

Public Comment – UMBT BOS Meeting Mar 8 2021

Once again the BOS are NOT telling us the whole story – just like the Text Amendment, just like the ACT 537 Sewer and Water Plan. The proposed Neighborhood Improvement District or NID is simply a back door way to get sewer and water infrastructure up Rt. 611 and thus pave the way for more development along this corridor and beyond. Tobyhanna Township in Monroe County did just this with their use of a Neighborhood Improvement District for the Kalahari Water Park.

The Neighborhood Improvement District Act (PA ACT 130), mandates an “authority” to be set up to manage the district. In our case it seems that authority will only have to include River Point Logistics and the BOS. And according to the ACT, this “authority” also has the power to expand the service area AFTER the initial district (the industrial park) is set up. This extended service area could well include the purported areas of concern (AOC’s) in the townships public water and sewer plan. If so, the BOS and River Point Logistics are now obligating the added property owners to pay the “special assessment fee” or tax to help pay for that public water and sewer. This tax will not come close to paying for such infrastructure costs so how will the township pay for it? Seems to me the BOS will have to borrow money and hence obligate ALL of the residents of UMBT to pay off this debt for years to come?

Just like the Text Amendment, just like the Act 537 Plan, there is more than meets the eye with a Neighborhood Improvement District and their effects on the future of UMBT.

There are better ways to benefit the entire township and not just the developer. We can grow tax revenue and still protect the rural character of our township. We want to promote agri-tourism like Hard Ball Cider and M&M Winery NOT truck stops and fast food restaurants. We need to take the time to do it right and NOT become the next Tatamy or Macungie. Thank you.

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