

MINUTES

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING – JUNE 7, 2023

The June 7, 2023 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
- Michael J. Davies, Commissioner
- Ronald J. Paul, Assistant Secretary
- Christopher DeHart, Commissioner
- Jean R. Arroyo, Secretary
- Michael McAuliffe Miller, Solicitor
- Richard Snyder, Planning and Zoning Coordinator
- Scott Washinger, Public Works Director
- Brian Davis, MS4 Coordinator
- Dominic Visconti, Chief of Police

Absent: Zachary Border, Manager

Residents and visitors in attendance: Please see attached sign-in sheet

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA: CERTIFIED LIST OF POLICE OFFICERS:

Solicitor Miller reported that Chief Visconti has just submitted the certified candidate list for police officer selection. He asked that the Board entertain a motion to add approval of this certified list to tonight's agenda as item 10B. A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to amend the agenda by adding item 10B, a motion to approve the Certified Candidate List for police officers. The motion was unanimously approved.

President Wilt then opened the floor for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric McClune, 740 Fulling Mill Road, stated he had recently talked to Chief Visconti and was told that speed enforcement on Fulling Mill Rd. is ongoing and that most speeding is around 40 mph. The posted speed limit is 30 mph. This excess speed, especially with the layout of Fulling Mill Rd., creates safety and quality of life issues. Mr. McClune remarked that the

road is not safe for the neighbors here due to the current signage and speeds. He added that the sign is not even posted until half-way up the hill, which is past his driveway. Noise is also an issue for the neighbors. Mr. McClune asked that the Board move the signage to the bottom of the hill, both east and westbound, and that signs be made more visible with yellow diamonds and permanent flashers or permanent "your speed" signs. He also requested a speed study with PennDOT with the goal of lowering the speed to a safer 25 mph. Mr. McClune stated these measures will help make Fulling Mill Rd. safer and more livable as the Township continues to expand. In response to a question from Vice President Truntz, Mr. McClune confirmed that he had reached out to PennDOT and was basically told that speed studies cost money and the municipality needs to pay for it. President Wilt noted this is a state road, so the Township has little control over it. Commissioner DeHart suggested that the Township's state representative may be able to intervene. He also asked that Mr. McClune and his neighbors be aware that it is illegal to back out onto a PennDOT highway. Mr. McClune remarked it is difficult to back out of his driveway anyway. Commissioner Paul stated the main safety issue is probably more of a site clearance problem due to the hill. Mr. McClune agreed and suggested improved signage may help. The Board agreed to discuss this with the state representative, and thanked Mr. McClune for his time.

Lois Wald, 1855 Lakeside Dr., reported that one of the beloved neighborhood dogs was recently struck by a vehicle and killed. She stated that she blames this on several things, including the irresponsible owner. However, another factor involved is the Township removing the cul-de-sac and opening up Lakeside Dr. into the Georgetown development. The level of traffic and speed has created a dangerous stretch of road. Starting at the intersection of Lakeside Dr. and Market St. Ext., the road goes downhill into a curve. This creates very limited sight distance. Additionally, allowing vehicles to park on both sides of the road not only restricts the line of sight, but also prevents enough space for two vehicles traveling in the opposite direction to pass at the same time. A curve with cars parked on both sides is very dangerous for children either playing in the middle of the street or darting in or across from the sides. Ms. Wald added that she and her neighbors have observed police patrol decreasing over the years, with no deterrent to slow down these speeding vehicles. She suggested that the Township restrict parking to only one side of the street. She also welcomed the officers to use the parking in the extra space in front of her home to monitor speed. Mr. Wald stated that she realizes no action

can be taken tonight, but she hopes the Board hears her concerns. Commissioner DeHart suggested that the speed sign be placed in this area to provide data. The parking can also be looked into. Chief Visconti asked that Mr. Wald contact him to further discuss this. Commissioner Paul added that those townhouse units were always designed to have only two parking spaces. There appears to be a lot of boats and trailers parked in these spaces, which is a problem. The suggestion of limiting parking to only one side of the street does make some sense in certain areas. Ms. Wald agreed that parking is already limited, but the suggestion is to limit it around that curve. Commissioner Paul also addressed Ms. Wald's comments about opening the cul-de-sac. He explained that the Township's subdivision and land development ordinance specifically addresses why there are not back-to-back cul-de-sacs; this is not a good planning feature at all. Ms. Wald thanked the Board for any consideration it can provide.

Dale Messick, Greenfield Drive, observed an agenda item regarding an expensive expenditure for access control into the public works building and the proposed purchase of a tractor which is very large and would be the second tractor the Township owns. He expressed hopes that there will be discussion on these as they appear for approval tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2023 Public Hearing. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2023 Legislative Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

TIME EXTENSIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Paul, to approve a written request for an indefinite time extension for Capital Valley Business Park – Lot 3 & Lot 4 (PC#2022-06). The application was submitted on 11/17/2022 and extended until 06/14/2023. Upon approval, the deadline to act will be extended indefinitely. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve a written request for a 90-day time extension for Colony at Old Reliance

(PC#2022-01). The application was submitted on 09/29/2022 and extended until 06/13/2023. Upon approval, the deadline to act will be extended until 09/11/2023.

Commissioner Paul asked why this request is for 90-days rather than indefinitely. Mr. Snyder explained that RJ Fisher & Associates specifically requested the 90-day versus the indefinite extension. The motion was unanimously approved.

PROPOSAL FROM SECURITAS TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCESS CONTROL

The Board discussed a proposal from Securitas Technology, in the amount of \$17,416.06, for adding seven doors of access control to the public works building. Commissioner DeHart explained that when this system was put in four years ago, the public works building was not included in order to stagger costs. Now is the time to address this and provide more control and security. Mr. Washinger explained this will include use of key fobs and will allow the Township to know who is accessing the building. It will prevent things from going missing or having unauthorized people entering the building. Commissioner Paul stated he was not aware that there was a situation with unauthorized entry. President Wilt agreed this is a costly item and asked if other bids were obtained. Mr. Washinger explained the same company should be used so it can interface with the existing system. In response to a question from Vice President Truntz, Mr. Washinger stated he will have to confirm with Mr. Border but does not believe this was a budgeted expense for 2023. Solicitor Miller referenced the contract paperwork for this item, and stated choice of law under the contract is New York state law. The contract itself is fine, but it may be wise to go back to Securitas and ask that they use Pennsylvania law to prevent any unforeseen issues.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve the proposal from Securitas Technology, in the amount of \$17,416.06, for adding seven doors of access control to the public works building, provided the final agreement is applicable as approved by the solicitor. The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE OFFICER RETENTION BONUSES

The Board discussed an expenditure for police officer retention bonuses in the amount of \$1,200 per officer for up to 12 officers for total of up to \$14,400. Funds for this expenditure have been approved for reimbursement to the Township from a grant award issued by the Pennsylvania

Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Solicitor Miller remarked that Chief Visconti had taken the initiative to pursue this grant. A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve the expenditure for police officer retention bonuses in the amount of \$1,200 per officer for up to 12 officers for total of up to \$14,400. The motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner Paul asked if the officer who is overseas will be considered for this bonus. Chief Visconti explained that he is recommending that Officer Mack, who is deployed to Africa for a year, receive the bonus since it is retention bonus.

CERTIFIED CANDIDATE LIST FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Solicitor Miller reminded the Board that the agenda had been amended earlier tonight to add item 10B, a motion to approve the Certified Candidate List for police officers, which currently includes one candidate, Heather Rogers. He asked that the Board take action on this. A motion was made by Vice President Truntz, seconded by Commissioner DeHart, to approve the Certified Candidate List for police officers. The motion was unanimously approved.

SUBMISSION OF AN ORDER TO PURCHASE 5105M UTILITY TRACTOR

The Board discussed the proposed submission of an order to purchase a 5105M utility tractor with flail mowing implements in the amount of \$170,00.00. Vice President Truntz stated this is a big purchase and asked if it is necessary. Mr. Washinger explained that the Township has an old 1969 model Deere Tractor with a small boom which is used for mowing. While it was recently repaired, parts are getting harder and harder to come by. The larger 6110 M John Deere purchased approximately eight years ago by the Municipal Authority was supposed to have a front PTO which never came with the tractor. Therefore, the only use for the tractor is right-of-way mowing of larger embankment areas. In response to a question from Vice President Truntz, Mr. Washinger explain a front PTO cannot be purchased for this without changing the whole rear end of the tractor. The new tractor with the implements for right-of-way mowing will have a mid-mount flail attachment and a 90" offset flail attachment. The front PTO will be able to be used with the existing snow blower attachment. Mr. Washinger explained that the snow blower was originally used on the 6110 M in an unsafe manner. In order for the snow blower to work, the tractor had to be driven backwards. Mr. Washinger added that this is a Costars price and should be considered now because the tractor will not be available until next spring and prices will continue to

increase. Commissioner Paul asked if mechanic Rodger Mason, as well as the crew, is in favor of this purchase. Mr. Washinger agreed they feel this is the right piece of equipment for their needs. He added that if the Board desires, the 6110 M John Deere can probably be sold through Municibid, possibly for more than the purchase price. Dale Messick stated that he had also looked at the specs for this tractor and feels this is a big tractor for the limited time it is used. Mr. Washinger anticipated this new tractor will be used constantly.

Commissioner Davies remarked that this appears to be a necessary purchase, and prices of equipment continue to increase. A motion was by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Vice President Truntz, to approve submission of an order to purchase a 5105M utility tractor with flail mowing implements in the amount of \$170,00.00. The motion was unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Planning and Zoning/Codes Department:

Mr. Snyder reported that the Zoning Hearing Board met on May 24 and approved a special exception and two variances. A hearing will be held on June 28 for two variance requests from the Middletown Area School District for their proposed project. They will also be attending the June 21 meeting to ask permission to have an emergency access drive installed from the cul-de-sac at Greenfield Park to the proposed school site. Commissioner Davies stated he does have concern whether the access drive through the park property is adequately sized and constructed to deal with these types of vehicles. Mr. Fabian stated it will have to be, although details have not yet been provided.

The Planning Commission met on May 25 and tabled the plan for Oberlin Rd – Aberdeen (resubmission to the Planning Commission scheduled for June 22), and also tabled the plan for Catherine Hershey School (anticipated resubmission to the Planning Commission on July 27). Commissioner Paul referenced the resubmitted Aberdeen Plan and asked if they had addressed the concern of the Planning Commission about the deceleration lane. Mr. Snyder and Mr. Fabian both commented that they had not reviewed the resubmission yet.

Statistics for the month were as follows: Commercial – 1, Residential – 5, Sign- 0, Zoning – 7, Street Cut – 4, and Sewer – 0. Mr. Snyder added that permit applications are coming in rapidly this month. He added that construction is getting closer for the plans for Illuminated Integrated and The Pond, Building A.

Public Works Department

Mr. Washinger referenced the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fulling Mill Road Boat Launch facility on June 15 at 3:00 P.M. The new signage has been placed, the area beside the boat ramp has been cleaned out, a concrete pad has been formed in this area to attach the trash receptables, and the area around the parking lot has been mowed. Mr. Washinger reported that he and Mr. Fabian have been coordinating the agenda and speakers for this event.

Commissioner DeHart asked if the crew would be adding stone to the Fire Department parking lot, since there are plans to seal it soon. Mr. Washinger agreed to look into doing this tomorrow.

Mr. Washinger reported that lines will be reapplied at the two tennis courts for pickleball. He also informed the Board that he had placed the order for the new pickup truck through Maguire's Ford and a week later was told that the state, through Costars, had pulled all the orders. The truck cannot be ordered until the new 2024 models start being manufactured. In response to a question from Commissioner DeHart, Mr. Washinger agreed that he and Mr. Mason would be willing to do additional research on what other options are available.

MS4/Stormwater Department:

Mr. Davis reminded the Board that the Township has scheduled a public seminar for stormwater education and management on June 29 at 6:00 PM at the firehouse on Fulling Mill Road. Notice will be placed online, and inserts were sent in the monthly sewer bills, alerting residents of this event.

WREP held its monthly advisory board meeting on May 4 at Derry Township's offices. The meeting was very productive, and focused on determining what issues were most important to the participating Townships. Possible topics included shared stormwater maintenance training for public works, a central social media presence, and public education efforts. HRG has taken feedback from the meeting and will incorporate these ideas into the tiers of service for the program.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

In the absence of Mr. Border, Commissioner Paul reminded the Board that it needs to finalize the revised recreation policy and fees. The personnel policy for the non-uniformed employees also needs to be buttoned-up for approval. Solicitor Miller reported that the initial draft had been given to Mr. Border for comments. Commissioner Paul stressed that it is important that

staff be given an opportunity to provide input, since things were missed in the past. He also encouraged all commissioners to review the document and provide input.

Vice President Truntz stated he had heard on the radio about Harrisburg making sure their ARPA money is earmarked as the deadline is approaching. He asked if the Township's money is accounted for and earmarked. Commissioner Paul remarked that this should be for the Shireman tract. Mr. Fabian stated he believes that is what it is for, and agreed that it must be obligated.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Fabian reported that notice to proceed was issued for the Bryn Gweled Infrastructure Replacement Project. A preconstruction meeting will be held on June 14 to discuss the start schedule. Veolia also had a preconstruction meeting, and it appears their schedule may potentially delay the Township's project by up to three weeks. This will need to be discussed with the contractor during the upcoming pre-construction meeting.

An update was provided on the Hanover St./Meade Ave. Stormsewer Outfall Repairs. There was a delay in receiving the permit for Meade Ave. However, it was received by email today. Executed contracts have been signed by the Municipal Authority.

Review of the final documents for the 2021 Storm Sewer Replacement Project (217 Delmont, Scarlett, Spring Garden by the caterer, Cockley Road Culvert Replacement, Swatara & Pennsylvania, Nissley & Spring Garden, Greenwood Circle) has been completed and submitted to Mr. Washinger for his review. The last change order and application for payment will appear on the June legislative agenda, as well as the final close out of this project.

The contractor for the 2022 Paving Project (Briarcreek, Burd, Heatherland, Heathglen, Huckleberry, Old Reliance, Spring House, Longview, and Spring Garden) will be remobilizing to the site tomorrow to finish all remaining punch list work in order to close-out that contract as well.

Mr. Fabian noted that a proposal has been drafted for the 2023 Drainage Improvements Project (Nissley & Spring Garden, Woodridge Basin Tie-In Off off Spring Garden) and is on his desk for review. He anticipated it will be on this month's Municipal Authority agenda.

A pre-applicating meeting was held with DCIB-G on May 30 to discuss pursuing funding for the 2024 CIP Stormwater Improvement Project (Burd & Richard Storm Sewer Replacement, Lumber Storm Sewer Replacement, Richardson Stream Restoration & Fiddlers Elbow Bank

Erosion Repair). This appears to be a more attractive option than going the PennVest route both from finalization of the agreement and the rates.

HRG is preparing a scope of work to complete survey, site design, support bidding, construction administration and construction oversight for the new salt shed. This will appear for formal approval at either the June legislative meeting or the July workshop meeting. HRG's GIS team also had a meeting this week to begin work on the recently authorized GIS Database Updates' project.

Vice President reemphasized, especially with the Bryn Gweled project, that proper notification be given to impacted residents. Mr. Fabian reported that he did obtain a sample of Veolia's letter that alerted residents to their waterline work. The information was also placed on the Township's website. After the meeting with the Township's contractor, this information will also be placed on the website.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Commissioner DeHart asked Chief Visconti if the pick-up truck for the department has been repaired. Chief Visconti explained that the Township mechanic had provided a quote to replace the engine with a remanufactured one. The estimated cost is around \$6,000. Chief Visconti recommended this be ordered, as it will take some time to come in. The Board expressed no objection to this expenditure. Solicitor Miller recommended the Board approve it on the next agenda, retroactive to tonight.

Mr. Washinger reported that he is working with PPL and Wilsbach Distributors to get new LED lighting at the baseball field. PPL must still approve the lighting, but Wilsbach Distributors is looking at paying 100% of the cost, which would equate to \$10,000 - \$11,000.

Commissioner Davies thanked the residents who came tonight to inform the Board about the traffic issues they are experiencing.

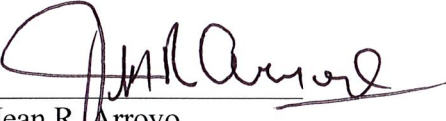
Commissioner Paul requested an executive session for personnel reasons.

Vice President Truntz stated he appreciated the input on the major purchases on tonight's agenda.

ADJOURN AND CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hearing no other comments, a motion was made by Commissioner DeHart, seconded by Commissioner Paul, to adjourn the meeting and convene into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

ATTEST:



Jean R. Arroyo
Township Secretary

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 7, 2023 WORKSHOP MEETING

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