

SWATARA TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING I BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APRIL 4, 2018

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting I of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Connolly at 7:06PM on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at the Swatara Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Swatara, PA 17111.

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

Invocation: Commissioner Troxell gave the invocation.

Roll Call: Commissioners Boudier, Varner, Zubeck, Troxell and Connolly were present. Also present: Solicitor Wyland, Manager/Treasurer Fosselman, 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. No action taken. One change to Number 8, Consideration of Minutes for March 14, 2014 came off the Agenda until next meeting.

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

Presentation of Civilian Support Award: Police Chief Reider presented a Civilian Support Award from the Swatara Township Police Department to Phyllis Bennett. Ms. Bennett is a resident of Swatara Township and has successfully completed a career in government and community relations and is CEO and President of PIB Associates Consulting. She received the award for her Outstanding Community Service to the Swatara Township Police Department, and serves on the Police Citizen Advisory Council. She is one of the original members of the advisory council.

As noted by Chief Reider "On this day, April 4th, fifty years ago, close to this time (7:10PM) Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, TN at the age of 39. So, it feels fitting to honor someone who walks in his shoes and with the same spirit."

Ms. Bennett said thanked Chief Reider for presenting her with an award as a member of this community and the advisory board. The board tries to improve relationships between the Police Department and the Swatara Township community and surrounding areas. The community must learn to speak up in love.

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Presentation of Treasurer's Report for February: Treasurer Fosselman read the Treasurer's Report from February. Commissioner Zubeck asked what the Sidewalk Escrow Account was for. Mr. Fosselman replied it is money given to the Township from a developer for sidewalks they put in or need to be added.

Manager's Report: Manager Fosselman said Local Government Day will be held May 2, 2018. He reported that the business privilege department picked up 163 new businesses that were not previously licensed. The bond payments were made on time, and they will show up on the March Report. No major issues were found with the 2016 audit. Commissioner Zubeck moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Troxell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Visitors Request and Comments: Joseph Donato, 701 South Harrisburg Street: Reported that there are potholes at the intersection of South Harrisburg and Main Streets near the church. Mr. Fosselman will see if the highway department can patch that temporarily.

Hiring of Temporary Seasonal Employees for Recreation Maintenance and Compost Facility: Commissioner Boudier made a motion to rehire Ray Chase and Richard Szekeres for the compost facility and hire Phil Mosser, Garrett Williamson and Sean Marzen for park and recreation maintenance positions. Commissioner Troxell seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Discussion of 717 Armory Variance: Robert Ihlein, Director of Planning and Zoning said he was at the meeting to inform the Board of the nature of the 717 Armory request. A hearing has been set for May 3rd for 717 Armory located on Derry Street. Permits were obtained in 2017 for an indoor gun range. Commissioner Boudier said that this Board should not be making any comments at this time and it should go to the Zoning Hearing Board first and then back to the Board of Commissioners who will make the final decision. Commissioner Connolly asked what the distance was of the sound point. Mr. Ihlein said about 300 feet from properties. Property owners will be notified of the hearing. There are twelve homes involved. Solicitor Wyland said the Zoning Hearing Board is acting like a court for a judge, it is neutral. The Township can do nothing or appear at the hearing. If the Board wanted the Zoning Hearing Board to know that the Township Commissioners support it, the Board can authorize the Solicitor to show up at the hearing to make a point saying yes, we support it, or oppose it. Commissioner Connolly said this is just a discussion, no action will be taken at this time.

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Visitors Requests and Comments:

Anthony Spagnolo, 291 North 50th Street:

1. Branches and Twiggs are still on Franklin and 50th Street
2. There is a bent street sign at 48th and Cumberland that has been there all winter
3. A major street light is out at Derry and Eisenhower near St. Catherine's. PPL pole number 26098.
4. To Chief Reider – the newsletter article, Coffee With Cops had the place but no time was noted. Chief Reider said 9AM.
5. Regarding the indoor shooting range, as a citizen and not a commissioner, with all the talk about firearms he could not see why anyone would allow it. As a citizen he doesn't think that it is a good idea.
6. Regarding the MS4 bill, he would like to see the bill that was sent to Norfolk Southern. He may file a Right to Know for this information.

Len Ducouer, 5828 Fordham Avenue: He represents the Board of Directors of Chartwood Manor Homeowner's Association. There are dead trees and debris located on a property at 48th Street adjoining a common area which are blocking the stormwater drain. The Homeowners Association is here before the Board on advice of its council to see who is responsible for debris removal and care of the wetland area.

Mr. Ducouer asked if the homeowners should be paying the \$60 stormwater fee because they already pay toward a basin fee through the homeowner's association. Solicitor Wyland said that the program was not designed with a residential credit and any decision to do otherwise would have to be looked at on a case by case basis.

Mr. Ducouer said there is a deaf child sign at Chartwood and Fordham. He doesn't believe the sign is necessary any longer. Chief Reider will check into it.

Any Possible Stormwater Violations We Need to Investigate: None

Commissioners Request and Comments, Additional Business and Correspondence:

Commissioner Varner – Nothing

Commissioner Boudier – The Easter Egg Hunt on March 17th was very well attended. A great deal of credit goes to President Connolly and Assistant Manager Kim Kauffman, Fire Services Director Ibberson and Brenden Orth the DJ.

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Commissioner Troxell- Stormwater Program payment schedules and payment methods must be made more accessible to people. The Senate is looking at language regarding the township code, borough code as well as third class city code.

Thanks to Robert Ihlein for presenting the Comp Plan here in the Township. It is going to be a very organically developed plan. We rely significantly on commercial properties. Ultimately, we would like to grow businesses and make the Township better for our residents.

717 Armory is a personal issue with him. He is currently the only Commissioner on the Board from that side of 322 that lives in the neighborhood of 717. He would like to see more representation from residents who live in close proximity of 717 Armory.

Commissioner Zubeck – Wanted to end with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King this evening. “If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you to go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream.” Thank you very much and thanks to everybody for being here.

Commissioner Connolly-Thanked everybody for coming. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot at 6:01PM and pronounced dead at 7:05PM fifty years ago, very close to the anniversary to the time Chief Reider was giving the award on this day. Again, Phyllis has served the community well. I think it is awesome she could be recognized at that particular time and hour. In defense of our highway Department, who have been tied up with the recent snowfall, we are going to get the brush cleaned up and do some clean up at the ball fields and take care of the potholes. Assistant Manager Kaufman said brush cleanup is the week of April 16-20. The Easter Egg Hunt was our second largest event of the year, next to National Night Out. Approximately 800 to 1000 people came and twenty volunteers. Thanks to the Recreation Advisory Board for being instrumental in that. We had the event on March 17th. He received “a lot of flak” about having it so early but there was no snow on the ground and it was 44 degrees outside and sunny. Thanks to everyone that helped with the event and thanks to everybody that came out. The plan for next week is to bring in the volunteers and have a slide show of the event and thank the people with certificates.

Adjournment: Commissioner Troxell moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Boudier and carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting, I adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Earline Bowser, Recording Secretary