

**East Brunswick Township  
Special Meeting  
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The Board of Supervisors of East Brunswick Township held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at the Municipal Building. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeffrey Faust at 5:59 PM. There was a PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to our flag.

In attendance for the meeting were Chairman Jeffrey Faust, Vice-Chairman/Treasurer Thomas Strause, Supervisor John Heim, Jim Crossen, Esq.; Brian Baldwin Engineer virtually; Roadmaster Tom Noecker and Secretary Kelly Coldren.

Also in attendance for the meeting were residents: Walt Keely, Kevin & Kay Kistler, Amanda & Christian Alexis, George Kupetz (virtually), Jackie Kupetz, Melanie & John Caracappa, and Bob Fligge.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Old Country Lane Bridge Replacement**

B. Baldwin gives a brief overview and explains that the township filed for a competitive grant to replace this bridge at a little over 1 million dollars. DCED reached out days before Christmas requiring letters of approval from directly affected property owners that would need to sell a portion of their property in order to complete the project. There is concern from Mr. Kupetz and the Caracappa's in providing such a letter without seeing formal plans. B. Baldwin explains that the engineering fees to draw up formal plans is something covered by grant monies and are purely conceptual at this point as any work done prior to grant award cannot be reimbursed. No survey work has been completed yet for the same reason. The plan currently being presented is conceptual based on information gathered from several other sources. This bridge is rated poor and has a 13 ton weight limit posted. J. Faust explains that if we lose out on grant money that the township will go into debt 1 million dollars and property taxes will likely have to almost double. Our hope is to keep the existing bridge open while constructing a new one adjacent to current bridge so that residents can get to their homes. The new bridge would be minimum bridge width of approximately 22 feet wide (10 foot lanes with a 1 foot buffer), have no weight restriction, and two lanes of traffic. B. Baldwin explains permitting drives the exact bridge design but it would in no way increase or decrease any flooding. The project would take approximately 2 years and the township's goal is to obtain the money through the grant to remove the burden from taxpayers and also replace in a controlled fashion rather than an emergency. The Township would need to take property from two residents. Mr. Kupetz and the Caracappas express their specific concerns with signing anything at this point. J. Crossen, J. Faust, and B. Baldwin all explain and assure them that the letter DCED is looking for now is that they are willing to move forward with the idea so township can apply for the money for the project. If and when the grant is received, formal plans will

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be developed and Kupetz and Caracappa will then be presented with legal documents to sign off on the aspects of the project. They will be able to reject any plans suggested at any time. This initial letter of support is not in any way a pass for the township to go and do anything they want. J. Faust mentions that if these initial letters providing support for the project and funding are not furnished by the residents, we could enact eminent domain. That is not a road any of the Supervisors want to go down but we also can't afford to lose out on a million dollar grant. B. Baldwin confirms that all designs would be near completion before any legal signatures are needed. This need for initial signatures is very time sensitive and unfortunately was brought about by DCED right at the holidays. J. Crossen again reiterates that the residents are not legally committing to anything tonight except the potential. J. Faust reassures all that we want to be fair and honest with this project and that "conditional" is written into the pre-drafted letter J. Crossen is providing to be signed. B. Baldwin says the CFA meeting is next week, that they meet every two months, and the decision will likely be made at this next meeting. He says; however, they have been known to postpone meetings in the past. It is a possibility that, if awarded, the grant would not be for the full amount, but the township is dedicated to making it work out.

Mr. Kistler asks construction questions of B. Baldwin. Mr. Keely asks about alternatives. Mr. Fligge offers support for the project and reassures Kupetz and Caracappa that the neighborhood is behind them.

On a motion by T. Strause, seconded by J. Heim, *the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.* All Voted in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly A. Coldren  
Secretary