

## MINUTES

### NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING – JANUARY 2, 2019

The January 2, 2019 Non-Legislative Meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Jon G. Wilt.

The following officials were in attendance:

- Jon G. Wilt, President
- Todd F. Truntz, Vice President
- Ronald J. Paul, Assistant Secretary
- Michael J. Davies, Commissioner
- Christopher DeHart, Commissioner
- Elizabeth McBride, Manager
- Jean R. Arroyo, Secretary
- Peter R. Henninger, Solicitor
- Andrew Kenworthy, HRG
- Lester Lanman, Public Works Director
- Ann Hursh, Planning & Zoning Officer

Residents and visitors in attendance: (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SIGN-IN SHEET)

President Wilt welcomed everyone to the meeting, and stated the first order of business is the swearing-in of Jeffrey Vargo as the new Chief of Police of Lower Swatara Township. Magisterial District Judge Mike Smith will present the oath of office.

#### PRESENTATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO POLICE CHIEF:

Judge Smith remarked that he has known Jeff Vargo for over twenty years from Mr. Vargo's service with the Susquehanna Township Police Department, as well as a brief period of employment here many years ago. He stated that the Township is getting a very good man for Chief of Police. Mr. Vargo has a wealth of experience in command with Susquehanna Township, and has had a very good example in Susquehanna's Chief, Robert Martin. Judge Smith noted that as a Township resident himself, he is also interested in how this police department is running and performing on a daily basis. He noted the department has good people, and he feels Jeff Vargo will make a fine leader for the police department. Judge Smith then presented the Oath of Office to Jeff Vargo. The Board and public congratulated Chief Vargo.

Chief Vargo stated he is honored to be appointed Chief of Police of Lower Swatara Township, and understands the level of responsibility that comes with it. He assured the Board that he will live up to the level of confidence it has shown in him, and will represent the Board, citizens and officers of the department with honor and integrity. Chief Vargo stated he realizes changes in leadership are significant events for any police department, and there are certain expectations both within and outside the police department. People want to be involved and have a voice in the changes that will occur. He noted that he embraces that concept, and will ensure that all ideas and recommendations are heard. He will invite ingenuity and creativity. The core mission of the Lower Swatara Township Police Department will be to promote public safety in the form of crime fighting, and it will partner with the community and work closely with it to do so. The department will strive to have positive contact with the citizens in all that it does, and will be visible in the schools to ensure that children have a safe place to learn. Chief Vargo stated that the officers of the Lower Swatara Township Police Department have a long history of providing honorable and respected police services to its citizens. The department will continue to improve upon the services, and he will seek ways to provide the officers with opportunities for professional growth. He stated that accountability and integrity are essential characteristics of any police officer. Citizens demand it, and he will demand it as their Chief. He added that he is very fortunate and blessed to have the support of a loving family, caring friends, and supportive colleagues. He acknowledged his wife and children, and stated they have given so much in order for him to pursue his career. He also thanked those who showed confidence in him and assisted with his personal growth. These include Rob Martin, Chief of Police of Susquehanna Township; Jason Umberger, former Chief of Police of Swatara Township; and Rick Wiley, former Chief of Police here at Lower Swatara Township. Chief Vargo stated he would like the officers of Lower Swatara Township Police Department to know that he is honored to be their Chief of Police and is looking forward to continuing to move the department in a positive direction while reducing crime, ensuring the safety of the citizens, and building community trust through transparent actions and positive engagement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nancy Avolese, 1451 North Union Street, welcomed Chief Vargo and also thanked Officer Scott Young for all he has done. She stated that on behalf of the Lower Swatara Township Historical Preservation Society, she would like to invite everyone to a free presentation on historical Camp Meade. The presentation will talk about the local connection to the Spanish American War, and will be held at the Lower Swatara Township Firehouse on January 22, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Legislative Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R-1, APPOINTMENT OF ZONING HEARING BOARD MEMBER:

A motion was made by Commissioner Paul, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve Resolution No. 2019-R-1, appointing Randall Breon to a five-year term of office on the Zoning Hearing Board, contingent upon Mr. Breon's acceptance of the appointment. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve the following appointments/reappointments, contingent upon their acceptance of the appointments:

Rita Nagy to a three-year term on the Community Policing Advisory Committee  
Randall Breon to a three-year term on the Community Policing Advisory Committee  
James Kazakavage to a six-year term on the Civil Service Commission  
Scott Dintiman to a five-year term on the Township Recreation Board  
Chester Hartz to a five-year term on the Municipal Authority

The motion was unanimously approved. President Wilt added there is still another vacancy on the Community Policing Advisory Committee that needs filled. Commissioner DeHart asked that anyone interested in filling the vacancy submit their name to the Board or Manager.

## PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Ms. Hursh reported that there are two items on the agenda requiring formal action.

### Improvement Guarantee Reduction for Capital Valley Business Park, Building “C”

A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve Improvement Guarantee Reduction #2 for Capital Valley Business Park Building “C”, File #2014-01 in the amount of \$68,739.00 leaving a balance of \$0. A maintenance guarantee is recommended in the amount of \$42,350.00 for a period of 18 months. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Public Hearing date set for DHK Harrisburg

Ms. Hursh reported the Board had received a request from Charles Courtney of McNees Wallace and Nurick LLC, on behalf of DHK Harrisburg, LLC , to set a public hearing date to consider a text amendment which proposes to rezone a portion of the Jednota property from Residential Urban and Industrial Park Limited to Industrial Park. The Planning Commission took action on December 20, 2018 to recommend approval of the text amendment to the Board of Commissioners. Solicitor Henninger added the Dauphin County Planning Commission also recommended the rezoning. The next step is to schedule a public hearing. He suggested that in order to meet the legal requirements to properly advertise the hearing, the Board schedule the hearing for Wednesday, February 20, the same evening as its legislative meeting. Formal action on the text amendment may be taken during the legislative meeting, if the Board so desires. A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the public hearing date for February 20 at 6:30 P.M. The motion was unanimously approved.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Lanman reported that leaf collection is complete, with just over 187 tons of leaves collected over the season. The underground storage tank inspection was completed, with two minor items that needed corrected and have since been addressed. The department has been working on some stream/ditch reshaping and clean-out in problem areas, and addressing potholes.

Commissioner DeHart reported that a pothole recently opened up in the area of 301 Longview Drive. He also called attention to an issue on Cockley Road, in front of the trailer park, where water is coming back out onto the road again. He cautioned the water will freeze when the weather gets colder. Mr. Lanman stated that he had previously contacted the person who maintains that property. This individual was very responsive, and did some revisions to the pipe. There was also some discussion about the possibility of repairing a swale there. Commissioner DeHart stated that he appreciates that effort, and it did help for a while. However, it appears the water is running across the roadway again, maybe due to all the rain or a blockage. He asked that Mr. Lanman make contact with the individual tomorrow.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ms. McBride reported that she had received a call about leaves being left out beyond the collection date, and anticipated there may be a few more calls from those who did not realize leaf collection has concluded.

#### Hiring of Police Officers and Administrative Assistant

Ms. McBride requested Board action on the hiring of three new employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve the conditional hiring of Derek Weinoldt as Lower Swatara Township Police Officer, subject to terms of a conditional employment letter, with a start date of January 7, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve the conditional hiring of Timothy Shea as Lower Swatara Township Police Officer, subject to terms of a conditional employment letter, with a start date of January 7, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve the conditional hiring of Jennifer Mott as Administrative Assistant for the Lower Swatara Township Police Department, subject to terms of a conditional employment letter, with a start date of January 7, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vice President Truntz recalled that during the last meeting, Ms. Lutz had asked for clarification on the trash hauler's bulk item collection. He asked if staff had any answers from the hauler. Ms. McBride responded that she had spoken with Patrick Luce of Waste Industries and had requested he put together something that the Township can post on its website explaining how bulk pick up works. Solicitor Henninger asked to review this prior to posting it, to ensure that it is consistent with the contract. Vice President Truntz added that the Township's contract permits for collection of one bulk item per week. He asked that Ms. McBride notify the hauler of this and remind them that not adhering to this is a breach of contract. Commissioner DeHart added that he had previously expressed concern with the trash at 1810 Oberlin Road, and reported that there are still three bags of trash sitting there. Ms. McBride explained that there was a large amount of trash at this property, and it is being whittled down each week as trash pickup occurs. She had contacted the hauler to see if they would pick it up and back bill the property owner; she was told that they do not do this. Solicitor Henninger stated that he does not believe the contract addresses back-billing, but agreed with Commissioner DeHart that it does state that the hauler must pick up the trash. Commissioner DeHart explained his concern is that this trash is a safety and fire hazard. Solicitor Henninger agreed to look into this, as well as the bulk item pick up. He stressed that there were no changes made in the contract. Commissioner Davies asked if trash/recycling collection will be delayed one day this week due to the New Year's Day holiday. Ms. McBride confirmed this is correct. He noted that he did look at the hauler's link on the website, and found the language regarding the holiday collection to be quite confusing.

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Commissioner DeHart asked about the status of the grant to do a study of all the Township's recreation areas, including the 32-acres recently purchased. He stated that he would like to know the plan for the 32-acres, which is essentially just sitting there. Mr. Kenworthy explained that he is still getting up to speed on some of these Township projects, and will look into this and provide a status update for the Board. Commissioner Paul noted that the fact that the Township did not get the planning grant kind of ties in with what the Township was fortunate enough to be able to do with the Shireman tract as far as the ongoing maintenance. His recollection is that the Township will need to go through the proper channels yearly to ask that it be allowed to continue to maintain that 32-acres as it did last year. Solicitor Henninger confirmed that he has this on his calendar to

ascertain that the Township gets the annual approval if it cannot move forward as quickly as it would like on developing that land.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Commissioner DeHart requested Ms. McBride, over the next month, look into the possibility of the Board broadcasting its meetings on Facebook or having them available in digital format on the Township's website. He stated this would be a good resource for the public that is unable to attend meetings, and is done by other groups including Middletown Borough and the West Shore School District. He remarked that it is good to be open and allow the residents to see the Board in action. It may also get more people involved.

Vice President Truntz congratulated Chief Vargo on his new position and welcomed him aboard. He also expressed hope that the Board makes it a New Year's resolution to explore and apply for more grants. He has been told there is available money out there for those who pursue it aggressively.

President Wilt also congratulated Chief Vargo.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no other comments, a motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

ATTEST:



Jean R. Arroyo  
Township Secretary

## JANUARY 2, 2019 WORKSHOP MEETING

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