



MEMORANDUM

TO: Tim Beck, Chair
Assembly Road Service Area Committee

FROM: Richard Valenti, CMC
Assistant Deputy Clerk

THROUGH: Mona Lisa Drexler, MMC
Borough Municipal Clerk

DATE: February 9, 2010

SUBJECT: **ACTION OF THE ASSEMBLY ROAD SERVICE AREA COMMITTEE
MEETING OF: FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

Convened at 6:00 pm/Adjourned at 7:40 pm

Members Present

Mr. Alexander	Mr. Swift
Mr. Beck	Mr. Blanchard II
Mr. Phipps	Mr. Schad
Mr. McCumby	Mr. Davies
Ms. Brown	

Members Absent

Mr. Stewart

Roll Call

Comment period open to Service Area Commissioners limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Time allotted will be 30 minutes. Sign up sheets will be available outside the Assembly Chambers at 5:00 pm.

William Stodden, Our Road Service Area, spoke on his budget meeting and stated that he wants to keep administrative costs down. Mr. Stodden also commented on annexations for his service area. He stated that there is no incentive for Service Area Commissioners to take on anymore responsibilities since pass through money has been stopped.

Discussion/Action on assimilating ARSAC District 1 into one of the other 5 districts, at least until District 1 can gain representation on the ARSAC. (Mr. Alexander)

At the start of the meeting, after roll call, Mr. Beck informed the ARSAC that District 1 vacancy had been filled as of February 8, 2010 at 5:05pm by Stuart Davies. He welcomed Mr. Davies to the ARSAC. When this item came up on the agenda Mr. Beck asked Bill Gryder, Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, to brief on the District 1 meeting that took place on February 8, 2010 at 4:30 pm in the Chizmar Room and the election of Stuart Davies to be the District Chair for District 1.

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Discussion/Action on annexations into Service Areas. (Public Works)

Bill Gryder, Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, briefed on annexations and results of past elections. Mr. Gryder handed out a sheet that showed the elections, results and types of elections that were held. Mr. Gryder explained the petition process for an election. Discussion ensued on annexations of service areas. Mr. Gryder was asked a question and spoke about possible solutions to maintenance for areas that wanted to be annexed but were not due to failed elections.

Mr. Gryder responded to Mr. Beck's question of whether a meeting was held in regards to annexations. Mr. Gryder explained that there is no mandatory meeting prior to an annexation but service areas that have meetings in the third quarter would probably discuss the annexation. It was explained that annexation elections happen in November. Mr. Gryder explained the May 15th deadline that Rural Services has for applications for a petition. He also explained the timeline of the ordinances, for service area elections, that are due to the Assembly for action. Mr. Gryder believed that the petitions were due back to Rural Services with required signatures by the beginning of July so Rural Services can process the petitions. Petition applications are accepted prior to the May 15th deadline but are not processed by Rural Services until May 15th. A public information meeting is held by Rural Services on the annexations and the Noel Wien Library is used as the venue. Mr. Gryder responded to a question on voter turn out and estimated that voter turn out was small based on the information available to him. Mr. Gryder explained the election process for annexations. He thought it would be beneficial to the process if an informational meeting was held on the annexation in the parent service area. Mr. Beck thought that the meeting that normally takes place at the Noel Wien Library might be more beneficial if it were held in the service area concerned. Mr. Gryder explained the notices sent out announcing the upcoming informational meeting to the parent service area as well as the annexation area and said overall the turn outs were small. He also explained all the informational items that were handed out at the meeting and felt there was plenty of information provided to the attendees to help in their understanding of what was going on. Mr. Beck stated that the annexation process was broken.

Mr. Beck asked the question of the ARSAC of whether there should be a mandatory meeting of the parent service area to discuss annexations into their areas. The general consensus of the ARSAC members was that annexation election meeting/s should be held prior to elections. Mr. Gryder addressed the different specific annexation elections and the reasons they failed or passed.

Mr. Beck stated that the FNSB had 2 options – create more road service areas or make annexation process work. He asked the ARSAC for their opinion on this issue.

Mr. Swift questioned the election process. The election mail out process was addressed and the criteria of having to be a resident in the service area to vote was addressed. It was explained that this was a state requirement in addition to being a borough requirement.

Mr. Schad brought up the idea of creating 7 new service areas whereby areas that wanted to be annexed into a service area could vote themselves into one of these areas.

Mr. Phipps suggested a joint meeting where issues (differential tax rate, etc.) could be addressed.

Mr. Beck asked a question of Jill Dolen, Assistant Borough Attorney. He wanted to know if the state based service areas on political or geographical boundaries. The attorney stated it was a combination of both.

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Scott Johnson, Director of Public Works, spoke on the issue of 109 service areas and how and why they were created.

Mr. Beck stated that he had been asked by individuals in areas to be annexed if they would be represented in the service area by a commissioner from their area. He asked the ARSAC for comments on this issue. Various district chairs related their experiences on this issue.

Mr. Beck asked the question of the ARSAC, "Do you think a change to a pass/fail of the election process of both parent and the petitioner's would fix this problem, i.e. one election?"

The general consensus of the ARSAC was that one election would be acceptable. The borough attorney stated that state law would need to be changed to accommodate one election.

Scott Johnson, Director of Public Works, spoke on service areas having their required meetings and addressing these issues at one of those meetings. He addressed the meeting places that are used for informational meetings and how there is a lack of public areas for conducting these meetings. He encouraged looking at borough code to solve the issues before addressing state law changes.

Bill Gryder, Acting Deputy Director of Public Works, spoke on geographical representation within a service area and the lack of commissioner volunteers from service areas and how this would affect a wide geographical spread within the service area for representation.

Jill Dolen stated that secondary miscellaneous service areas could not be used to take in areas that had failed to get into an adjacent existing service area by means of a vote.

Committee Member Comments

- a. District Council 1 – Stuart Davies
- b. District Council 2 – Dave Alexander
- c. District Council 3 - Scott Stewart
- d. District Council 4 – Don McCumby
- e. District Council 5 - Phil Schad
- f. District Council 6 – Dan Swift
- g. Jack Phipps, Public Member
- h. Public Works
- i. Joe Blanchard, FNSB Assembly
- j. Kelly Brown, FNSB Assembly
- k. Tim Beck, FNSB Assembly, Chair

Various general comments were made by members of the ARSAC.

Next Assembly Road Service Area Committee meeting on March 8, 2010.
6:00 pm, Assembly Chambers.