensburg Fire Departments. I don't think it is being unreasonable that Penn Township gain some building space at the same time the DJ's

space is leased by Cumberland County. It would have been a good idea to organize a Fact Finding Committee to visit with and evaluate how other Municipalities worked with County Officials to build other DJ offices.

III. Communicating With The Township People— Open and Transparent

With the use of today's technologies, important township issues can get to the people instantly. Not to say instant information is necessary but it is possible. The use of the township web-page, email and, I'm sure if it was request, the Sentinel and/or Star would give weekly or bi-weekly space for Penn Township to run an article. Perhaps a one-time letter would have to be sent to township residences in order to collect email addresses and to inform the residence what the township is planning to do.

At any given time, I'm sure there are several issues that should be brought to the attention of the community. In many instance waiting three months for the newsletter or eight to ten weeks for minute notes is just not sufficient. With present communication tools residence can be informed as to what their Supervisors are doing for the community.

IV. Optimistic About Penn Township And The Community Center

I'm sure that the Supervisors and other Township leaders will search hard to find alternatives in building the center. Waiting 20 years to find funding for building plans is not the best solution. As for Parks & Recreation and the Community Center, the township needs; (a) a General Plan (developed as soon as possible), (b) Short Term Plan (what the township would like to see in five years) and, (c) Long Term Plan (what the township would like to see completed in ten years—the master plan.) These plans should include:

- Plot Survey and electronic drawings of the eight acre track
- Location of existing facilities
- Location of new and proposed construction
- Lighting
- Parking lots and side-walks
- Outside Rest Room Facilities
- Landscaping

V. Need For Community involvement

The community needs to be brought into the Community Center Development Process. An outline should be developed in collaboration with the Supervisors, Parks & Recreation and other Community Leaders. Once this outline (an outline of suggestions) has been drafted it should than be turned over to a Steering Committee made up of Township Leaders and the Public. Two or more public hearings should be advertised to get as much feed back as possible from the community which then would be incorporate into the Steering Committee's final plan. Some possible Items to be considered:

- Outside Sports
- Inside Sports
- Utilization of meeting rooms
- How to charge for meeting room useage
- What Townships and Government Agencies could have access to meeting rooms
- What non-profit organizations could have access to meeting rooms
- What type of community support groups could have access to meeting rooms

VI. Applications For Grant Assistance

Buck Shuller—Grants and Loan Officer; has his work cut out for him. I have not seen a great deal of grant applications but what I have seen is very detailed and is looking for the type of information outlined in sections IV and V.

VII. Conclusion

Depending on the conclusions reached by the township residences and approved by the Supervisors—it would be possible that user fees collected by the Community Center and the Parks and Recreation would pay for Buildings and upkeep..

Not mentioned in Section IV are possible user fees collected from commercial business specializing in community activities such as:

- Dance—youth and adult
- Art and Crafts—youth and adult
- Photography
- Genealogy
- Local History
- Gardening
- Children Programs
- Adult Studies