

Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors  
23 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320  
Special Informational Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2011

**Supervisors Present:** Robert L. Gordon, Coleen N. Reamer, James E. Grinder, Harry Rood, and Douglas Woerner.

**Staff Present:** Solicitor Matthew Battersby and Secretary/Treasurer Deborah K. Feiler.

**Public:** One-hundred and seventy one (171) persons signed the attendance sheet.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting is being recorded for the sole purpose as a review aid in compiling the written minutes.

Chairman Gordon welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the informational meeting regarding the proposed land swap between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and ISP Minerals, Inc. (ISP). He continued with introducing the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors, Secretary/Treasurer, Representatives from DCNR and ISP, Chris Kimple from Representative Moul's office, Skip Strayer from Senator Alloway's office and County Commissioner Chairman George Weikert.

Chairman Gordon stressed that is meeting is an informational meeting only. The Board held this meeting to give the residents of Hamiltonban Township an opportunity to hear the facts surrounding the land swap between DCNR and ISP and express their concerns. He emphasized that the Board has no power to approve or deny the land swap. He continued on stating that when the Board first heard of the proposed land swap between DCNR and ISP, the Board was shocked and surprised. The proposed tract of land was part of the former Glatfelter Tree Farm that was turned over to DCNR to become part of Michaux State Forest and to be preserved. Many citizens worked hard to preserve the Glatfelter Tree Farm from development. The intention of the meeting is to receive comments from Mr. Craig Chapman of DCNR and Mr. Wade Kemp of ISP and to receive comments and questions from concerned residents. Chairman Gordon asked to see a show of hands from people that would like to speak. About a dozen raised their hand.

Solicitor Battersby stated the guidelines that would be followed. He also stated that the public is encouraged to submit their comments to DCNR by their deadline of February 21, 2011.

Solicitor Battersby introduced Craig Chapman who is the Forestry Resource Planner for DCNR. Mr. Chapman explained to the audience the process of land exchanges. The Commonwealth is authorized to carry out land exchanges per Act 18 of 1995 which split the Department of Economic Resources (DEC) into DCNR and the Department of Environmental Resources (DER). In order to conduct an exchange two conditions must be met. First, DCNR is required to advertise land exchanges in two publications. In this instance the land exchange was advertised in Gettysburg, Waynesboro and Chambersburg newspapers, as well as the *PA Bulletin*. Second, the Commonwealth must receive a tract of land that is equal or in greater value. ISP approached

DCNR with this proposed exchange. ISP identified the piece of land they were interested in but could not define the land for which to exchange. Using specific guidelines, DCNR prepared a list of tracts to exchange and considered the options. There is a thirty day public comment period in which written comments may be sent to DCNR. The decision to move forward with the exchange proposal is made by the DCNR secretary. The current acting secretary is Cindy Dunn.

Michaux State Forest District Forester Roy Brubaker spoke of the three tracts of land that are involved in the exchange which are the Sleightholm, Nagle and Benchhoff tracts with acreages of 62.25, 29.94, and 20.5, respectively. The Nagle and Benchhoff tracts lie within the Hamiltonban Township boundaries and are considered "inholdings" meaning that the tracts are completely surrounded by Michaux State Forest. Acquiring these tracts would add to the contiguous acres of preserved property. The Sleightholm tract is located on the northern tip of Hamiltonban Township with most of the tract located in Franklin Township.

ISP Vice-president and General Manager Wayne Kemp spoke next. Mr. Kemp has worked for ISP for over thirty years. He stated that ISP has been operating in the Township since 1923, employees about 175 employees and is a notable source of revenue for the local economy. He continued with an overview of their product, the mining regulations and high maintenance standards that ISP follows to continue to be reputable neighbors. The tract of land that ISP may acquire from this proposed exchange is adjacent to their property. At this time there is no specific timeline for the future of the proposed site, however fifty percent will be for rock extraction if quality rock is found and fifty percent will be a maintained buffer from neighbors. Currently ISP blasts about once a week and they do forewarn neighbors. Before rock can be extracted from the proposed site, ISP must conduct a wide range of environmental investigations. The proposed land swap will ensure continued operation of ISP.

At this time Chairman Gordon invited Hamiltonban Township residents to comment on the DCNR/ISP land swap proposal.

Karen Kline of 1682 Iron Springs Road spoke first. She reminded the audience that 76% of Hamiltonban Township voters were in favor of purchasing the Glatfelter Tree Farm to preserve the land and water supply from development. She asked "DCNR please fulfill your own mission statement and protect this land."

Stanley Crilley of 810 Iron Springs Road expressed his concerns about money spent.

Dr. David Paolini of 2150 Iron Springs Road asked to extend the due diligence period for the proposed land swap. He continued by asking if this swap is really an equal trade when you look at the assessment/market values of each tract.

Chi Pham of 2391 Iron Springs Road invited people to talk with residents that live in the Greenstone area. Their snow is green (from the greenstone dust).

Shane Holbrook of 1698 Iron Springs Road enjoys fishing in Tom's Creek and is concerned about Tom's Creek becoming polluted and the local wildlife habitat.

Chuck Alexander of 1401 Iron Springs Road brought up the Chesapeake Bay. Tom's Creek which runs through the tract that ISP would receive in this land swap feeds the Chesapeake Bay. He asked DCNR "Why would you relinquish control of this land to be permitted to be destroyed by a mining company." He continued stating that taxpayers helped saved this land, trusted that it would be saved and donated money to this cause.

Thea Paolini of 2150 Iron Springs Road quoted sections of ISP's environmental review and Hamiltonban Township's Zoning Ordinance. She then spoke of what she sees and hears from her home directly across the street from ISP. Noise pollution and not just from the blasting is just a small part of the problem.

Matthew Morris of 1299 Old Waynesboro Road works at ISP reminded everyone that the plant has been there for nearly ninety years. He asked residents if they knew there was a mine in the area when they moved to the Township, and how many people's families are supported by ISP. He asked for job security.

Carolyn Paolini of 2150 Iron Springs Road stated that she does not want anyone at ISP to loose their jobs, she just wants to know when ISP will property restore the mountain that she used to see from her home.

Jim Izer of 1044 Iron Springs Road has worked at ISP for twenty five years. He and his co-workers support the land swap and stated that ISP continually works to protect the environment.

Joseph Wagerman of 1319 Old Waynesboro Road has lived at his residence for the past twenty years, he complained of the noise pollution and the green dust that is on everything. He is in financial ruins because he can not sell his property because of ISP.

Leroy Shelton of 1316 Iron Springs Road stated "what the residents voted for is what we should get."

Dr. David Paolini of 2150 Iron Springs Road re-emphasized that this land was purchased for conservation to protect the headwaters of Toms Creek.

Stephanie Holbrook of 1698 Iron Springs Road said that she has noted changes in the wildlife around her property near the ISP property.

Laurence Martik District Manager of the Adams County Conservation District addressed the Board of Supervisors. The Conservation District's goals are to help Adams County to conserve natural resources, primarily water quality. The Conservation District will not take a position on the land swap as it is outside their realm. Mr. Martik offered the Board of Supervisors some things to consider and his recommendations, one being a forested buffer around Tom's Creek.

Solicitor Battersby invited Adams County Commissioner George Weikert to speak. Mr. Weikert explained that DCNR approached the county and discussed the proposed land swap at a public meeting and public workshop.

Mr. Dan Devlin Director of the Bureau of Forestry was invited up to pass on DCNR's final comments. He understands that there are strong emotions both environmental and economic. Mr. Devlin answered a few remaining questions which included land appraisals, value of trees, impact on the water shed and pollution to wells. DCNR's decision will be based solely on what is advantageous to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Wayne Kemp of ISP was invited up for his final comments. He stated that ISP is committed to improving the area and is here tonight as an interest in their jobs and to provide additional properties to the commonwealth.

Chairman Gordon concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming out to this informational meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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Deborah K. Feiler  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Robert L. Gordon  
Chairman