

**SWATARA TOWNSHIP**  
**REGULAR MEETING I      BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS      MARCH 7, 2018**

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Call to Order: The Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Connolly at 7:00PM on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at the Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Swatara, PA 17111.

Pledge of Allegiance: President Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Commissioner Troxel gave the invocation.

Roll Call: Commissioners Boudier, Varner, Zubeck, Troxell and Connolly were present. Also present: Solicitor Wyland, Secretary Bowser, Sgt.-at-Arms and Police Chief Reider, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Fire Marshall Ibberson.

Announce Executive Session: Commissioner Connolly announced an executive session was held prior to the Regular Meeting I to discuss personnel issues.

Motion to Approve Agenda: Commissioner Troxell moved to approve tonight's agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Boudier and carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda: The Board has reviewed the following Consent Agenda items and is ready to take action on approving these routine requests and matters:

- A. Request to Use Enhaut Park: The Salvation Army of the Capital Region
- B. Removal of Special Purpose Parking at 341 North 70<sup>th</sup> Street R-2018-14
- C. Special purpose Parking Request for 6840 Huntingdon Street R2018-15

Commissioner Troxell moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items as listed above. Commissioner Boudier seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

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Consideration of Minutes -Regular Meeting II-February 14, 2018:

Commissioner Troxell moved to approve these minutes as presented.

Commissioner Varner second the motion, with corrections on Commissioner Connolly's name, items #1 and #2.

Stormwater Presentation:

After the presentation done by Tom Wilson, an engineer with K&W, there was a lengthy question and answer period from visitors and Commissioners.

Visitors' Request and Comments:

Mike Hossler, 8665 President Drive: When he built his home, he put a Stormwater Management Plan in, he controls his run off. He feels he should not be taxed \$60.00 for the Stormwater Plan. The Township will look into his situation to make sure everything is in accordance to what he is saying before he receives a credit.

Toby Radosevic, 44 North 46<sup>th</sup> Street: Has a cabin on the island in the middle of the river and feels this property should not be taxed. He was told that everybody who owns property in Swatara Township has to pay. He received his bill with payment due in two weeks, with a billing date of the beginning of the year until the end of the year.

Phil Spasiff, 1520 Braewood Drive: Regarding the railroad, how do they pay? They pay based on impervious area.  
The money collected by this plan, does it stay in the Township? Yes, every dime.

Shane Steele, Yale Street: Feels the fee for elderly should be lower

George Good, 541 Cambria Avenue: Read a letter from Senator Mike Folmer

Joseph Donato, 701 South Harrisburg Street: All properties owners have to pay the stormwater fee.

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**REGULAR MEETING I      BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS      MARCH 7, 2018**

Anthony Spagnolo, 291 North 50<sup>th</sup> Street: Commented on the following items:

1. Cleaning up Spring Creek
2. Reference to the property across from the post office on Derry Street with water sitting there needs some attention.
3. The light on Derry Street has improved.
4. Pot hole on 50<sup>th</sup> Street off of Franklin Street has not been filled after 4 ½ months, it is getting bigger.
5. The reserving on Derry Street between 61st and 64th is not working, there is a pot hole on the ramp going across the bridge.
5. Dump truck went by 50<sup>th</sup> Street, twigs sitting at curb were not picked up.
7. He is on a fixed income taking a hit from social security and now this \$60 bill for the Stormwater Plan.

To the Commissioners, keep up the good work.

Greg Rubinic, 1288 Main Street: His car was stolen from his home on Main Street. He thanked all the officers for their help. His car was recovered

Commissioner Zubeck: Would like to add her statement regarding the Stormwater Plan to the March 7, 2018 meeting minutes attached to the minutes.

Consideration of No Turn on Red Sign for East Park Drive at Derry Street:

Commissioner Zubeck moved to enter into and approve No Turn on Red Sign for East Park Drive, Ref 17-0015317, the turn restriction to be Monday-Friday, between the hours of 4:30PM-6:00PM. Commissioner Troxell seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Appointments to Boards and Commission:

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to appoint Jeanne Webster to the Recreation Advisory Board with Term Expires December 31, 2019. Commissioner Troxell seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

**SWATARA TOWNSHIP**  
**REGULAR MEETING I      BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS      MARCH 7, 2018**

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to appoint Beth Sviben to the Recreation Advisory Board with Term Expires December 31, 2019. Commissioner Boudier seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to appoint Tom Hurst to the Recreation Advisory Board with Term Expires December 31, 2019. Commissioner Boudier seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Commissioner Connolly made a motion to appoint Katie Ibberson to the Recreation Advisory Board with Term Expires December 31, 2018. Commissioner Zubeck seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Visitors Requests and Comments: None

Any Possible Stormwater Violations we need to Investigate:

Joseph Donato, 701 South Harrisburg Street - Reported a backup and freezing at corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Commissioner Varner, reported water just setting there and possible freezing at Francis and Summit Streets in Enhaut.

Commissioners Request and Comments, Additional Business and Correspondence:

Commissioner Zubeck – thanked everyone for coming out and sharing, it was a really good and vibrant discussion this evening.

Commissioner Boudier - had nothing

Commissioner Troxell- thanked everybody and Tom for coming out process for resolving issues

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Commissioner Varner – he saw the press release on the HEAT Team. Good press and great idea.

Commissioner Connolly- thanked Gerry Miller from the Sewer Authority and Tom Wilson from K&W for coming out and for their hard work. The concerns and suggestions from the residents will try to be resolved.

Thanks to the police and the HEAT team detail response for their hard work last Friday night. They were able to confiscate drugs, money, cell phones and cars. Credit to the Chief it was his idea.

We increased police patrol in the schools in our district and Steelton Highspire, we work with both districts. It seems to be working. Thank God the highway department did not have to be called out for the snow we did not receive.

Adjournment: Commissioner Troxell moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Boudier and carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting, I adjourned at 9:18 PM.

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Earline Bowser, Township Secretary

Swatara Township Board of Commissioners

Meeting 1 on Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Statement for the Record

Submitted by Commissioner Christine L. Zubeck

I have received an extensive amount of calls the last week and a half regarding the new bill that residents received for a Stormwater Management Program. Some residents stated they were directed to contact me regarding these concerns, while I am always more than happy and willing to take calls and listen, I do want to emphasize that I was not a Commissioner at the time this new program was implemented by the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners. After fielding many calls and listening to what residents have to say, I share many of the same concerns and wanted to research what steps were taken leading up to full implementation of the program.

Most of the residents expressed concerns that they did not know anything about this until they received a bill in the mail. One resident expressed concerns that she was receiving a bill in the mail for \$60 so close to when other taxes are to be paid and that she hadn't budgeted for this. Other residents didn't have the financial means or were seniors on fixed-incomes that could not afford to pay it all at once. Again, it is easy to understand these concerns.

Leading up to the Board's final vote, it is my understanding that then President of the Board, Commissioner Troxell appointed himself as the representation from the Board of Commissioners to sit on the Authority and was the point person on this as the Program and its fee structure was being discussed. The final ordinance was passed at the December 6, 2017 Board of Commissioners Meeting in which then "President Troxell moved to enter into and approve the Stormwater System Management Agreement and authorize advertisement of the ordinance."

On the fee, while some of the requirements for stormwater management came down from the federal level of government and states must comply, there is no set way on how to comply, only that municipalities are in compliance. Consequently, I feel there may have been other alternatives to address the need to comply with what is referred to as "MS4." For example, last year, Swatara Township held the line on taxes and I think this was a good endeavor. However, in 2017, Mr. Connolly proposed and implemented in the 2018 budget, an increase of \$1.2 million in expenses over the previous year, benefiting from increased economic activity in the Township. The Township could have lowered the taxes and used the \$1.2 million to offset the cost of the Stormwater Management Program (also known as MS4).

In closing, I am hopeful that if a majority of the Board of Commissioners is not able to reassess this decision to implement a Stormwater Management fee in this manner, that we can at least urge the Swatara Township Sewer Authority to reconsider its fee schedule. It is not necessary for residents and businesses to have to pay an annual fee, rather than a quarterly or monthly fee.