

MINUTES

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING II

JULY 8, 2020

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. **Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Connolly on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at the Swatara Township Municipal Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Swatara, PA 17111.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Moment of Silence**
4. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Zubeck, Varner, Ellis, Vice President Boudier and President Connolly were present. Also present: Township Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Solicitor Scott Wyland, Highway Superintendent Todd Webb, Public Safety Director Darrell Reider, Director of Planning and Zoning Ihlein, Fire Chief Michael Ibberson and Assistant Secretary Karen Alleman.
5. **Executive Session:** An Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting to discuss a personnel matter.
6. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**
 - A. **Debra Noles, 6080 Hocker Drive:** Would like the Commissioners to carry out their duties with professionalism and respect. Would like minutes posted to the website in a timely manner.
7. **Presentation to Capital Area Greenbelt/Swatara Township Recreation Partnership:** Vice President Boudier presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Cindy Hogeman of the Capital Area Greenbelt for additional services to the Greenbelt and a contribution to their fundraisers, the Tour de Belt and the Hospice of Central PA Butterfly Release which cannot be held this year due to the pandemic.
6. **Visitors Requests and Comments (continued):**
 - B. **Michael Tuckey, 5875 Gensemer Lane:** Wanted to clear up comments made at the July 1 meeting regarding the December 11, 2019 minutes. He felt a lot of information was left out of the December 11, 2019 minutes, which were tabled by the Board at the January 8, 2020 meeting. More information was placed into the December 11, 2019 minutes which were approved at the February 5 meeting. Asked Commissioner Ellis why she felt the need to apologize to former Secretary Mary Kepp. She replied she felt Ms. Kepp was upset by comments made at the meeting. President Connolly said the minutes are not official until adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
 - C. **Tom Garlic, 6050 Hocker Drive:** Asked if the public was allowed to see the budget. The budget is posted on the website. He asked why a fire chief vehicle was in Hershey on July 1 at 5:45 p.m. on Route 322 by the Hershey Lodge. President Connolly said we do have a mutual aid agreement with surrounding municipalities. Mr. Garlic wants to make sure the Township is being fiscally responsible.

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8. **Motion to Approve Agenda:** Vice President Boudier made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda:** Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice President Boudier. Motion carried unanimously.
 - A. Monthly Departmental Reports
 - B. Committee Reports
 - C. Codes Report
 - D. Request for OLDS Extension – Maureen Kingsmore, 910 South 80th Street
 - E. Authorization to Bid Francis Cadden Parkway Guiderail Replacement
 - F. Authorization for Dawood Engineers to Inspect Derry Street Project
10. **Consideration of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting I – July 1, 2020: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the July 1, 2020 minutes, no corrections. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
11. **Reports:** All reports are posted in the lobby of the municipal building.

President Connolly asked for Commissioner reports for the first half of 2020.
Commissioner Zubeck is deferring to next month.
Commissioner Varner is deferring to next month.
Commissioner Ellis gave an overview of highway projects that have happened since January, and her personal accomplishments. She looks forward to learning and growing in her position.
Vice President Boudier gave an overview of personnel and recreation actions.
President Connolly gave an overview of finance, police, fire and EMS actions.

 - A. **Manager's Report** – Manager Fosselman received a letter from PennDOT stating they have posted truck restriction signs on Chambers Hill Road.
 - B. **Treasurer's Report** – President Connolly made a motion to approve the Treasurer's reports from March, April, May and June, seconded by Commissioner Varner. Motion carried unanimously. The reports are combined due to the pandemic.
 - C. **Solicitor's Report** – Nothing at this time.
 - D. **Stormwater Report** – Nothing at this time.
 - E. **Swatara Rising Comp Plan Report** – Time will be allotted at the August 12 meeting for a presentation and question session regarding the plan. Commissioners should submit questions to Mr. Ihlein ahead of the August 12 meeting.
 - F. **Fire Services Report** – Fire Chief Ibberson presented the June Fire and Rescue report. The next meeting of the Fire and Rescue Services Committee is July 28 at 7:00 p.m. He would like to see the Board extend the EMS Life Team Agreement for one more year.

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- G. **Director of Public Safety Report:** Director Reider presented his June police department report. The next Coffee With A Cop will be held at the City Line Diner on July 9 at 9:00 a.m. GPS units by Verizon have been installed in all units to verify locations.
12. **General Obligation Bond Proposal by Janney Montgomery Scott LLC:** Mr. Ben Kapenstein of PFM Financial Advisors LLC presented an update to the Board regarding the proposed general obligation bond.
- Commissioner Varner asked what the maximum borrowing capacity was. The legal borrowing limit right now is \$41.7 million. The Township currently has \$8.3 million outstanding, which leaves \$33.4 million left to borrow. Project costs at this time equal \$24.1 million, with grants and other funding being sought for some projects so the total cost could be lower.
- Commissioner Zubeck asked what the total principal, total interest and percentage of interest was on the \$8.3 million outstanding. She will be supplied with the information.
- Mr. Tim Horstmann, Esquire of McNees, Wallace and Nurick explained the proposed ordinance the Board had in front of them for consideration. Commissioner Zubeck asked for clarification of the term non-electoral debt. Mr. Horstmann said the vote for the bond did not require a vote of the electorate per the PA Constitution. She then asked who would be issuing the bonds. He replied it would be the definition of officers and parameters as defined in the proposed ordinance, Sections 3 and 11.
- Commissioner Ellis asked for clarification in the terms of the borrowing, they are currently issued in denominations of \$5,000. When a bond is priced and sold, it can be priced and sold in smaller denominations. Smaller denominations are seen as safer.
- President Connolly made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-03 which authorizes and directs the incurring of non-electoral debt through the issuance of one or more series of general obligation bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$26,000,000. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. President Connolly asked for discussion on the motion.
- Commissioner Varner expressed his concerns. He agreed with the upgrades to the police Department, municipal building, and infrastructure. He does not agree to spend \$4 million on another park. He feels it is a want, not a need.
- Commissioner Zubeck does not support the borrowing as proposed. She agrees with Commissioner Varner regarding projects that need to be done such as the police department, highway garage and road projects. She agrees with most of the borrowing and thinks some of the items are things we want, not need. In light of the pandemic she feels it is irresponsible to be adding debt to our books beyond what is necessary. We need to be judicious in how we spend our money during this time of financial uncertainties. She would like a smaller borrowing for police and some other projects. The current proposal includes \$26 million in new debt which quadruples the current debt load. She does not want to burden the taxpayers. She feels there will be a reduction in tax revenues from the pandemic. She does not want to "max out" the Township's borrowing in case of an emergency, or not be able to

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pay back the amount borrowed. She supports the police and highway departments, paving and infrastructure. She does not support borrowing millions and millions of extra dollars for things that are not necessary at this time.

A roll call vote of the Board was taken:

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

The motion carried.

13. **Consideration of Resolution: No Parking on Kelker Street at Midland Cemetery:**
Commissioner Ellis made a motion to establish no parking on the north side of Kelker Street from Cole Alley north a distance of 368 feet, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. R-2020-26
14. **Consideration of Resolution: Removal of Special Purpose Parking at 565 3rd Street:**
Commissioner Ellis made a motion to remove the special purpose parking space at 565 3rd Street, seconded by Commissioner Varner. Motion carried unanimously. R-2020-27
15. **Consideration of Resolution: Installation of Special Purpose Parking at 570 2nd Street:**
Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the installation of a special purpose parking space at 570 2nd Street, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. R-2020-28
16. **Consideration of Resolution: Installation of Special Purpose Parking at 300 North 69th Street:**
Commissioner Ellis made a motion to install a special purpose parking space at 300 North 69th Street, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. R-2020-29
17. **Consideration of Resolution: Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement:** Commissioner Ellis made a motion to enter into winter traffic service agreements with PennDOT for years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Motion seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. R-2020-30
18. **Subdivision/Land Development Plans:**
Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan for Ridgeview Property Apartments. Joel McNaughton of The McNaughton Company presented his plan to the Board. The Swatara Township Planning Commission has recommended approval of the waiver and the revised final plans. Engineering and zoning staff are satisfied with the revised plans, and also endorse the recommendation to approve the plan.
 - A. President Connolly made a motion to approve a waiver from Section 253.11 of the township subdivision and land development ordinance that requires the submittal of a preliminary plat. Motion seconded by Commissioner Varner, carried unanimously.

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- B. President Connolly made a motion to waive the sidewalk requirement on one side of Summit Avenue as it relates to this plan, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.
 - C. President Connolly made a motion to waive the requirement of a cul-de-sac and the number of units it can serve as it relates to this plan, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.
 - D. Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve Resolution R-2020-31 for conditional approval of the preliminary/final land development plan dated January 27, 2020 as last revised on June 24, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Varner, motion carried unanimously.
19. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**
- A. Deb Harvey, 105 S. 47th Street: Expressed concerns about EMS coverage in the township. She would like to see more EMS coverage, one unit on the east side and one on the west side of the township. She is going to set up a meeting with Public Safety Director Reider and Fire Chief Ibberson.
 - B. Meghan O'Neill, 5870 Bell Road: Thanked the police, highway and fire departments for their service. Asked how much taxes were lowered by last December. Manager Fosselman said about \$180,000. She commented maybe if we would not have lowered taxes and saved money, and added more money, maybe we wouldn't have to borrow money.
 - C. Larry Hassman, 70 N. 62nd Street: Regarding EMS, no services are being stripped for transporting patients. At one time the traffic signals at 63rd and Derry Street had sensors and traffic flowed smoothly. The roadway has endured construction and the sensors no longer work. He will speak with Lt. Krahlung after the meeting.
20. **Possible Stormwater Violations:** None at this time.
21. **Commissioners Requests and Comments:**
- A. Commissioner Zubeck: Had some issues to discuss with Director Reider after the meeting. Would also like to discuss fireworks with Director Reider. Thanked everyone for coming out this evening.
 - B. Commissioner Varner: Nothing at this time.
 - C. Commissioner Ellis: Thanked the police department for helping to place lost dogs that were found at the meet and great over the Fourth of July weekend. Thanked everyone for coming out this evening.
 - D. Vice President Boudier: Nothing at this time.
 - E. President Connolly: Thanked the police department for solving a hit and run investigation. Will have a meet and greet on Mohn Street on Friday, July 10 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be provided to residents of the area. Noted that Joe Canulli did retire from the Rutherford Fire Company, he was thanked for his service.

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22. Adjournment: Commissioner Boudier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting II adjourned at 10:07 p.m.


Karen Alleman, Assistant Township Secretary