

## SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING I

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

The Swatara Township Board of Commissioners held the Regular Meeting I on Wednesday February 1, 2017 at the Swatara Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Swatara, PA 17111. President Troxell called the Meeting to order at 7:02 PM. President Troxell led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation. There was an executive session where the Board discussed personnel and real estate matters.

### Roll Call:

Members of the Board present were: Commissioners Boudier, Connolly, Troxell, Milakovic, Chiavetta, Moyer and Varner. Also present: Township Manager LeBlanc, Assistant Manager Kaufman, Solicitor Wyland, Police Chief and Sgt.-at-Arms Umberger, Building Code Director Everett, and Assistant Secretary Echterling.

### Approve Agenda:

President Troxell removed the award of web design contract to Virtual Towns and Schools from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Chiavetta made a motion to approve tonight's agenda. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Chiavetta made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion carried unanimously.

### Consent Agenda Items:

Commissioner Chiavetta made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Resolution to Adopt the Dauphin County Emergency Operations Plan (R-2017-05)
- B. Ethics Act Resolution (R-2017-06)
- C. Municipal Back-Up Agreement with Approved Code Services, Inc.

Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Personnel Issue- Open Position - Codes Department:

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to advertise the open position in the Codes Department through advertising at no charge to the Township until the position is filled. Commissioner Milakovic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Web Design Contract -Virtual Towns and Schools:

Assistant Manager Kaufman spoke about the current website and discussed the issues with it including not being user friendly. He spoke about the proposal from Virtual Towns & Schools which was chosen for their service and experience. He spoke about the business section of the proposed new website. He stated the maintenance per year would be \$2,500 which includes hosting services, remote access, maintenance and help with any issues. He checked with other municipalities for their input on using them and feedback was positive. He stated the remote access would allow access to the website without being in the Township Building.

Commissioner Moyer asked about the maintenance versus previous contracts and asked to see the agreement. Mr. Kaufman stated the difference will be staff being involved in the process and will send the proposal to the Board. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kaufman stated he would have a demonstration setup for the next meeting.

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### Regular Meeting II Minutes - January 11, 2017:

Commissioner Moyer made a motion to approve the January 11, 2017 regular meetings minutes. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Presentation: Community Champions:

Mr. Andrew Hohensee, National Government Relations Manager for Community Champions discussed his program. He spoke about the current registration they do for foreclosed properties for the Township. He showed the Board how their website works and information available. He spoke about how they can work with the Codes Department with violations and liens. He showed the Board all the obtained information they store for a property. When they submit a violation on the website, it goes to the Township, property owner, manager of the property and the bank. He stated they have a mobile application which would allow Police and Fire personnel to log in and document property issues. He stated the Township has received approximately \$30,000 since 2012 in fees with the foreclosure registration. Mrs. Everett spoke about the process prior to an employee leaving. The Board asked about charging back the bank for work done including grass cutting through liens. He stated Community Champions would not receive any of the proceeds of the liens for the Township. Discussion ensued. The Board asked for reports and Mr. Hohensee stated they could provide them monthly reports by email.

Mr. Hohensee stated they do have a rental property registration. Mrs. Everett stated that the Township would need to create a rental property registration.

### Visitors Requests and Comments:

Mr. Joe Donato, Tax Collector, spoke about the liens going to the Prothonotary's office. Solicitor Wyland stated they do go to the office and they are updating the lien procedures. He spoke about the 2017 tax season and how bills will be going out this week. He spoke about working with Jim on the updated budget numbers.

Ms. Mary Klaus, Chambers Hill Fire Company, spoke about the fundraiser they had for the Pennsylvania State Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty. She stated it was well attended by residents and the Police Department and it was a successful fundraiser. She thanked everyone who helped with the fundraiser.

Two Boy Scouts, Connor Regal and Nick, from Troup 302 introduced themselves to the Board. They are working on their citizenship merit badge. President Troxell and the Board welcomed and thanked them for being here tonight.

### Hearing Date for Transfer of a Liquor License by Turkey Hill:

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to set March 8<sup>th</sup> as the hearing date for the transfer of a liquor license by Turkey Hill. Commissioner Moyer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Commissioner Chiavetta made a motion to reappoint Nicholas M. Dininni to the Vacancy Board. Commissioner Boudier seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1. Commissioner Moyer voted against the motion.

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President Troxell made a motion to appoint Jim Fosselman as the Township's delegate to the Dauphin County Tax Collection Committee. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board agreed to vote on the members for the Recreation Advisory Board at the next meeting.

### Contract with Community Champions:

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to enter into a contract with Community Champions. Commissioner Milakovic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### Visitors Requests and Comments:

There were no visitor requests and comments.

### Any Possible Stormwater Violations We Need to Investigate?

President Troxell asked if there were any possible stormwater violations. There was no response from the public or Board.

### Commissioners Requests and Comments, Additional Business and Correspondence:

Commissioner Moyer - Thanked Chambers Hill Fire Company for their community efforts. He brought up a visitor's question from last week's meeting. He said he spoke to the Solicitor today and found out an appeal has been filed and a special counsel has been hired. He is concerned that this wasn't talked about and why he hasn't received any information or notice about the filing and decision. He asked for the decision document and that going forward it would be shared. He stated we have spent money on this four times and he isn't sure why/how we moved forward on this decision.

Commissioner Moyer made a motion to discontinue the appeal of the court decision until we receive information and understand what is going on with the decision. Commissioner Milakovic seconded the motion. President Troxell asked for a roll call: Commissioner Moyer, Milakovic voted in favor. Commissioner Boudier, Connelly, Troxell and Chiavetta voted in the negative. Commissioner Varner abstained. Motion failed 2-4-1.

Andy asked why the Board hasn't been informed. Solicitor Wyland stated there was a limited time to act consistent with the prior direction that required to file a document for the right to appeal. Scott stated he is the Township's Solicitor and reached out to a specialist in election law and she filed the right to appeal. He has asked her to update the Board. Commissioner Moyer stated they haven't heard an interpretation of the decision. He asked what her rate is and Solicitor Wyland stated it is less than his rate. Commissioner Moyer stated they should be informed on the decision and options especially since this is the fourth loss on this issue. Solicitor Wyland stated he would make sure they are getting updates more frequently. Commissioner Moyer stated he thought this should have been on the agenda or executive session to discuss next steps. Commissioner Connolly wanted to make it clear that when the question was asked at the meeting last month, the decision had not been made by the courts. Tom stated he believes he has the same information as Commissioner Moyer.

Commissioner Boudier - Nothing at this time.

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Commissioner Connolly - Spoke about the community clean up on Martin Luther King Day. There were about 13 people who helped with the cleanup. He spoke about finding some issues which were reported to the Police and Fire Company during their cleanup. He stated the next cleanup is scheduled around Earth Day in April. He spoke about an event next Thursday called Hearts Across Swatara. There will be an awards ceremony including officer of the year and life savings awards. It will be held at LCBC Harrisburg Campus and the Board is invited.

Commissioner Varner - Asked about the traffic signal at the Chick-fil-A. Manager LeBlanc stated that all the stakeholders are on board with the project. We have prices and all stakeholders have been made aware of the cost and agree to the signalization upgrade and have agreed to pay their proportional share. When checks are received from the stakeholders, contracts will be signed and the work completed.

Commissioner Chiavetta - Stated Commissioner Moyer seems proud about winning these decisions. He asked about the hundreds of voters who clearly told everyone that they want their wards back, yet they keep fighting for it. He said if it was up to him, they would go to the Supreme Court on this. He stated he was at the polls on election night and he heard what the residents wanted, which is their wards back. He apologized to the scouts for having to hear about this issue that is destroying this Board.

Commissioner Milakovic - Spoke about his new role as president with PSATC. He stated Monday is their annual lobby day in which they will be speaking to lawmakers about mandates, pension reform, legal notices modernization, infrastructures, and local use of radar and body cameras for local police. He offered to share a copy of the items they will be discussing with the Board.

President Troxell - Congratulated and thanked Commissioner Milakovic for serving with PSATC. He agreed with Commissioner Chiavetta about the wards. He believes it is about democracy. He apologized that the wards haven't been reestablished and they are working hard to get them back.

### Adjournment:

Commissioner Connolly moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Milakovic seconded the motion and carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting I adjourned at 8:13 PM.

### Correspondence:

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| A. Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections: 2017 Election Dates            | 1-24-17 |
| B. Flaherty & O'Hara: Request by Turkey Hill for Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License | 1-30-17 |

*Julie A. Echterling*

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Julie Echterling, Recording Secretary