

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

The Board of Commissioners did not hold Regular Meeting I on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A remote virtual meeting was held on April 8, 2020.

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, April 8, 2020,

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

Moment of Silence:

Roll Call: Commissioners Zubeck, Varner, Ellis, Vice President Boudier and President Connolly participated. Also participating: 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, Craig Powers, EMA Coordinator, Township Administrative Assistant Karen Alleman and Township Secretary Mary Kepp.

Statement by Solicitor: Although the legislature has been promising us a statute that would allow us to have an official meeting remotely, it has only passed the Senate and not the House so it is not a law. Accordingly, this is not an official public meeting and we should do the minimal amount of business. Any decisions made out of urgency should be ratified at a meeting whether it is a remote meeting authorized by statute or a regular physical meeting. Many townships are having remote meetings. We should use our best efforts to inform the public such as via website and social media including an agenda in advance. Also, within 20 days after a virtual meeting the Bill states you must post draft minutes even before they are ratified along with documents or reports discussed at this meeting in order to keep the public informed.

Public Comments and Requests: All public comments and requests need to be emailed to the Township prior to the Board Meeting. No requests were received.

Committee Reports: None at this time.

Manager's Report: Manager Fosselman reported that he has monitored messages from the public after 4:30 p.m. He has not received any negative comments regarding closing of the Township Building. Some staff have come in to do urgent business but they are well isolated. Everyone is very cooperative. It has been a good team effort.

Department Head Reports:

Stormwater- Any concerns sent in will be addressed at the next meeting.

Director of Public Safety - He and Fire Chief Ibberson speak daily with Craig Powers and have a solid plan in place. The crime rate is down. No employee infection. Some officers were quarantined due to spouses testing positive. They have all returned to work. He thanked Bill Hoyer for coming into the police department to disinfect and wipe everything down.

Emergency Management Agency Coordinator: Craig Powers stated he is in constant communications with the Township and is monitoring the county and state numbers. There are some positive cases in the Township. It has been a great team effort.

Commissioners Requests and Comments, Additional Business and Correspondence:

Commissioner Varner: Offered his thanks to the staff during this challenging time.

Commissioner Zubeck: She offered her thanks to the staff. There has been a lot of hard work and good communication. She offered her assistance if needed and will keep everyone updated on anything she hears at the State level. She is keeping close track of what's moving through the House and Senate.

Commissioner Ellis: She offered her thanks to the staff. She is anxious to move forward. She hopes everyone will stay safe and healthy.

Vice President Boudier: Wishes everyone good health and hopes everyone stays safe and a happy and blessed Easter.

President Connolly: He thanked everyone for all their efforts. He was glad to hear that Vice President Boudier is on the mend. The basketball hoops on the playgrounds needed to be removed to prevent crowds. Township news is posted on Facebook. He'd like to thank Bill Hoyer. Along with cleaning and disinfecting the police department nightly he also volunteered to donate a ham. Central Dauphin School District has been very successful in getting food out to the community. If you know of anybody in the Township that needs food please make him aware of it. There has been a tremendous amount of community support. We will just keep adjusting as this pandemic progresses. The residents are doing what they need to do. Future meetings will be determined before the first scheduled meeting in May 2020.

Other Comments:

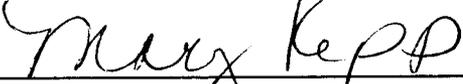
Codes: Issuing a few emergency permits for repairs. One exemption in the governor's order is residential solar systems, which is included in a utility exemption. There was a stormwater complaint for a house on Keckler Road. Township Engineer Tom Wilson did an inspection and he will be issuing a citation to the property owner.

Highway Department: They are mowing and doing some street sweeping. There has been some sign vandalism in the parks. Currently they have 6 highway employees working each week and rotate weekly. Tattered Flag in Middletown provided the Township with 6 gallons of free hand sanitizer.

Administrative Office: Kim Kaufman is working on some projects but doesn't have anything to report tonight. Karen Alleman stated she didn't receive any questions or comments for tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Zubeck: In the test call that took place yesterday she mentioned there may be other options for remote meetings that could include the public. She also received feedback from a resident regarding the timing of the meeting. She informed the resident that this was an informational meeting and minutes would be posted on the website. President Connolly noted that using GoToMeeting for tonight's meeting was a good option but that he would be interested in exploring other avenues depending on if we will have a physical or remote meeting in May.

Adjournment: President Connolly adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.



Mary Kepp, Township Secretary