

Amity approves trash to transfer station

By Denise Larive , 21st Century Media

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The Amity Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved on Nov. 5 to permit the operation of a 10-day environmental waste truck to transfer station at 3 Riga Lane, Douglassville.

Environmental Enterprises Division Manager Brian J. Hunter, CHMM, is currently purchasing the property and plans to move the business from its current location in Royersford, Montgomery County, to the 3.38 acre site located in the township's Planned Business/Office/Industrial (PBOI) District.

The board voted following testimony heard at conditional use hearings on Sept. 23 and Oct. 15.

Township Solicitor Brian F. Boland said the board determined that Environmental Enterprises complies with the township's zoning ordinance for PBOI.

Environmental Enterprises, Inc., is an environmental services company that uses a 10-day truck to transfer station to dispose of customers' industrial and hazardous waste and laboratory chemical packaging.

The company also provides emergency response, field service projects, and industrial hygiene sampling.

Conditions issued with the approval include that the company must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and secure regulatory approvals, work with the local fire departments and supply them with a manifest of chemicals on the property, and it must complete the appropriate property renovations and use the property as stated during the hearings.

The company must also post a bond for any hazardous and non-hazardous waste that is abandoned on the property, chemical containers will remain sealed and also not moved into other containers, and Environmental Enterprises will not receive any "red bag" medical or radioactive waste.

In an effort to prevent "clothing drop-box eyesores" in the township, property owners who have the blue boxes will be informed to clean up the sites or be charged with illegal dumping.

Code Enforcement Officer Steven Loomis estimates that there are at least four different owners of drop boxes in the township.

Supervisor Terry L. Jones suggested that the drop boxes be restricted to occupied properties.

"I don't want to see the drop boxes go away because most organizations using them are a good place to put unwanted stuff," said Jones.

"It is an eyesore in our township, and we're trying to promote growth, not deter it," said Supervisor Richard L. Gokey.

The board approved for the Amity Township Police Department to receive training for the use of Narcan (Naloxone) for the "complete or partial reversal of opioid (powerful painkiller medications, including heroin) overdose."

"It's not just bad people [who use and overdose]," said Shuebrook. "It could happen to anyone's son,

daughter . . . These are not bad kids, not criminals. If you don't know it, we have heroin users in this township.

"New legislation extends immunity to police officers and the program is endorsed by the state Attorney General Kathleen Kane," said Shuebrook. "It requires training, and if you approve the training, the cops will all carry it. If we save one life -- who becomes a good citizen -- it's worth it."

He said there doesn't seem to be any downside (adverse or allergic reactions) to the use of Narcan, and police in the city of Reading are currently using it.

Shuebrook said the number of reportable accidents have decreased for vehicles turning left onto North Monocacy Creek Road from Route 422 westbound.

He attributes the decrease to PennDOT lengthening the left turn arrow sequence to nine seconds in 2012.

A reportable accident is a vehicle damaged to the degree that it cannot be driven away under its own power and is thus reported to PennDOT for statistical purposes.

Shuebrook said there were four reportable accidents in 2010, five in 2011, but two each year from 2012 to 2014 after the turn arrow sequence was changed.

He said the number of non-reportable accidents has been 50 within the last five years and only one of those was a left turn lane accident.

"Sixty-five percent [of the 50] were rear-end collisions and had nothing to do with the left turn," said Shuebrook, adding, "it was people just not paying attention."

Dave Rathgeb, 4 Mimosa Circle, Douglassville, said there is a dip in the eastbound lanes of Route 422, which results in a "blind spot" for drivers in the left turn lane that determine it is safe to turn left.

Shuebrook said the situation was studied by PennDOT and determined no other changes were needed.

Board Chairperson Kimberly J. McGrath said PennDOT's one alternative was to completely eliminate the left turn lane.