

**Newlin Township
Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting Minutes**

July 20, 2022

The Newlin Township Board of Supervisors held an informational session to meet with Janet L. Bowers, Director of Chester County Department of Facilities and Sandy Martin, P. E. The County Engineer from McCormick Taylor on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Garage, 1751 Embreeville Road, Coatesville, PA. The meeting, which was advertised in the Daily Local News on Monday, July 18, 2022, and on the Township Website, was open to the public. In attendance were Supervisors Jim Cornell (Vice-Chair) (presiding) and Bob Pearson, and Secretary, Gail Abel. Bill Kelsall attended via Zoom video conference.

Public Comments: None.

Harvey's Bridge Chester County Bridge #92: Ms. Bowers asked for the Supervisors' support for Chester County's decision to add Harveys Bridge to its active bridge program. She noted that in 2018 the Supervisors had sought to defer any upgrade of Harveys Bridge due to other large road and bridge projects going on nearby but advised that the County now considered replacement of Harveys Bridge a high priority – in part because heavy trucks continue to ignore the bridge's 8-ton weight limit (which threatens the bridge's structural integrity) – and had placed that project on its Transportation Inventory Program. She mentioned that under Federal regulations, the new bridge would have no weight restriction, and predicted that the project would take approximately three years for design/engineering and then 12-18 months for construction.

Mr. Pearson requested that Ms. Bowers consider raising the bridge's approach elevations. He also sought confirmation that the bridge will have two lanes. Ms. Martin confirmed that the replacement will be a two-lane bridge - probably 28 feet in width. Mr. Pearson next asked whether, in order to deter heavy trucks from crossing Harveys Bridge pending its eventual replacement, the County would consider automatic cameras as an alternate to its recently-imposed Harveys Bridge transit restrictions (plastic "delineators" narrowing the bridge and its approaches to a single lane). Ms. Bowers responded that it would be impractical for the County to regularly process camera images, and suggested that the Township review this idea with the State Police.

Mr. Cornell noted the concerns raised by residents at the Supervisors' July meeting that the County's recent Harveys Bridge transit restrictions were causing delays, frustration and dangerous driving behavior, and asked if the County would consider installing stoplights at either end of the bridge for more rational traffic control. Ms. Bowers estimated that such stoplights would cost around \$200,000 and advised that the County could not take responsibility because the stop lights would have to be located on the bridge approaches (which are not County property).

Mr. Pearson said he favored of replacement of Harveys Bridge with no weight restriction because that would facilitate the use of the bridge by fire trucks and emergency service vehicles. He stated a preference for some sort of stonework appearance for the

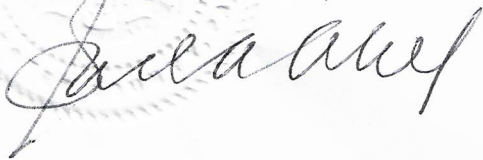
vehicles. He stated a preference for some sort of stonework appearance for the replacement bridge. Ms. Martin confirmed that the bridge could be completed with a stone façade. He also noted that it was important for Harveys Bridge remain open until after the Embreeville Bridge on Rte. 162 reopens. Ms. Bowers confirmed that that would be the case, unless additional crossings by overweight vehicles cause further structural damage. Finally, Mr. Pearson asked whether the County could remove or reconfigure the delineators on the Harveys Bridge approaches. Ms. Bowers said she believed that the delineators were positioned correctly and could not be removed.

Eric Barrett a Township resident reiterated the concerns raised at the July Supervisors' meeting about traffic delays, frustration and dangerous driving resulting from the County's recent Harveys Bridge transit restrictions, and voiced displeasure over the prospect of having to wait five years for a solution. Chrissy Rissmiller, Erin Finnerty, Mary Brady and Jack Law, also Township residents, echoed and amplified his views. An extended discussion ensued.

Mr. Pearson's motion to write a letter to the County endorsing the County's decision to replace Harveys Bridge was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Upon Mr. Pearson's motion, seconded by Mr. Cornell, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Abel
Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gail Abel", is written over a faint circular official seal.