

SWATARA TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING II  
NOVEMBER 13, 2019

1. Call to Order: The Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Connolly on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Swatara, PA 17111.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: President Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: Commissioners Boudier, Connolly, Troxell, Varner and Zubeck were present. Also present: Township Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Solicitor Kurt Williams, Highway Superintendent Todd Webb, Director of Codes and Zoning Robert Ihlein, Public Safety Director Darrell Reider, Chief of Fire Service Mike Ibberson and Secretary Mary Kepp.
4. Invocation: Pastor Gary Lathrop delivered the invocation.
5. Presentation of Awards: These officers were recognized for the many hours of planning and organizing the Active Shooter Training Drill held at Central Dauphin East High School on August 20, 2019.
  - A. Lt. Tim Shatto, Swatara Township Police Department – Award of Merit
  - B. Lt. Tom Bell, Lower Paxton Township Police Department – Award of Merit
6. Announce Executive Session: An executive session was held prior to the meeting regarding a real estate matter. No action was taken.
7. Motion to Approve Agenda: Commissioner Boudier made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Troxell. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda: Commissioner Troxell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Boudier; carried unanimously.
  - A. Monthly Departmental Reports
  - B. Committee Reports
  - C. Codes Report
  - D. Rescinding Resignation of Township Secretary Kepp

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9. Consideration of Minutes - Regular Meeting I –November 6, 2019: Commissioner Troxell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Troxell seconded the motion; carried unanimously.
  
10. Visitor Requests & Comments:  
Casey Meyer, 1310 Highland Street: Asked for a zoning ordinance change to have therapy chickens on the property in order to dismiss the pending lawsuit by the Township. There is a Zoning Hearing scheduled on December 5, 2019. The board did not take action at tonight’s meeting as it wasn’t on the agenda. Commissioner Troxell stated the Board may be able to amend zoning in the future. Mr. Ihlein should investigate and obtain clarification on a detailed definition of therapy animals. He suggested checking with other municipalities how they zone therapy animals. Ms. Meyer also complained that her neighbor doesn’t follow the unnecessary noise ordinance and she has made several telephone calls to the Township Police to no avail. She feels that all ordinances should be followed and that she is being bullied and singled out. She will meet with Krahling after the meeting.
  
11. Reports:
  - A. Manager’s Report – Township Manager Fosselman warned the public to be suspicious when opening email especially from someone you don’t know or not expecting an email. There has been a lot of email fishing.
  - B. Treasurer’s Report – Report presented. Report will be posted in the Township lobby. Commissioner Troxell questioned the difference in Building Bonds Fund from last October to this October. Mr. Fosselman noted the different was to pay for the paving project for East Park Drive and Garden Road. Mr. Fosselman reported that the Township keeps a reserve of \$400K for unexpected projects. Commission Troxell noted that the Township is fiscally sound and any available revenue should be shared with the residents. Commissioner Zubeck noted that reserves are meant for emergency projects. An example would be the recent sinkhole that needed addressed. Commissioner Troxell made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Boudier. Motion carried unanimously.
  - C. Solicitor’s Report – Nothing at this time
  - D. Stormwater Report – Will be posted in the Township lobby

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- E. Swatara Rising Comp Plan Report – In the process of completing the Comprehensive Plan that lists types of improvements to be made in the Township over the next 5 year. The Township has been working in conjunction with County Planning, Township Planning and other local municipalities. The next step will be a public hearing to make a presentation. Commissioner Connolly scheduled the hearing along with the December 11, 2019 Board Meeting. Mr. Ihlein will be responsible of getting the meeting advertised to the public. The document is on the website.
  - F. Fire Services Report – Report presented. Report will be posted in the Township lobby. October was Fire Prevention Month. There were numerous visits to the elementary schools to conduct fire safety training. Commissioner Connolly inquired about the location of the local EMS. Chief Ibberson reported that the building is located directly behind the Swatara Firehouse on Pleasant Avenue. The main station is located on Paxton Street.
  - G. Director of Public Safety Report – Report presented. Report will be posted in the Township lobby. Faulkner Toyota generously donated \$10,000 for the Township K9 fund. The Hero 5K Race had over 600 runners and raised money for Wounded Warriors, Fallen Firefighters and the K9 fund. He reported that the light on the flag pole isn't working. Commissioner Connolly noted that due to time constraints the Community Service Report will not be read. We have an exceptional Police Department that are very involved in the Township.
12. Presentation of 2020 Budget: Presentation by Township Manager Fosselman. He highlighted changes in the budget since the last budget meeting. He went through each department's changes. It is a good budget.
- Commissioner Varner questioned a previous deficit from the last budget meeting. He questioned how sustainable is the budget if we have to transfer money to balance the budget. If there is a tax decrease how is the budget sustainable?
- Commissioner Connolly commented that stormwater revenue is now able to be moved into the budget to offset highway expenses. We provide our residents with a service that had been paid out of the highway budget. Now with being in our second year of having a revenue source we are able to give back to our residents.
- Commissioner Zubeck commented that last year stormwater money was meant for only stormwater projects. There are lots of projects that need completed and repairs needed to aging infrastructure. She sees the budget as short sided. There is a 5%

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decrease in the general fund in the 2020 budget. Next year's projected part of our contractual agreement has an increase of 12% in costs. She inquired if was that taken into consideration when arriving at the numbers.

Commissioner Varner is concerned that this is only a one-year budget and we should be looking down the road.

Commissioner Troxell spoke on the number of years that he has worked on Township budgets. This is a sound budget and he wants to pass on savings to the residents.

Commissioner Zubeck is looking at a combination of departmental budgets. Does this budget address economic downfall? Is the budget solvent? Is there a margin of error and what is the percentage? If there is a 3-5% margin of error on top of what is proposed it may be sustainable. She is willing to move forward with advertising the budget but would like to see numbers.

At 8:03 PM the Regular Meeting II was adjourned to the Public Hearing regarding the Mushroom Hill Warehouse Project.

At 9:51 PM the Regular Meeting II was called to order again and discussions on the 2020 Budget resumed.

Commissioner Connolly reported that Commissioner Troxell and Township Manager Fosselman worked on this budget all year and were comfortable with it. The budget is a working plan. There is always a continuation of looking at the Township and trends. The budget to be voted on as presented is a one year budget. He also reviewed the additional revenues and other savings to the Township.

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Commissioner Troxell made a motion to advertise the 2020 budget, second by Commissioner Boudier.

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A vote was taken to advertise the 2020 Budget

Commissioner Boudier – Yes

Commissioner Connolly – Yes

Commissioner Troxell – Yes

Commissioner Varner – Yes

Commissioner Zubeck – Yes

The proposed budget will be posted in the lobby and on the Township's website. It must be posted for 20 days. It would be able to be voted on at the December 11, 2019 Township Commissioners meeting.

13. Subdivision/Land Development Plans:

A. Improvement Guarantee Reduction No 1 for Living Water Community Church. Commissioner Troxell made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Visitors Requests and Comments: None at this time

15. Any Possible Stormwater Violations we need to investigate?

16. Commissioners Requests and Comments, Additional Business and Correspondence:

Commissioner Varner: Inquired about hacking of Township email. Township Manager reiterated to not open emails from unknown senders or anyone you are not expecting an email from. Commissioner Varner questioned whether there is anything available to make the server more secure. Mr. Fosselman reported that the Township has the latest and most secure service.

Commissioner Zubeck: Expressed her thanks to Chief Reider, Township Police, Fire and Administration for the success of the Hero Run.

Commissioner Boudier: Nothing at this time

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Commissioner Troxell: Expressed he is very positive about the direction of the Township and it gets better each year. He also noted the excellence of the Township Police and Fire Departments.

Commissioner Connolly: He thanked the Highway Department for always making the Township look good. The tree lighting ceremony will be held on December 3, 2019. He thanked the Township police and others that were involved in the Hero 5K. He was thankful to everybody for the long night. He is proud of the work this board has done.

17. Adjournment: Commissioner Troxell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting I was adjourned 10:13 pm.

  
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Mary Kepp, Township Secretary