

**TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors has scheduled a Special Meeting to discuss the Blakeslee Resident & Property Owners Survey results and any other business that comes before them. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Blakeslee Community Center, 5669 Route 115, Blakeslee, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

By Order of the
Township of Tobyhanna
Board of Supervisors

THE TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 30, 2019

A July 2019 Special Meeting of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors (“Board”) was held on July 30, 2019, at the Blakeslee Community Center, 5669 Route 115, Blakeslee, Pennsylvania, 18610.

Present are Supervisors Anne Lamberton, Heidi A. Pickard, Brendon Carroll, Township Manager John Jablowski Jr. and Solicitor Jonathan J. Reiss, Esquire. John Holahan, III, and David Carbone are absent.

1. Chair Anne Lamberton calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM. A quorum is present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
3. New Business: Blakeslee Survey Results – Discussion.

Presentation: Matthew Helbers gives a presentation regarding the Blakeslee Resident and Property Owners Survey. [Questions from the survey (“Q1” = question 1) are segmented out to reflect where members of the public asked questions.]

Matthew Helbers discusses Q1-7, which relate to the quality of life in Blakeslee.

Matthew Helbers discusses Q8, which discusses how quality of life has changed over time. Sam Keiper asks for clarification on the numbers displayed in the graph. Matthew Helbers clarifies that people who marked declined didn’t always give a reason, so the numbers of responses and reasons don’t match. Matthew Helbers discusses Q9, the critical issues facing Blakeslee.

Matthew Helbers discusses Q10, where residents are employed. Sam Keiper asks for clarification on the numbers of the working population. Matthew Helbers clarifies that this number reflects only the people that replied to the survey.

Matthew Helbers discusses Q11-17, which discuss Austin T. Blakeslee Natural Area, amenities in Blakeslee, and possible future changes to Blakeslee. Matthew Helbers discusses Q18-21, which gauge public involvement in different township boards and commissions.

Matthew Helbers discusses Q22, additional comments and questions.

Matthew Helbers explains what the majority of people in the survey want, and discusses what the government can do via law. Sam Keiper states the government is preventing other cable companies from coming into the area. Jonathan Reiss states that is untrue.

Sam Keiper asks what “attractive design” means. Barbara Nichols replies examples are green space areas, different facades, window fronts, and changing roof pitches.

Matthew Helbers explains the difference between green space and undeveloped commercial land, where the new zones would be, what’s in the proposed ordinance, what would be permitted in the areas, and unseen benefits.

Questions/Comments:

Sam Keiper states that the answers to Q5 counter the answers in Q7-9.

Ed Tutrone asks if the green space and setbacks for buildings allow for the road to be expanded if necessary. The Board discusses the current right-of-ways for SR 115 and SR 940.

Larry Stein asks about prohibited uses and gas stations. Barbara Nichols explains non-conforming use.

Larry Stein states he doesn’t want Section 8 housing. Sam Keiper explains you can’t legally prevent Section 8 housing. Jonathan Reiss explains private communities aren’t subject to some of the same laws as municipalities. The township must provide for every legitimate use somewhere in the township. As long as the building satisfies zoning requirements, the township cannot govern who lives there.

Sam Keiper asks how many properties will be non-conforming. Jonathan Reiss replies the township will have a better idea if the Board decides to move forward. Sam Keiper states there’s a recorded deed with 40 or 50 lots behind Blakeslee garage.

The Board discusses possible visual impacts of the proposing zoning districts and how the area may connect to township parks.

Sam Keiper explains Blakeslee was developed this way because that was how zoning was at the time; this decision affects a lot of people’s lives with their properties. Jonathan Reiss clarifies that this is a long-term crawl. Sam Keiper states stores are empty not only because the area looks bad.

The Board discusses property owners in the area who are interested in the zoning update and conforming to the new codes.

Otto Hixon explains the bottom left corner of the proposed district is residential. The Board discusses the zoning boundary.

Larry Stein asks about American Tire Distributors (ATD). Matthew Helbers replies ATD is working and functional, and SR940 and SR115 are state roads.

The Board discusses what the next steps are if the proposed zoning changes move forward.

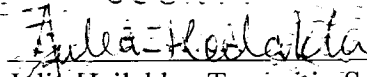
Kelly Hixon clarifies the notice she received was for these proposed zoning changes. Larry Stein asks what type of businesses will come into the area. Matthew Helbers replies that's between the developer and its lessees.

Kelly Hixon thanks the Board for giving Blakeslee attention. Chris Matirko is worried about the timeline; this will take a while.

4. Public Comment – none.
5. Meeting adjourned at 7:11PM.

Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka

Respectfully submitted:


Julia Heilakka, Township Secretary