NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
August 24, 2016
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Stover called the special meeting of the township board to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Hall, 320 Bell Road. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Noble. Board members present: Cooper, Hoese, Noble, Ringler, Vella and Stover. Full was absent.

Other attendees at the meeting were: John Jarpe, Superintendent, Brandywine Community Schools; Karen Weimer, Principal, Merritt Elementary School (Brandywine Community Schools) & incoming Superintendent; Dan Applegate, Superintendent, Niles Community Schools; John Fonash, Principal, Cedar Lane Alternative School (Niles Community Schools); Dan Lewis, civil engineer Prein & Newhof and Peg Hartman, Township Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

Stover noted the purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether to pursue funding from the Safer Routes to School grant initiative. In addition, the Board would discuss the contract proposal from Prein & Newhof re: the grant initiative.

Dan Lewis presented information regarding the Safer Routes to School grant initiative and application guidelines. Grant funds of $200,000 per school building that houses students between Kindergarten and 8th Grade are available and would cover the cost of construction. Grants are received quarterly and there is a minimum 3-6 month approval process. Funds are made available in October of each year; therefore early application is desirable as more funds are likely available early in the cycle than towards the end of the grant cycle. He recommends assembling a team to gather and disseminate data from surveys and determine components of the final projects (i.e., sidewalks, bike lanes, educational components). This would be an opportunity to address sidewalk issues throughout the township as repairs and/or new construction of sidewalks could be made using grant funds.

He presented the following two funding scenarios – in Option 1, the grant covers all of the construction costs; in Option 2, the grant would cover 80% of the construction costs.

Option 1: at 100% construction cost

Total project cost	$480,000
Total engineering cost	$ 80,000 (estimated at 20% of construction cost)
Total Construction Cost	$400,000 (all covered by grant)

Total local cost is $80,000

Option 2: at 80% of construction cost

Total Project Cost	$600,000
Total engineering cost	$100,000 (estimated at 20% of construction cost)
80% of construction	$400,000
20% of construction	$100,000

Total local cost is $200,000

His firm, Prein Neuhof currently has provided the Township with a proposal to perform work on the grant application; the cost of such work is $8,500 and is part of the engineering costs mentioned above.

Vella inquired as to the winter months as fewer students would likely be walking. Lewis indicated that the funding is not contingent upon 12-month use but would likely not cover shoveling of sidewalks and/or maintenance of sidewalks once in place. Ringler asked if students currently walk and/or bike to school; Applegate responded that although the majority are dropped off (via bus or parents/family) that Ring Lardner likely has the most walkers/bikers. Jarpe replied that the elementary schools have the most walkers/bikers.

Hartman presented information regarding the sidewalk survey the Township performed in summer 2015. The majority of sidewalks in need of repair/replacement are located within 2 miles of schools meeting the K-8 criteria in both districts.

Ringler inquired as to the level of interest from the schools; both districts have interest and could commit to non-financial assistance (members for the team, survey assistance) but financial support would be more difficult and would need approval from the respective School Boards.

Vella moved that the Board accept the bid of $8,500 from Prein Neuhoff to facilitate the grant application process for Safer Routes to School; Ringler supported. ROLL CALL AYES: Cooper, Hoese, Noble, Ringler, Vella, Stover. NAYES: None.

MOTION CARRIED

Lewis will send an email to both superintendents, begin to assemble the team and set a date for the kick-off meeting. He recommended a Township representative attend the meetings.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

ADJOURN

Supervisor Stover adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Hartman, Recorder