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PUBLIC MEETING
March 7, 2017

President Alan Ilgen called the advertised public meeting of the Millheim Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Patty Beckenbaugh, Alan Ilgen, David Sprowls, Leslie Warriner, Sharon Heckman, Mike Bloom, Carl Rote, Tim Bowser, Marilyn Montlich, Connie Grazier, David Grazier, Richard Gallup, Michael Pipe, Ed Besecker, Richard Winebold, and Jerri Zerby

ABSENT: Ed Bowman, Lauralee Snyder and John R. Miller, III

Following is the discussion on the downtown parking situation:

- President Ilgen explained that the Borough has an Engineering Study completed by Franson Engineering and Surveying that looked at some of the downtown side streets to determine if they could become one-way streets.
- Mike Bloom from Centre County Transportation gave an informal overview of the issue and the engineering study that was done to assess whether five side streets in the downtown area could safely accommodate two-way traffic. This study looked at Church Street on the north side of Rt. 45, Maple Alley on the north side of Rt. 45, Sugar Alley on both the north and south sides of Rt. 45 and State Street on the south side of Rt. 45. The recommendation of Franson Engineering was to convert the five side streets to one-way in from Main Street (Rt. 45). Mr. Bloom explained that PennDot received a complaint and their investigation found that the widths in certain sections were not adequate to allow parking on both sides of Rt. 45. Drawings were shown to the audience of the two options available to Millheim Borough to correct this situation.

Scenario 1: Removal of spaces not meeting width and sight distance standards which creates a net loss of 24 parking spaces. This includes the loss of two spaces for turning radius at the traffic signal – one space on the north side in front of the Elk Creek Café and one space on the south side in front of First National Bank.

Scenario 2: A hybrid with one way alleys, which includes the loss of two spaces for turning radius at the traffic signal as listed in Scenario 1. This option realigns the center line and puts parking on the north side of Rt. 45 from Maple Alley to the bridge.

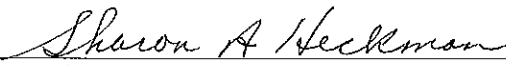
Mr. Bloom explained that Scenario 2 results in a net loss of 11 parking spaces if the side streets are converted to one-way streets with traffic turning in from Rt. 45.

- President Ilgen explained that David Sprowls has been working on a plan so the Borough may be able to add an additional space on the north side of Rt. 45 between the Elk Creek Café and the Millheim Hotel.
- Mike Bloom explained that Plum Street vehicles must continue to enter onto Rt. 45 because there is a land locked situation because the bridge is closed. He explained there could be more in depth conversations about the closed bridge on Plum Street. He explained that state funding would require a 20% Borough match. Mr. Bloom also explained that Centre County Act 13 funds could be requested and DCED has funded bridges.
- President Ilgen showed the audience where Plum Alley is on the map and explained that depending on Centre County's decision on the additional \$5.00 vehicle registration fee perhaps the Borough could consider replacing this bridge.
- Ed Besecker said there are barriers on the alleys to block Plum Street.
- Richard Gallup raised a question about site distance at Fountain Park. Mr. Bloom explained that if Maple Alley stays as it is with two-way traffic all parking could move to the north side of Rt. 45.
- David Sprowls explained that Race Street needs to remain a two-way street so the trucks can deliver to the Candle Shop.
- David Grazier asked for details on site distance.
- Mike Bloom explained that if you are sitting in your vehicle at an intersection and you are looking left and right you should have an unobstructed view in a site triangle. He explained that PennDot has a standard minimum of site triangle.
- David Grazier asked about loss of parking spaces if the parking was moved to the north side of Rt. 45. Mr. Bloom explained that this site distance requirement is eliminated if the side streets become one-way in from Rt. 45.
- Richard Gallup said then all traffic goes to the red light.
- Jerri Bierly explained that the Amish go out Church Street onto Rt. 45 to avoid the red light.
- David Sprowls explained that he watched the Amish come out at the red light and if they hit the sensor they can change the light.

- Jerri Bierly said that the property beside Church Street has hedges and you could see if they were cut down.
- David Sprowls said Church must be one-way in from Rt. 45.
- Tim Bowser asked if PennDot will get information from this meeting and the Secretary said they would. Mr. Bowser stated that he is extremely disappointed that no one came from PennDot.
- Sharon Heckman explained that PennDot has regulations that they are required to follow.
- Richard Gallup suggested that PennDot rewrite the rules and make an exception for Millheim because it is an old town.
- Jerri Bierly raised concerns because they have customers that pull off on the south side of Rt. 45.
- President Ilgen explained that the Borough needs to put better signs up so people are aware of the parking in Fountain Park.
- Jerri Bierly said that people don't want to park and walk carrying bags/boxes of meat to Fountain Park or to their parking lot behind the Meat Market.
- President Ilgen explained that the spaces in front of Fountain Park must be eliminated in either option.
- David Sprowls explained that PennDot originally said that 38 feet was needed to park on both sides but a secondary road needs to be 36 feet wide but anything less they won't allow parking on both sides of the road.
- Tim Bowser said PennDot changed because of a complaint and he wondered how we know it wasn't a business competitor that made the complaint to cause a problem.
- President Ilgen explained it is irrelevant who made the calls because the Borough has been told we need to change the parking. He explained the same thing happened to Mifflinburg, Milesburg and Curwensville.
- Richard Gallup asked about widening Rt. 45.
- Mike Bloom explained that by paring back sidewalks the Borough would be out of compliance with ADA rules.
- President Ilgen explained that the current situation creates a liability issue for PennDot and Millheim Borough if someone is hurt.
- Mike Bloom explained that PennDot has been a good partner through this.
- David Grazier asked for the PennDot representative's name and Mr. Bloom told him we are working with Ryan Collins.
- Marilyn Montlich, representing the Millheim Post Office, explained that there is a problem with people parking on Penn Street where their postal delivery person has to load/unload the mail. There are currently "No Parking" signs there but on the last two Saturdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. vehicles were parked illegally and going the wrong direction and the delivery person couldn't park to load/unload the mail. She explained that the Post Office needs to have deliveries made so it isn't closed. She asked if she needed to block off the spaces with cones? Enforcement is needed on Saturdays.
- David Sprowls raised the concern that even with enforcement if a ticket was given that still wouldn't get the vehicle moved.
- Leslie Warriner explained that State College has grounds to tow vehicles. The Secretary explained that the Borough has a towing agreement with Mr. Bierly in Centre Hall. Ms. Montlich explained that towing doesn't help the Post Office problem because their driver still can't load/unload the mail.
- Ed Besecker explained that vehicles also park in the Postal Parking spot to do banking and he said enforcement is needed.
- President Ilgen explained that whatever decision is made not everyone is going to be happy.
- David Sprowls explained that the meeting tonight was to present the Traffic Study about the one-way side streets. He also explained that PennDot doesn't require this study.
- David Grazier voiced a concern about an issue on North Street. He reported that big trucks are using North Street because of the reduced speed limit on Rt. 45. Mr. Grazier said they are using Rt. 192 to avoid Gregg Township. President Ilgen explained he would need to complain to PennDot. Mr. Grazier said he would be going to Clearfield to visit Ryan Collins.
- President Ilgen explained that the Borough doesn't need to provide parking for businesses.
- David Sprowls said the Borough is trying to keep as many spaces as possible.
- President Ilgen explained that the parking spaces in front of Fountain Park can't be saved.
- Mike Bloom explained that whatever is decided PennDot will realign/repaint the center line on Rt. 45.
- Richard Gallup raised concerns about the speed on Rt. 45 because he said that the speed on Penn Street increased 20 miles per hour when parking was removed.
- Sharon Heckman suggested that perhaps PennDot would let the Borough change the timing of the traffic signal so the Amish tripping the sensor on North Street wouldn't be an issue.
- Mike Bloom said we can talk to PennDot about the traffic signal and sensors. He also explained that we tried to strike a balance to correct the parking problem.
- Tim Bowser stated that the Borough has done everything they can and he appreciates only losing 11 spaces. He thinks we should be able to face the accusers and that PennDot needs to hear the residents concerns.
- President Ilgen explained this will be discussed at the March 14 Council meeting and enforcement is also part of that discussion.

- Marilyn Montlich said Saturdays are bad. She will put cones out to keep the space open. She also stated that the violators need to get a parking ticket that hits the pocket book. 319
- Leslie Warriner asked the audience "Would you rather keep alleys two-way and lose parking or do you want alleys one-way and save parking?"
- Jerri Bierly said she doesn't mind one-way beside the store but she is concerned about Church Street. She said when she is at the Firemen's she comes out Church Street. She doesn't want to go to the red light.
- Richard Gallup thinks Race Street should be made one-way.
- David Grazier raised a question about the fire hydrants having an impact on the south side of Rt. 45.
- David Sprowls said you need 15 feet on either side of fire hydrants.
- Richard Winebold said he wants the least amount of spaces taken.
- David Grazier thanked the Borough Council for their efforts.

There being no further discussion, President Ilgen closed the meeting by thanking the audience and expressing Council's appreciation for their comments.


Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer