

Edenville Township Special Meeting
December 18, 2020

Present: Terrance Hall, Supervisor; Anedra Lewis, Clerk; Karen Carey, Treasurer; Crystal Starkey, Trustee; Jim Sperling, Trustee

Public Present: Dennis Lewis

Terry Hall called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Karen Moved to accept Agenda with Terry's changes. Anedra seconded. Motion passed.

Supervisor's opening statement: Terry

- Replace the ramps with a lift/elevator from upper platform to lower platform.
- This would all be done through Grant monies, insurance monies, and repair grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation (\$50k), FEMA funds.
- Fema is offering \$@5k for repairs on the park—one version fixed cost, one is per price of exactly what we submit (danger in this latter option is we can't alter/change anything). For both options, if costs exceed initial amount, we can request additional funds.

Karen:

- 75% FEMA funds, 25% Edenville Twp funds
- Time for us to come to a conclusion
- Initial cost was \$200k; FEMA came up with their own estimate of \$179k. Subtracted the \$100k of insurance money, then took the percentage off to arrive at the \$29k they are offering. We could submit for more if we go over that amount, but I don't think we would be successful.

Jim:

- The MACF \$50k is designated strictly for Harper Park
- So much Government paperwork with FEMA that if we make one single mistake, we will be out the \$29k and may be at risk of having to pay it back.
- Asks Terry is he has had any additional meeting with Laura on the FEMA application
 - Terry:
 - Yes, I had an hour-long meeting with (GUY?), but he wasn't telling me anything. My next appointment is with Laura.
- We have to secure a minority contractor due to FEMA's restrictions
- If we qualify for the \$29k and we can use it as our discretion..

Terry:

- The FEMA PPE and Hazard Pay FEMA Grant update—submitted a rough draft to our lawyers. Once we get that back, we will be ready to submit.
- The number one question is which pay method we will take with the FEMA \$29k.

Jim:

- If we take the \$29k upfront, we can make changes as needed. If we can't do that, we should only use the \$150k we already have.

Terry:

- I would like to clarify what Jim just said, if we can't take the \$29k upfront, then you think we should be done with FEMA and only use the monies we have.
- I am in agreement of that with you, as long as we are not changing the purpose of the park
- The MACF \$50k doesn't designate specific use for HOW we revamp Harper Park, as long as it is used

Anedra:

- If we can take the \$29k and use it for Harper Park and don't have to jump through anymore hoops or do an extensive amount of paperwork.
- To do option B, you are going to have get engineering reports and all this kind of stuff and do all of that before we can apply for the money. This would be difficult to do with the time restraints.
- Adding that \$29k to the \$150k would get us to the \$179k that was the original estimate FEMA gave us

Karen:

- FEMA accepted Lapham's engineering estimate.
- It was very difficult to work on that hill; they had to re-start several times due to the steep incline as well as the rocky underground

Jim:

- FEMA meeting is on Monday at 2pm? 4pm? 5pm?
- What if we use the \$29k on an engineering design estimate?
- We would have to do it their way, but it would save us an awful lot of time of chasing down bids, engineers, etc.
 - All Board members agree with Jim's idea

Crystal:

- Yes, and if we get a professional, expert engineering study, we could avoid any issues that Karen raised regarding this being done incorrectly and having to start over.

Terry:

- Public Comment? Anyone on the telephone that would like to speak?
- Is there anyone in the public that would like to speak:
 - Dennis Lewis: I have more questions than anything else. Are there guidelines for what this FEMA money can be spent for? Can it be used for the engineering study? Wreckage left there? Have you run any of your changes by the DEQ? They get real twitchy with their water lines. Is there a timeline when this money must be used?

- Terry: No, I have not run this by DEQ because I want to know what the public thinks about revamping Harper Park first. If the public likes it, then I will run it by these professional folks.
- Dennis: so it is still up for debate whether the park should be changed at all then?
- Terry: Yes
- Dennis: The lift creates a liability issue that is unbelievable. Do you have to someone there as an operator any time the park is open?
- Terry: I came up with this idea for the lift because I have seen them at other city/township parks—Ludington, Leeland. No one is there operating or managing it. As to the electronics of it, any coastal city or tourist town has electronics near the coastal area, so there has to be a way to do it. I will investigate this at a later time if the public likes the idea of installing the lift. Yes, there are absolute guidelines through FEMA, which is partly why Jim suggested we investigate whether we can use the \$29k on an engineering study.
- Karen: FEMA almost uses those specific guidelines as a “gotcha,” so we want to be very specific about how we proceed.
- Terry: The proposal I put forth could potentially reach over a million dollars, so this isn’t going to happen overnight. There are time limits on how to pursue the grant application. Once you get the grant, there are further time limits on when we can spend the money. Yes there are also rules and regulations regarding the demolition of the wreckage left there. I am also wondering if some members of the public would be willing to volunteer their time and tools to tear down the wreckage. I don’t have any issue volunteering my time to do this. One member of the community talked with me about the liability of the parking lot as it currently exists. So, I talked with Art Buck from the Road Commission, and he said the liability is limited because it is posted, and we have insurance, and he didn’t think the liability was that much. Risk Management is important and must be considered, but liability is the first word companies will tell you when they don’t want to do the proposed work. If what I have proposed is accepted, the parking lot that currently exists would be turned into a dining area. When I talk to the Midland Parks and Rec guy, he told me Heritage Park isn’t high on his priority list and told me to come back in about two years. So, he didn’t say no! My long term vision is that you could walk from Heritage Park to Harper Park. We will have to involve the Parks & Rec Committee on this if this is approved. So, let me ask you this, Mr. Lewis: would you support a facelift to Harper Park?
- Dennis: No. The utilization was low. Anytime I have been to the park, I was the only one there. I don’t know how many times you’ve visited the park, but there was generally two or three people fishing down there, and judging by the vehicle, they were not from Edenville Township.

- Terry: That is a valid observation. Thank you. I can tell you I used to fish all up and down that area and dock at Harper Park, to get gas and food. Every time I fished that area, I saw no less than two other boats also docked at Harper Park. So, judging the park from the road isn't altogether fair.
- Karen: We always got calls from two families asking if the dock was in already because the people in wheel chairs were only able to access their pontoon by going down the ramps at Harper Park and roll on their pontoon.
- Terry: So, is it worth it to us to make these renovations for one member of our community?
- Anedra: Do we have a cost estimate of just repairing the ramps that are there?
- Jim: I don't recall the costs.
- Terry: But I do remember the pylon replacement/fixing was going to be a problem—especially long term. In my experience, in these flood situations, it can shift the ground density and how it works with construction. This is why my plans include eliminating the ramps and thereby using the pylons as bracing for the landscaping. We ultimately want a Harper Park that is ADA compliant.
- Karen: We should also consider the upkeep that will cost the Township
- Terry: If we repair everything we did without electricity...the lift is hydraulic and therefore uses minimal electricity. How much would it cost to run electricity to the park (2 lights, lift, water fountain, plug in electronics).
- Karen: We pay \$28-\$30 a month for the electricity at the Gransden Park pavilion.
- Terry: conceptually, would it be worth \$50 a month to have a fishing spot, observation deck, heated restroom for our community? Is it worth \$600 a year? Maybe investigate some solar possibilities as Jim suggested.
- Jim: Can we call Laura before Monday's meeting so we have some idea of
- Dennis: These monies you want to earmark for Harper Park, either renovation of resurrection thereof, is this something you can put the money into an account until we know for sure we will even have water? I don't think they are ever going to put dams back in there. If there is no water, then what's the point?
- Terry: There will always be some water—whether that water is Tittabawassee River or Sanford Lake. Even right now, you can stand down there and fish. My design/concept takes into account whether it is a lake or a river.
- Jim calls for close of public comment. Supported by Karen. No discussion. Public comment section is closed. Terry thanked Dennis for his insight, useful points, and questions.
- Terry: I would like to entertain a motion
- Jim: I think we wait until we see what FEMA says if we can use the \$29k for the engineering study.
- Karen: I would entertain a motion if the FEMA \$29k is a fixed cost.

- Terry: Karen made the motion; Anedra supported. Discussion: Jim, if they say no we can't use it for engineering, then what? Karen says we can use it for anything as long as it is applied to Harper Park. If we don't adopt the fixed-cost method with FEMA, then we cut bait.
- Motion to take the fixed cost option from FEMA; roll call vote: Karen: Yes; Terry: yes; Jim: yes; Anedra: yes; Crystal: yes. Motion carries.
- Any other discussion on Harper Park
- Motion to adjourn: Jim; Anedra supports.
- Time is 3:04 according to wall clock at Swanton Memorial.

ACCEPTED