

SWATARA TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING II
JANUARY 8, 2020

1. Call to Order: The Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Connolly on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Swatara, PA 17111.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: President Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Invocation: Delivered by Brenda Glenn
4. Roll Call: Commissioners Boudier, Connolly, Ellis, Varner and Zubeck were present. Also present: Township Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Solicitor Scott Wyland, Highway Superintendent Todd Webb, Director of Codes and Zoning Robert Ihlein, Public Safety Director Darrell Reider, Chief of Fire Services Mike Ibberson and Secretary Mary Kepp.
5. Motion to Approve Agenda: Commissioner Boudier made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Boudier; Motion carried unanimously.
 - A. Monthly Departmental Reports
 - B. Committee Reports
 - C. Codes Report
 - D. Educational Incentive Request from Ptl. Cody Wilt
 - E. Request to Extend Inspection of Septic System at 6520 Chambers Hill Road.
7. Consideration of Minutes:
Regular Meeting II –December 11, 2019: After a discussion Commissioner Connolly made a motion to table the minutes until next meeting after revisions are made. Seconded by Commissioner Varner. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Ellis abstaining.
Reorganization Meeting–January 6, 2020: Commissioner made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Varner. Motion passes unanimously.

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8. Introduction of New Police Officers by Director of Public Safety Reider
 - A. Ptl. Matthew Kennedy
 - B. Ptl. Christopher Jones

9. Visitor Requests & Comments:

Joe Batista, 950 Manor: Reported there are six locations where traffic signals are too short of time or don't exist. The area of land at Orchard Road and Harrisburg Street has a large amount of litter. Chief Reider will take the locations of the traffic signals. The property that is littered with trash is private property with no structure.

Commissioner Connolly stated there has been cleanups in that area but it keeps reoccurring. Mr. Ihlein will look into who owns the property.

Megan O'Neill, 5870 Bell Road: Do we need any more information on what's going on at the Warehouse Meeting so we can have public comment. She would like the Planning Commission to remain at nine instead of reducing to five.

Tom Garlock, 6050 Hocker Drive: He is working through conditions to give to CRG. Solicitor Wyland will take the conditions to the hearings. He would like to see details about discussions in the minutes from the Board of Commissioners meetings.

Michael Tuckey, 5875 Gensemer Lane: He doesn't want to see the number of Planning Commissioners reduced and doesn't understand why the number was cut. He thinks there could even be more Commissioners. Additional Commissioners could provide more experience, opinions and ideas. The cost to the Township isn't that much.

John Schue, 631 S. Harrisburg Street: Along with other residents he would like to see the Tax Office stay in the Township Building. It is centrally located and provides a service.

10. Reports:

- A. Manager's Report – Nothing at this time.
- B. Treasurer's Report – Nothing at this time. Waiting for bank statements.
- C. Solicitor's Report – Nothing at this time
- D. Stormwater Report – Will be posted in the Township lobby
- E. Swatara Rising Comp Plan Report – A copy was submitted to Steelton-Highspire School District with no response yet. He is hoping that the report will be adopted during the second Commissioners meeting in February.

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- F. Fire Services Report – Report presented. Report will be posted in the Township lobby. Santa visited communities throughout the township and fire services adopted a family for the holidays; the highway department built bunk beds for the children.
- G. Director of Public Safety Report – Report presented. Report will be posted in the Township lobby. The tree lighting ceremony held on December 3, 2019 was well attended including McGruff. Director Reider attended the Paxtang Tree Lighting on December 8, 2019. Coffee with a Cop will be on January 9, 2019 at City Line Diner. Next month Coffee with a Cop will be held on February 13, 2020 at Starbucks on Grayson Road. December 14, 2019 was Shop with a Cop in conjunction with the Police Athletic League and Walmart who donated \$10,000. Children shopped for gifts for their families. Almost 70 pounds of prescription drugs were in the drop off box in the Police Department lobby. The crime rate is down in the Township. Trends are good. Commissioner Connolly suggested during the Public Safety Report Chief Reider could give the statistics from the same time period the previous year. The current numbers represent a major reduction in crime due to having 50 officers, 2 K-9 patrols and a special unit that targets high crime or criminal activities.

- 11. Consideration of Ordinance: Reduction of Planning Committee Members (O-2020-1)
Commissioner Connolly made a motion to reduce the number of Planning Commission members from nine to five, seconded by Commissioner Boudier. Motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

- Commissioner Boudier: Yes
- Commissioner Connolly: Yes
- Commissioner Ellis: Yes
- Commissioner Varner: No
- Commissioner Zubeck: No

Commissioner Zubeck noted that this is not a good representation of the residents. Our Planning Commission members are well qualified and have a lot of knowledge. If it's not broke, don't fix it. Just because one board is reduced doesn't mean another board needs to be reduced. The Planning Commission members have done a great job.

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Commissioner Boudier: Addressed the comment from Mr. Tuckey. More Planning Commissioners doesn't mean they will be more effective. If the Board of Commissioners returns to nine then the Planning Commission could return to nine.

12. Consideration of Resolution: Approval to Upgrade Traffic Signal at 28th and Paxton Streets (R-2020-01). Township Manager Fosselman provided the information regarding the Green Light Go Grant. The \$250,000 grant is to upgrade the old style traffic light. The Township is responsible to pay 20% of the costs. A signature is required by PennDOT for someone to sign on behalf of the Township. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve Township Manager Fosselman to sign for the Township, seconded by Commissioner Varner. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Appointments to Boards and Commissions:
The following residents were reappointed for office:

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (6 year term)

Wayne Scott 01-01-20 to 12-31-25

Motion by Commissioner Connolly, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion passed unanimously.

Boudier – Yes
Connolly – Yes
Ellis – Yes
Varner – Yes
Zubeck – Yes

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD (2 year term)

Kim Coleman 01-01-20 to 12-31-21

Motion by Commissioner Boudier, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion passed unanimously.

Boudier – Yes
Connolly – Yes
Ellis – Yes
Varner – Yes
Zubeck – Yes

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VACANCY BOARD (1 year appt)

Nicholas Dininni 01-01-20 to 12-31-20

Motion by Commissioner Boudier, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion passed unanimously.

Boudier – Yes
Connolly – Yes
Ellis – Yes
Varner – Yes
Zubeck – Yes

DAUPHIN COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE (2020) R-2020-03

Delegate: Jim Fosselman

Alternate: Jeff Varner

Motion made by Commissioner Connolly; seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion passed unanimously.

Boudier – Yes
Connolly – Yes
Ellis – Yes
Varner – Yes
Zubeck – Yes

AUTHORITY LIAISON (2020)

Tom Connolly

PLANNING COMMISSION (4 year term)

Lee Pisano 01-01-20 to 12-31-23

Motion by Commissioner Boudier; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion passed unanimously.

Boudier – Yes
Connolly – Yes
Ellis – Yes
Varner – Yes
Zubeck – Yes

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POLICE CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNSEL

Each Commissioner nominates one member to the Counsel. Commissioner Ellis was previously appointed by Commission Boudier. She has resigned from the Counsel so Commissioner Boudier will have to appoint another person. Commissioner Ellis replaced Commissioner Troxell and needs to appoint a member to the Counsel. The Commissioners should check with the member they appointed to see if they are still interested in participating.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (2 year term)

Commissioners should check and verify who they are selecting for this Board. It will be voted on during the Regular Meeting II in February.

14. Visitors Requests and Comments:

Michael Tuckey, 5875 Gensemer Lane: He was disappointed that the Tax Collector's office was voted to be removed. It is convenient for the taxpayers to go to the Township Building to pay their taxes. He doesn't think of the cost of \$30,000+ per year is too much for residents to pay for this convenience. Solicitor Wyland informed him the Tax Collectors Office will remain in the Township Building at least until the end of the year. Commissioner Connolly explained the financial aspects of the taxes collected by the Township and where the monies go.

Meghan O'Neill, 5870 Bell Road: The Township web site isn't current. The Township needs to use their technology. Other townships have public notice on their websites. Other alternatives to read about the notices include looking on Penn Live or The Patriot News which cost money. She is against moving the Tax Collectors Office. If we need money to keep the office in the Township Building we should be asking for reimbursement from the County and Central Dauphin School District.

Nina Vacante, 5671 Chambers Hill Road: She was hoping to hear a Treasurer's Report tonight. With the Township being financially sound it would be a show of appreciation to the residents if there could be a decrease in the stormwater fee. The matter was referred to Mr. Ihlein.

Joseph Donato, Tax Collector: After the resolution was passed to remove the Tax Collectors Office from the Township Building on December 11, 2019, he received a letter December 13, 2019 stating the office will no longer be located in the Township Building as of the end of the month. He received another letter December 20, 2019

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informing him that action would not take place. He thinks the resolution that was approved to remove his office needs withdrawn. He also thinks someone should check to see if it is legal to remove the Tax Collectors Office before the end of his term.

Lisa Neiter, 6140 Hocker: She agrees the Tax Office should stay in the Township Building and they should reach out to Central Dauphin School District and the County for reimbursement. She thinks the Tax Office is remaining in the Township Building due to so many residents against it leaving. She hopes that CRG is on board with the conditions the residents have requested. The residents want protection for our neighborhoods, community, traveling, etc. She also thinks we need to make the Township more desirable. There are many empty stores in the Harrisburg Mall. Along with adopt a family we should consider helping the elderly. She would like to volunteer or donate to the Senior Citizens Commission.

15. Any Possible Stormwater Violations we need to investigate? None

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

Commissioner Varner: He envisions many resources for the Senior Citizens Committee. Chief Reider has already given him some ideas. He'll be able to develop this program from scratch. The Planning Commission needed to cancel their meeting last night and the information didn't reach the members in time and some showed up. Information needs to be given in a timely manner.

Commissioner Zubeck: There is a new litter law in Pennsylvania that allows a municipality to petition PennDOT to create a litter corridor. She will be addressing these issues in the Township. She was disappointed to be removed from the Highway Committee and has enjoyed working with them on paving, cost saving measurers and will do an end of the year tally. In her new position as Chair of Communications and Grants, she looks forward to addressing some communications issues especially with the website and increased communications with the residents and working with staff. Thanked the residents for bringing it to their attention. She enjoyed working with the Highway Department and looks forward to working with them on concerns from the residents. She also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

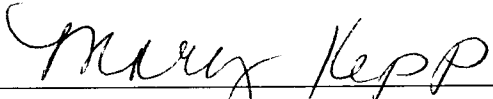
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Commissioner Boudier: The Warehouse meeting for January 15, 2020 will be held downstairs in the Township Building. He also inquired about road treatment for tonight as there were some icy patches on the roads.

Commissioner Ellis: She thanked the Highway Department for keeping our roads clean, the Police and Fire Departments for keeping us safe. She appreciates all their efforts and in participating in community events. She thanked the residents for voicing their concerns and hopes they continue to attend meetings.

Commissioner Connolly: He's grateful to partner with many groups in the community for various events. He thanked Mike Tuckey for always being supportive of the Township when helping those in need including disasters in Puerto Rico and flooding in Houston. Overall the Township is doing well. He is proud we have the lowest stormwater fee compared to bordering municipalities. The fee is mandated by the Federal Government. The Township worked quickly while other municipalities were fined for not getting things done in a timely manner. In addressing the concerns of empty stores at the mall, businesses come and go. He recently spoke to someone looking to move to Swatara Township and there aren't many houses available which is good thing. As for our Senior Citizens, he is always interested in hearing of situations where the Township can help. We have lots of volunteers ready. He's also proud of the work that's been done with property taxes and offering residents great services. He's thankful to our Police and Fire Departments for protecting the Township and keeping us safe. January 20, 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be a day of service. Volunteers will fill backpacks with snacks, hygiene products, drinks, etc. for our Police Department. All are welcome to participate.

17. Adjournment: Commissioner Boudier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting II was adjourned 9:00 pm.



Mary Kepp, Township Secretary