

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE MEETING – JANUARY 17, 2024

The January 17, 2024 Legislative Meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Jon G. Wilt.

Roll call was taken, with the following officials in attendance:

- Jon G. Wilt, President
- Todd F. Truntz, Vice President
- Michael J. Davies, Commissioner (not present during roll call – arrived at 7:30 PM)
- Ronald J. Paul, Assistant Secretary
- Christopher DeHart, Commissioner
- Zachary Border, Manager
- Jean R. Arroyo, Secretary
- Morgan Madden, Eckert Seamans, Solicitor
- Shawn Fabian, HRG
- Brian Davis, MS4 Coordinator
- Dominic Visconti, Police Chief

Residents and visitors in attendance: (see attached sign in sheet)

President Wilt welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the floor for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dale Messick, Greenfield Drive, referenced agenda items pertinent to the purchase of a new truck and upfitting package. He noted this is a very expensive purchase and expressed hopes that the Board does its due diligence by discussing this in more detail when it comes up for approval tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Paul, to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Paul, to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2024 Workshop Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Paul, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve the Payment of Bills – Warrant No. 2023-12. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve the Treasurer’s Report for December 2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

Fire Department

Chief Phillips presented the Fire Department’s monthly statistics. During the month of December there were 68 total calls. Mutual aid was provided to Highspire Borough (7), Hummelstown Borough (1), Lower Paxton Township (1), Middletown Borough (4), and Swatara Twp. (22).

Total calls for 2023 were 684, which is about 200 more than the previous year. Chief Phillips noted that 174 mutual aid calls were in Swatara Township. 149 of those calls were due to box card changes; the box card changes were supplemented prior to the loss of Swatara’s rescue. Commissioner Paul asked who made the box card adjustments. Chief Phillips responded that the Fire Chief of Swatara Township made the changes. He explained, however, that Swatara came into Lower Swatara about 100 times this past year so there is reciprocation on their party too.

Police Department

Activity Report

Chief Visconti presented the summary of the monthly statistics for December. There were 20 Part I crimes, 21 Part II crimes, 536 calls for service, 0 DUI arrests, 30 traffic citations, 6 non-traffic citations, and 77 warnings. There were 23 total vehicle accidents, 6,425 patrol miles driven, 0 foot patrol minutes, and 0 foot patrol minutes on School District property. There

was 411.50 total overtime hours and 50 training hours (controlled tactics training to maintain MPoetc certification). Co-responder stats included 2 new contacts, 1 repeat contact, and 0 mental health commits. Chief Visconti stated that he has provided the Board with a memo recapping 2023 as a whole. There were 5,406 total calls for service for the year as compared to 4,940 total calls in 2022 and 4,801 in 2021.

Handgun purchase

Chief Visconti requested approval to purchase new handguns, related equipment, and ammunition for the Police Department. Total cost is \$24,558.16. The current handguns were purchased in 2013 and are equipped with night sights which are becoming dimmer with each use. Before the Board are two quotes from Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc., which is a co-stars vendor: one is for the handguns and related equipment totaling \$16,258.96 and one is for the purchase of new 9 mm. ammunition (the new pistols will be of a different caliber) totaling \$8,299.20. Chief Visconti added that Witmer accepts trade-ins, so there is a credit of \$8,610.00 which is already reflected in the first quote. The trade-ins includes the old handguns, other firearms no longer in service, and the remaining inventory of .45 ACP ammunition.

Commissioner DeHart asked why the ammo is being changed, and inquired about its availability. Chief Visconti explained this is the trend, as the safety of 9MM cartridges have shown to be more effective and produce less recoil when firing. Officers are more accurate when shooting the 9MM cartridge. It is also significantly less expensive. He added that availability right now is good, as 9MM is pretty much the standard.

In response to a question from Vice President Truntz, Chief Visconti confirmed that he had lengthy discussions with the Department's head firearms instructor, Officer Jason Heckendorn, and he is in support of this. Vice President Truntz stated that while this is a lot of money, it is important that the officers have quality and up-to-date equipment. Chief Visconti agreed, especially with the issues with the night sights. He added that these are budgeted items.

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve the purchase of new Glock handguns, related equipment, and ammunition for the Police Department in the amount of \$24,558.16. The motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Fabian reported on the Bryn Gweled Infrastructure project and stated that HRG has reviewed a change order and application for payment for Municipal Authority approval at its next meeting.

The substantial completion site walk for the Hanover St./Meade Ave. Stormsewer Outfall Repairs Project was done on January 11 and a punch list was compiled. A follow-up meeting will be held with the landowner on Hanover St. regarding his concerns with the project once the snow has melted and the property can be viewed better.

An update was provided on the Rosedale Avenue Culvert Replacement Emergency Project (just east of Stoner Dr.) Discussions with York Excavating continue to confirm the procurement timeline of the endwall structures. Anticipated mobilization is towards the end of this month. Mr. Fabian stated there was apparently some issues at this location with tractor trailers trying to come up that way. There are continued discussions with the police department as well as review of signage to see what can be done to discourage this. Commissioner DeHart recalled that when D&H came in, they provided a sample weight restriction ordinance which would allow the Township to fine these truck drivers, which would get the word out to others. Mr. Fabian stated there are already enforcement capabilities. Mr. Border explained that according to Officer Malott, Whitehouse Lane was never weighted. Officer Malott noted that the general truck restriction signs can be enforced, but fines are minimal versus fines for a weight restriction. He is suggesting the Board look at weight restrictions for Whitehouse. Commissioner DeHart agreed with this suggestion. Commissioner Paul stated that he also agrees with this, but noted the Board must keep in mind that it must then be enforced. Chief Visconti stated that the fines for a significantly overweight truck are staggering, and word gets out quickly. Commissioner DeHart asked what the Township needs to do to get this process started. Mr. Fabian suggested the current ordinance first be reviewed in detail for discussion next month. Vice President Truntz asked Chief Visconti if the Police Department still has its scales. Chief Visconti stated he is not sure but will confirm. Mr. Border added that there is also an issue with the placement of the truck restriction sign on Route 230. It appears a lot of these trucks are getting off the Turnpike and coming up that direction; there is no sign on that side. It was suggested the Township talk to Highspire Borough about putting a sign on their side.

Mr. Fabian stated that at the last meeting, there was discussion about the Richard L. Shireman Park site and the difficulty with getting Met-Ed to respond. With assistance

from Representative Mehaffie's office, Met-Ed finally got back to the Township and responded that this was PPL's right of way. Contact was made with PPL, and they will be providing the necessary information so that the Township can get final approval for the trail through that right of way.

Mr. Fabian added that he did pull a schedule for a timeline for bidding, with hopes that it can go live by February 1.

There were twelve bidders on the 2023 Drainage Improvements Project (Nissley & Spring Garden, Woodridge Basin Tie-In Off of Spring Garden) and the lowest was substantially under budget. The formal award will be on the next agenda of the Municipal Authority.

HRG is presently preparing a bid schedule for the Fiddler's Elbow Box Culvert Replacement and is working through remaining utility relocation issues and easements for the work.

Commissioner DeHart asked the status of the new salt shed. Mr. Fabian explained that the Geotech report show that the fill in the location of the proposed building is not suitable for the salt shed. Initial recommendations are for the removal and replacement of the fill since this would be the most economical option. Commissioner DeHart stated he is not happy that this will increase the cost. Commissioner Paul agreed, and suggested this be looked at again to see if there is another suitable site on the property. He questioned how elaborate a salt shed really needs to be. The present one, which is very modest, lasted many, many years. Vice President Truntz commented that the Township does not need a million-dollar salt shed. The Board agreed this needs to be re-evaluated.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Border reported that he will have a draft document regarding the proposed firefighter tax credit on the workshop agenda for review. He also informed the Board that Robert Furlong, the Township's EMA Coordinator, recently received his FEMA re-certification.

Future Meetings/Events:

January 22	7 PM	Municipal Authority Meeting
January 24		CANCELLED: Zoning Hearing Board
January 25	7 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
February 7	7 PM	Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Committee: Commissioner Paul commented that the Public Works crew did a decent job during the snow removal but reminded them to watch their speed in order to prevent the snow from rolling off the plows and onto shoveled sidewalks.

Budget and Finance: Commissioner Davies – no report

Public Works Committee: Vice President Truntz reported that the crew used about 400 ton of salt during the past two storms. Supplies are adequate for the next weather events forecasted for Thursday and Friday. A tree fell on Eisenhower Boulevard near the mobile home park on Sunday. A contractor had to be brought in to help get it out of the way. Mr. Washinger will be billing the owner of the mobile home park for this.

Community Development: Commissioner DeHart – no report

Personnel Committee: President Wilt – no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

New Logo

A motion was made by President Wilt, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve selection of a new Township Logo as presented to the Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Time Extension for MASD New K-3 Elementary

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve a written request for a time extension for MASD New K-3 Elementary (PC#2023-01). The written request for the time extension will extend the deadline to act until March 21, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

Time Extension for Cramer Auto LDP

The Board discussed a written request for an indefinite time extension for the Cramer Auto Land Development Plan (PC#2023-06). Mr. Fabian stated the indefinite time extension provides time to review and resolve the outstanding issues. The developer will be before the Planning Commission this month. Commissioner Paul expressed concern about approving indefinite time extensions. Mr. Fabian explained this was the recommendation of Solicitor

Diamond. It prevents the Township from being up against a time clock and a possible deemed approval. The indefinite time extension is for the benefit of the Township.

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve a written request for an indefinite time extension for the Cramer Auto LDP (PC#2023-06). The motion was approved by a 4 – 1 margin, with Commissioner Paul dissenting. He stated these indefinite time extensions really do not benefit the Township; the Township is still under the gun. Vice President Truntz stated they do help avoid a deemed approval.

Release of Improvement Security for Buddy's Run Subdivision Plan

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies to approve a full release of the remaining improvement security (Letter of Credit #733) for Buddy's Run Subdivision Plan in the amount of \$5,651.25, leaving a balance of \$0. The motion was unanimously approved.

Letter of Support for Wilsbach Distribution's app. For RACP Grant

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve support for Wilsbach Distributors' application for a Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant and authorizing the President to sign the respective support letter. The motion was unanimously approved.

Advertisement of proposed ordinance repealing fee schedule from Code of Ordinances

A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve advertisement of proposed Ordinance N. 613 which would repeal the fee schedule from the Code of Ordinances. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vice President Truntz commented that it is important to make sure the fee schedule resolution is in place once the ordinance is revoked. Mr. Border explained that Solicitor Flower has been working with staff on the fee schedule resolution. Commissioner Paul stated it would be good to have these documents drafted so the Board can review them before advertisement. He stated his feeling that the Board is overaccommodating requests to get the ball rolling on certain things without having all the information. Mr. Border explained that the fee schedule was provided by Mr. Fure at the last meeting. The ordinance is simply repealing the fee schedule in order to pull it out of the ordinance and into a resolution. The fees presented at the last meeting have not changed. Commissioner Paul stated it might have been beneficial to have

this information again tonight. Commissioner Davies observed that the wording for the proposed resolution is on the reverse side of the proposed ordinance.

Continued participation in WREP at Service Tier C

Brian Davis, MS4 Coordinator, stated he is recommending the Board approve continued participation in the Water Resource Enhancement Program (WREP), at Service Tier C, until the end of 2025. This tier provide the most benefits towards meeting the Township's MS4 permit requirements. Combined costs for 2024/2025 is approximately \$33,000. There are more than enough funds budgeted to cover the next two years. A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve Lower Swatara Township's continued participation in the Water Resource Enhancement Program (WREP), at Service Tier C, until the end of 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

Advertisement of proposed ordinance for truck restrictions

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Paul, to approve advertisement of a proposed ordinance amendment to prohibit trucks exceeding forty feet from turning on to Highspire Road from Fulling Mill Road. The motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner DeHart added this pertains to a project in Swatara Township; they will be paying the costs. Commissioner Davies added this wording may be valuable in the future for other critical locations.

Quote from L.S. Lee, Inc. for installation and repair of guardrail

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve a quote from L.S. Lee, Inc., in the amount of \$16,525, for installation and repair of guardrail located on Spring Garden Drive between the intersections of Lumber Street and Nissley Drive. The motion was unanimously approved.

Proposal from Freightliner of Harrisburg for 2025 Western Star 47X

Vice President referenced the proposal from Freightliner of Harrisburg, in the amount of \$137,587, for a 2025 Western Star 47X. He suggested there be some type of presentation from staff on this item due to the expense. Commissioner Paul agreed and asked if the Township mechanic had been involved in the design. Mr. Border confirmed that Mr. Mason and Mr. Washinger had written the specifications. A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to table a proposal from Freightliner of Harrisburg, in the amount of \$137,587, for a 2025 Western Star 47X. The motion was unanimously approved.

Purchase through Stephenson Equipment for dump uplift package

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to also table the purchase through Stephenson Equipment Inc., in the amount of \$138,964.32, of a dump uplift package for the Western Star 47X that includes an 11-foot front plow, an 8-foot mid mount wing plow, a Monroe spreader and additional accessories required for safety. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Border stated that in the future, he will place these large purchases on the workshop agendas for discussion. They can be presented by the appropriate department heads, and then placed on the legislative agenda for formal action. The Board agreed, however, to put formal approval of the truck and uplift package on the February 8 agenda after the presentation is given.

Purchase of swings seats and Whirl Spinner

Mr. Fabian referenced the proposed purchase of eight accessible swing seats and an accessible Whirl Spinner. These are part of the Community Development Block Grant that was pursued in 2021. \$25,000 in funding was sought with a \$25,000 match. The award ended up being \$30,000 worth of funding with a \$30,000 match, so attempts were made to maximize that offer. A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve the purchase of eight accessible swing seats and an accessible Whirl Spinner in the amount \$58,566. The motion was unanimously approved.

Letter of support for LSTHPS grant application with PA Empowered History

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve a support letter for Lower Swatara Township Historic Preservation Society's grant application with PA Empowered History. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resignation of Dominic Visconti as Police Chief

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Dominic Visconti as Police Chief effective January 31, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved. Chief Visconti thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to serve the residents of the Township.

FINAL COMMENTS:

Commissioner DeHart thanked Chief Visconti for doing a great job of holding things together, thanked the Public Works crew for their good work during the snow events, and congratulated Robert Furlong on his EMA recertification from FEMA. Commissioner DeHart also

conveyed appreciation to Wilsbach Distributors which helped the Township, at no charge, have one of its public works' employees certified for his CDL.

Commissioner Davies gave a hats-off to the Public Works Department on the fine job during the challenging snow events, to Robert Furlong for his FEMA re-certification, and to Chief Visconti for his years of service here.

Vice President Truntz also congratulated Robert Furlong and thanked the Public Works for their hard work. He thanked Chief Visconti for the difference he made in Lower Swatara Township, and commented that the officers here respected him, making for a much better police department. Vice President Truntz wished Chief Visconti the best of luck in his future.

President Wilt thanked the Public Works crew for keeping the roads open and thanked Robert Furlong for his work as EMA Coordinator. President Wilt also thanked Chief Visconti for his time here as Chief, and agreed he was well respected by the officers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED:

Vice President Truntz requested an executive session immediately upon conclusion of the meeting for personnel reasons.

ADJOURN AND CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hearing no other comments, a motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to adjourn the meeting and convene into executive session. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

ATTEST:

Jean R. Arroyo
Secretary

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 17, 2024 LEGISLATIVE MEETING (7:00 PM)

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