

Penn halts road extension project

Supervisors listen to traffic-safety, noise concerns of residents

BY KAREN BRADFORD HAWKINS
Intelligencer Journal Correspondent

Penn Township residents concerned about a plan to extend Marie Avenue into the new Cedar Hollow development succeeded Monday in persuading supervisors to halt the project.

Officials said the Marie Avenue extension was planned to connect

the older development — bordered by West View Avenue, Hillcrest and Sunset Drives and Marie Avenue — with Cedar Hollow.

After hearing residents, supervisors voted unanimously to decline planned improvements for Marie Avenue.

Jack Hartz of Apex Realty and Cedar Hollow's developer agreed informally to make a payment to the

township in lieu of the Marie Avenue improvements. The money will be used by the township to make other road, signaling and safety improvements that may be needed by removing the Marie Avenue access to Cedar Hollow.

Cedar Hollow and three other Penn Township residential developments — Brookshire, Sweetbriar Creek and Baron's Ridge — are expected to add

more than 700 homes near Route 72 over the next five to seven years, according to newspaper records.

As part of phase II of Cedar Hollow, which is expected to begin construction in the next few weeks, the proposed Marie Avenue also was to have been widened along with the installation of curbs, sidewalks and storm water management structures.

Residents objected to the in-

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creased traffic and noise the road extension would bring through their neighborhood, saying that more cars would decrease safety for pedestrians and playing children.

Resident Brett Johnson said Marie Avenue "is just a nice quiet, peaceful side of my yard that I enjoy, but I can imagine 100 cars a day going though there, which will destroy the neighborhood."

Resident Martin King said widening the road would cut deeply into yards, eliminate many trees and greatly increase traffic.

"There are lots of kids running around, lots of people walking around — we want to make sure our safety doesn't drop as a result of this," King said.

Supervisor Dave Sarley said more commuter traffic is going through that neighborhood and Marie Avenue could become a thoroughfare if the road was extended.

"If you open up the road, you will have people who will think they can beat the stop sign" at Park Hill and Route 72, Sarley said.

In other business:

◆ Supervisors granted final

approval to plans for Mallard Ponds Mini Storage, to be built at 696 Stiegel Valley Road.

Owner Troy Hurst said the plan is nearly identical to the one granted conditional approval last summer, with two changes. First, landscaping will be closer to the storage buildings to preserve the feeling of open space for nearby residents, and second, a driveway will be widened to permit emergency vehicle access.

◆ Supervisors granted approval to rezone a 48-acre farm recently purchased by Rohrer's Quarry from agricultural to quarry.

◆ Supervisors voted to advertise an ordinance to hike water and sewer rates. The sewer minimum use charge will increase from \$92.50 to \$97.50 quarterly, and the usage charge will increase 35 cents, to \$2.85 per 1000 gallons.

Water rates will increase \$5 to \$43 per quarter for the first 12,000 gallons used, plus increased usage charges for amounts over 12,000 gallons.

The ordinance is available for inspection at the Penn Township offices, 97 N. Penryn Road, and will be voted on the next few weeks.

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Transportation