

A work session of the Bear Creek Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Municipal Building at 3333 Bear Creek Blvd. Vice Chairperson Wasilewski called the meeting to order. Roll was called. Mr. Smith, Mr. Masi, Mrs. Koval and Ms Wasilewski were present. Mr. Zingaretti was absent. The salute to the flag followed.

Ms Wasilewski relayed that the main purpose of this evenings meeting was to meet with Catherine Repose from RCAP Solutions, a company that works with community boards and state and local officials to help find solutions to address wastewater issues.

Ms Repose made a presentation to the Board outlining the differences in funding options, mainly between Rural Development Grants and Pennvest funding.

Rural Development provides funding based on median household income. The term is generally 40 years with a target user rate of \$70 per month. They do have a graduation policy. Rural Development is very hands on and is helpful in preparing for environmental review.

Rural Development has 3 tiers:

- 1) Poverty Rate-median household income is under \$33,832. Interest rate that goes along with this level is 2.5% for 40 years, can receive a grant for up to 75%.
- 2) Intermediate Rate-median household income is \$33,832-\$42,291. Interest rate is 3.75%, loan at 40 years.
- 3) Market Rate-median household income is \$42,291 and above. Interest rate at 4.25%, loan at 40 years

Pennvest provides funding based on median household income based on information from the most current census but with an inflation factor. Term of loan is generally 20 years with an approximate user fee of \$90 per month. There is no graduation policy. DEP does technical and environmental review.

Requirement differences between Pennvest and Rural Development:

Rural Development

- Requires tap fee (\$1000-\$2000)
- Initial application
- Apply anytime
- May apply before design plan
- Requires bond council
- Can finance land acquisition

Pennvest

- no tap fee
- online application
- can apply at certain times only
- do not apply until design and permits are in hand
- no bond council required
- cannot finance land acquisition

**Income Surveys:** will help to find out eligibility for grant monies. Income surveys may potentially lower user rates and shows evidence of responsibility on the part of the municipal officials.

Approximate cost of survey would be \$15,000.

**Other Business:**

**Zoning Map Change Requests-** Mr. Masi explained to Brian Swanson from Pennoni Associates that the ultimate goal would be to update our zoning map so that it is current and accurate and also to address the requests from residents and determine the validity of the requests and make recommendations.

Mr. Swanson estimated the cost of this project to be \$2,000 to redo the zoning maps and create the individual maps to evaluate parcels in question.

**Hillcrest Road Issue-**cost and process to vacate right of way was discussed and Mr. Swanson said Pennoni will submit an estimate for total cost of project.

**Road Paving-** Mrs. Koval said she is waiting on the specs from Pennoni so the paving project for White Haven Pocono can be put out for bid.

The Board also discussed proposals for the culvert project, basketball court repaving and equipment building proposal. Mrs. Koval also noted that the maps from GEO COMM will be sent back after updates and corrections are finished.

The Board also discussed activity at the wind farm and if permits are required for what is being done. It was decided that a representative from BIU should pay a visit to the wind farm just to see what type of activity is going on.

Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Weihbrecht, Secretary