

MINUTES

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING II

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. **Call to Order:** President Connolly called the Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:05 p.m. Wednesday, November 11, 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 for Veterans**
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 Kurt Williams, Director of Lieutenant Thomas Stauffer, Fire Chief Michael Ibberson, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Ihlein, Highway Superintendent Todd Webb, and Assistant Secretary Karen Alleman.
5. **Announce Executive Session:** No Executive Session was held. During agenda review, Item 14A was added for an Award of Contract for Lehigh Avenue and Dawn-Mar Street.
6. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**
 - A. **Tom Garlic, 6050 Hocker Drive:** Following up on the conditional use zoning change that was requested months ago. President Connolly said the Township is looking at an economic impact study to be done late this year, or early next year to see if that request is prudent for the majority of all residents of the Township.
 - B. **Meghan O'Neil, 5870 Bell Road :** Wanted to know how many people in the township it would take to sign a form to have the Commissioners reverse the ordinance, and care more about what the people want than economic things about the Township. Would like the Township to grow in the right places where the people want it, not where the Township can make the most amount of money. President Connolly said it did not have anything to do with signatures, it would take the right action for the right reason. She asked when what the people of the Township wanted counted more than money.
 - C. **Eric Horn, 7090 Creek Crossing Drive:** Asked about the playground the Township is putting in across the street from his home. He lives in the Spring Hill development, where all the homes are \$300,000+. He feels if residents wanted a playground they could afford to place one in their yard. He does not want to see a playground across from his house, or a structural outhouse. There are three playgrounds within two miles of this one which are falling down and dilapidated, falling apart. Why do we need another playground so close? Asked if there were any other playgrounds within single family HOA's (home owners association). President Connolly said every playground is on public property, as well as this one. Ivy Ridge Park is a similar set up as the proposed park. He was told by the developer that nothing would ever be built across from his home. He does not want to see metal structures colored orange, pink, blue not fitting into the landscape of his neighborhood. Asked the Township's consideration when putting something at this playground.
 - D. **Robert Davidson, 7103 Oak Ridge Drive:** Is also a resident of Spring Hill. He echoed everything Mr. Horn said. He was also under the impression nothing would be built on this property. His neighborhood is beautiful and would hate to see it interrupted with graffiti on buildings.

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7. **Motion to Approve Agenda:** A motion was made by Vice President Boudier to approve the agenda, with the addition of 14A, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.
8. **Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda:** Commissioner Varner made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.
 - A. Monthly Departmental Reports
 - B. Committee Reports
 - C. Codes Report
 - D. Approval of Designated Towing Companies (Dingman's, Don's Towing, H&S Towing)
9. **Consideration of Minutes**
 - A. Regular Meeting I – November 4, 2020: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by Vice President Boudier. Motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Budget Meeting November 9, 2020: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the November 9, 2020 budget meeting as presented, seconded by Commissioner Varner. Motion carried unanimously.
 - C. Budget Meeting November 10, 2020: Commissioner Ellis made a correction to the minutes, Number 13, Commissioners Requests and Comments should read “none at this time.” Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 Budget Meeting minutes, as corrected, Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
10. **Reports:** All reports are posted in the lobby of the municipal building.
 - A. Manager's Report: None at this time.
 - B. Treasurer's Report: President Connolly made a motion to approve the October 2020 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.
 - C. Solicitor's Report: Nothing at this time.
 - D. Stormwater Report: Report given to Board prior to meeting.
 - E. Swatara Rising Comp Plan: Director of Planning and Zoning Ihlein received an Official Map from Susquehanna Township, who are updating their Comprehensive Plan. They are asking for any comments we may have regarding their proposed map. Mr. Ihlein will write a letter to Susquehanna Township for President Connolly's signature, thanking them for the opportunity to comment on their map.
The City of Harrisburg has also sent a draft of their Comprehensive Plan update. A letter will also be sent to the City.
 - F. Fire Services Report: Fire Chief Ibberson presented his report to the Board. Twenty-two firefighters have taken advantage of the free NFPA Physical Program since October 22. A new website will be launched as well as a marketing campaign. The recent evaluation of ISO has improved the Township's rating to a 3. The Township is in the top 18-20% of fire departments in the United States.

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- G. Director of Public Safety Report: Lieutenant Stauffer presented the Public Safety Report to the Board. A complete breakdown of calls and the community service report is posted on the Police Department Web Portal as well as the bulletin board in the lobby. Lt. Stauffer mentioned a thank you email received from Sun Pointe Townhomes for fire services on October 27. Trick or Treat was held on October 31 this year, there were no major incidents.
11. Presentation of Capital Improvement Project Plan: Mr. John Mizerak of Dawood Engineers presented the Capital Improvement Plan to the Board. The plan includes roadway, stormwater, and community facility improvement projects. A summary of projects was given to the Board. The projects will be incorporated through the most recent borrowing the Township has done.

Projects include Paxton and 28th Streets intersection improvements, Paxton and Sycamore Streets redesign, 63rd Street Bridge repairs, West, Spruce and Ridge Streets reconstruction and stormwater improvement, Dewey Street project safety and roadway improvement, Francis Cadden Parkway upgrades, Derry Street roadway reconstruction and stormwater improvements, Rupp Hill and Grayson Road roadway reconstruction and stormwater improvements, Highland Street pedestrian connectivity project, Bishop Park multi-purpose trail project, Eisenhower Boulevard pedestrian mobility and safety improvement project, municipal complex development, Bishop Park public parks development, McNaughton Park dog park.

President Connolly said the total cost of these projects is \$27,361,000.00. The Commissioners had given our bond counsel and financial advisor the ability to secure bonds at the time that they would be most advantageous to the township and the township taxpayers. The interest rate is really low now and has been for a while. Historically the lowest time to make a purchase on a bond is right before the four-year cycle of a presidential election. The amount that will be borrowed would be \$17.695 million. Because the township has such good financial position and bond rating, for that amount we borrow and have to pay back, we received a \$20 million bond. That is a credit to staff and the financial advisors we have. We are getting \$20 million dollars. \$18 million has been ear-marked for spending, we have in the potential grant category \$3,967,000.00. Some of the grants have already been promised and secured for the project. We have \$540,000 from other sources and one of those is the 28th and Paxton Streets project. PennDOT is now paying for the entire project because of the I-83 project. We are getting money from the school district for the Highland Street project. There is \$2,133,000 of stormwater fee money for the projects mentioned. There is still money from a previous borrowing left. Around \$1 million will go toward the highway building. The other \$849,000 will go for the park.

President Connolly said he had previous information from Mr. Mizerak given in June regarding a dog park. He asked if that was included in this presentation. It is not included in this capital improvement project plan. He asked Assistant Manager Kaufman if the park is still potentially scheduled for McNaughton Park. Mr. Kaufman said it is still scheduled for the park, DEP gave its approval. There will be three sections to the dog park. One for dogs twenty-five pounds and up

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and one for smaller dogs. The third section would allow for replanting and cleaning up of the other areas. Each area will have trees and fences.

Commissioner Varner saw a proposed dog park for Bishop Park in the capital improvement project plan. He asked if we needed two dog parks. Mr. Kaufman said it is a Board decision. Commissioner Ellis said there are a lot of dogs in the township. Commissioner Varner asked the Board to consider the project for \$191,000. President Connolly said in this plan we don't have the second dog park in there. Its part of a broader plan, we don't have the money for that now. There is a plan to develop Bishop Park in the future, but not in this borrowing. The infrastructure, sidewalks and curbing into parking lots will be put in now. President Connolly said as we go forward, we will identify projects and seek matching grants. We will construct the dog park at McNaughton Park now. Mr. Kaufman said part of the delay at McNaughton Park is because the dog park is in a floodplain. We had to come up with a fencing solution that met DEP's standards, and that just happened on Monday.

President Connolly said we are still pursuing grants on the proposed capital improvement projects. He said Commissioner Zubeck has mentioned several times as Chair of the Grant Committee that there's always money out there. We will look and see if we can get it. He said all of these projects are manageable with the finances that we have, mainly because of the financial position we are in.

Commissioner Zubeck wanted to make a comment that if we have the ability to budget for things and there is money out there, then she doesn't know why the majority of the Board voted to borrow up to \$26 million. \$26 million with the bond that we already have outstanding, even with the lower interest rate is \$19 million in interest and that puts us at our max borrowing capacity. That is what she is not in favor of. She is not in favor of maxing out our credit card. She knows better than anyone that if you start a project you have to finish it. Things can change, costs can change, we have inflation to deal with. What you say might be \$18 million could end of being \$20-30 million when it's all said and done. Her question is, looking at this plan, at the time she said she would be okay going through each project, looking at our finances, and deciding at that time whether or not it is something within our budget and good for our community. Her other concern is that we can budget for a lot of these road projects. In fact, when she first came on the Board the township hadn't done a paving project in double digit years. It was years. We started, we reinvigorated the paving program and we started planning. To her a plan isn't something where you go out and borrow a bunch of money and you knock it out in a year or two. A plan is maintaining your roads every single year because they are our roads and that is what our tax money goes for. She wanted to say if this plan tonight that President Connolly wants the Board to vote on, is an endorsement of everything that's on there, and mismanagement from prior years, then she won't be voting in favor of it.

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President Connolly pointed out that basically everything that's on the plan Commissioner Zubeck had input on and she was the committee chair for almost all of those projects. He said she also approved the spatial needs assessment.

Commissioner Zubeck said the township purchased a paver and the employees started to get trained on equipment and we were starting to do smaller projects in house so we could start to budget for larger projects. We started a phase program. Then she was removed from the committee. That was fine, and that's okay if someone else wants to finish it. She just wants people to know that we did start it, we had to ability, and she was more than capable of doing that job.

Commissioner Ellis said that as mentioned before, the majority of these projects are at least ten years old. There was mismanagement of funds in the past, so we have to do all of these projects so we can get to the point where we can do the maintenance.

Commissioner Zubeck said you can plan and do what the Commissioners should have done ten years ago, or twenty years ago. Commissioner Ellis said that is what we are doing, we are getting caught up.

Commissioner Zubeck said but you don't have to borrow \$26 million to do it. Borrowing and spending is not always the answer. She is not opposed to borrowing, she is opposed to maxing out our credit card. Nobody in this room would go out tomorrow and borrow to their maximum borrowing capacity.

Commissioner Ellis said our maximum borrowing capacity is \$54 million. We are nowhere near that.

Commissioner Zubeck yes, so you take the \$8 million that we have already, and you take up to \$26 million which is Board authorized and you take the interest into consideration. That is \$19 million plus \$24 million plus \$8 million. So that puts us up at \$54 million, that is our maximum borrowing capacity. She is not in favor of maxing out our credit card. If there is an emergency tomorrow, we can't borrow any more money. She is not in favor of maxing out our credit card. Nobody in this township wants to pay more taxes next year and when you look at the math, that is what's gonna happen. Just today she received the revenues, and the budgeted revenues for 2021 are \$13.5 million and the budgeted expenses are \$15.6 million. That is not a balanced budget. Next year someone on this Board is going to want to raise taxes, and she won't.

Commissioner Ellis said no one on this Board wants to raise taxes and that is absolutely not the intention. The intention is to get to roads up to par where they need to be, so they are safe for our residents.

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Commissioner Zubeck said its not whether you want to, its whether you are going to have to. She said the Board is going to have to raise taxes. The roads will be safe, but you have to plan for it. The only reason we have a list here with road projects is because there is a tiny portion that people want, that are wants, not needs. There are things on the list that are wants, not needs.

Commissioner Ellis asked Commissioner Zubeck if she was responsible for this list. She said yes, but we had a plan. We had a plan to do two projects per year. She is okay with going out to get grant money. She said next year she will not be voting to raise taxes.

Commissioner Ellis said she would not vote to raise taxes next year either.

Commissioner Connolly read from the minutes last year, on November 19. Commissioner Zubeck said there are lots of projects that need completed and repairs to aging infrastructure. She turned over the list that we followed for an entire year that she was a part of. Commissioner Zubeck said then President Connolly should have kept her on the committee so she could finish what she started. President Connolly thought her best committee would be to get grants, she said she would be able to get grants. She said she could have been kept on the committee so she could have finished what she started instead of taking the projects she started and delay the projects. She said everything she started two years ago was undone.

Commissioner Ellis said if we are completing the projects she endorsed, how is that undoing anything that she did? Commissioner Zubeck said she absolutely said that they were a priority and she agreed. She disagrees with maxing out our credit card.

President Connolly said just to be clear the township's maximum borrowing capacity is \$54 million. The Township has about an \$8 million debt right now. The paper that Commissioner Zubeck has said our borrowing capacity would be \$26 million. We have only borrowed \$17.7 million.

Commissioner Zubeck said the bond counsel said \$54 million and she agrees with those numbers. \$8 million plus interest, \$26 million, plus \$19 million in interest puts us at our maximum borrowing capacity.

Commissioner Ellis said when bond counsel was here originally, we had a maximum borrowing of \$43 million. There is no way we could over borrow.

Commissioner Zubeck said that puts us over. She asked the bond counsel at the time what happens if we get to a point and we can't pay our bill for a month. He said well, you have to raise taxes. She said looking at the budget this year and next year's budget she is not going to

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put taxpayers in a position where they have to pay more money because bad decisions were being made.

Commissioner Ellis said she thinks we are all in agreement with that.

Commissioner Connolly asked for additional comments.

Commissioner Zubeck asked if voting on the plan was an endorsement of every project on the list. President Connolly said this is a capital improvement project plan. Everything on there is up for scrutiny, changes, modifications. It is a plan of the information that all of the Commissioners presented over the last year and collectively as the Chair of Finance he put together. He said she made a couple of requests, one of which was not to max out our borrowing capacity. We did not do that. She said that the bond counsel stated that the people that decide how much money is being borrowed is the president, vice president, secretary, and the treasurer. At the time she was not willing to give that responsibility to anyone except for the entire Board to vote on. President Connolly said it was an action of the Board that made that possible.

President Connolly said taxes have not been raised since 2013. He said last year taxes were lowered by 3.1%.

Commissioner Zubeck asked why the township is borrowing if taxes were lowered last year. President Connolly said we are borrowing for a capital improvements plan to bring the township up to where it is. Most are 20-50-year improvements. We are in a financial position to do it. Commissioner Zubeck said you should not lower taxes to say you lowered taxes and then borrow \$26 million and then in a couple of years increase taxes.

President Connolly said no one sitting on the Board tonight plans on raising taxes. From 2009-2013 taxes went up 92%. He came on this Board in 2014 and taxes have not gone up. We have one of the lowest taxes of a municipality of our size in Dauphin County. Lower Paxton is the only one lower. No one on this Board wants to raise taxes. He said he thought Commissioner Zubeck did well on the committee she was on, but also felt that she could do really well in obtaining grants going forward. He felt that was an important role to him and the taxpayers, but now to change her position because she is not on the same committee, is...

Commissioner Zubeck said she fully intends to put 110% in, no matter what she takes on. She came on the Board, said they were going to start to fix roads and they started to fix roads. She came on the Board saying that she was going to work on transparency and getting our communications up and on communications we are getting a new website, we are working toward that. She has kept every promise that she said, and she always puts 110% in so when

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Commissioner Zubeck said we should not be getting a budget the same night we are going to adopt. Mr. Fosselman said it's been that way since he has been here in 2011. Commissioner Varner said they had received the budget prior to the meeting. He questioned at the end of 2020 we have \$2.9 million and say at the end of 2021 we will have \$841,000. So, what will it look like for 2022? He knows it is far out, but is that a trend? Mr. Fosselman said it depends on the assessed value. Commissioner Varner noticed the revenue was \$1.6 million less next year projected in revenue than last year. Mr. Fosselman said the revenue is going to be \$13.5 and total we budgeted last year was \$15.2. Commissioner Varner asked why the difference. Mr. Fosselman said there were increases in the budget and there was a large carryover. That's when we changed to five quarter budgeting. We usually carry over around \$800,000. Commissioner Varner said it was a huge difference from this year. Mr. Fosselman said mathematically it works out. Other years we come in better than budgeted. There is now \$4 million in capital reserve. This year we budgeted to take out \$400,000 this year and we didn't have to take it out. We did not touch the budgeted withdraw of capital reserve down to \$3.6 million, we still have \$4 million. So actually, this year ended up a little better than anticipated as far as expenses and revenues that we didn't have to touch that \$400,000.

President Connolly asked Mr. Fosselman if he is projecting to have the \$841,000 left at the end of 2021 which is really good. Some municipalities have to take out a tax anticipation note to start the year. He said Mr. Fosselman's budget last year was, say \$15 million and at the end of the year each month he wasn't spending that much so at the end of the year he was projecting to be around 8% under the budget. The budget is the high end so 8% of \$15 million is \$1.2 million. So when he got to the end of the year he had a big amount left over which is your carryover. Even though twelve months ahead he is telling us on paper he is expecting to spend this. Since 2011 taxes were increasing and there was no capital reserve, and we were going to zero at the end of the year. Since then, we have built up the capital reserve and gone to a carryover. That is based on Mr. Fosselman's philosophy to budget the expenses high and the revenues low. If you spend everything budgeted, you would still have \$841,000 left to start the year. That used to be a zero so that is a huge difference.

President Connolly told Commissioner Zubeck to go back to last year's minutes at this time of year and read her comments during November and December and what would happen if we had a really bad year. This was a really bad year. A really, really bad year. Because of the financial condition we put ourselves in, in 2015-2016-2017 and 2018 and having \$4 million in capital reserve we are entitled to certain things. A comfort level for our citizens to protect them, to know that they are going to have police, that their roads are going to be plowed, that we will pick up leaves. We built this in, and Commissioner Zubeck has been on the Board, has been a part of that. He does not understand how we come in every year at this meeting and are confused why a carryover is a good thing, it's about if you spent all your money you still have money left. Mr. Fosselman said we have never spent all of the money. That is how we got the

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\$4 million in the capital reserve. President Connolly hopes to get through this conversation, we vote on a budget, the millage rate is exactly what was done last year. That means the taxes that were lowered last year, we are keeping at the same place. We are not lowering any services. It confuses him why, when we should be presenting something positive, we are saying what if it goes bad the next year or the next year.

Commissioner Zubeck said what if it goes bad the next year, and other years we may have had a really bad year, but in this year when we had a really bad year, we are getting money for our really bad year in federal CARES funding. There's going to be years when we have a really bad year, and the money is not going to be there. We need to actually be creative and think about the past decisions that we have made.

President Connolly asked what years that would be. Commissioner Zubeck said he always talks about how the Board raised taxes while he was sitting in the audience prior to being elected. She said they were pretty bad years and if they had to raise taxes it was a pretty bad year. President Connolly said it could also be bad financial management. Commissioner Zubeck said exactly. President Connolly said he is going to continue on the track we are on.

Commissioner Ellis asked Mr. Fosselman if the CARES grant was included in the budget. He said it was, its part of the \$2.9 million. She said in account 001.355.020 there is nothing on that line, it says CARES grant. Mr. Fosselman said out of the \$1,114,000 we received, \$80,000 was going to the fire fund because they had expenses too.

Commissioner Zubeck said last year when we had this conversation there was a projected increase in health care of 12%, there was a project increase in union obligations. A lot of those increases turned out better than expected and we didn't meet the projections that Commissioners Connolly and Troxell and Mr. Fosselman projected. Had we met those increased costs we may not be in the position we are in now. So yes, it is a projection, but we should pay attention to the projections. She thinks we need to take into consideration the numbers given last year, and she is basing her projections on the numbers given to her. Mr. Fosselman asked her what was wrong with the budget since she is challenging him. Right now, we have \$925,000. She said she is not just looking at the budget, she is looking at the borrowing as well. Mr. Fosselman said he is not even talking about the borrowing. Commissioner Zubeck said she is looking at the budget as presented and she is looking through everything and admits she may vote differently on the budget itself, but when you look at the borrowing and revenues and spending combined that's how she makes her decision. Its not based on one piece or another, its based on the entire big picture. Mr. Fosselman said he works on the budget, so township taxpayers don't get nailed with a tax increase like the 43% one year. These figures are good.

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Commissioner Zubeck asked when you take the borrowing, plus the interest, what is the bigger picture. President Connolly said the proposed 2021 budget was being presented. It is an agenda item. She was told at the end of the meeting she could discuss any range of topics. She said she was looking at the budget and how the other stuff will impact this budget that Mr. Fosselman is proposing. Mr. Fosselman said there was a debt service budget in the rear of the budget. She was asking regarding the borrowing, up to \$26 million, if this is fully implemented combined with the budget from this year, and all the numbers provided, do you think this budget is sustainable into 2022? Mr. Fosselman replied yes. Based on the financial advisors, yes. Commissioner Zubeck said she would take his word for it.

Commissioner Zubeck said she would not borrow up to her maximum. Mr. Fosselman said \$17 million is not \$26 million. \$17 million plus \$8 million equals \$25 million, which is half of our max. This \$20 million would cost us about \$17.7 million, that's a \$2.3 million savings for the taxpayers. Commissioner Zubeck said the financial advisors stated that if we were to borrow the max of \$26 million it would be our maximum borrowing capacity. Mr. Fosselman said our max is \$54 million. Commissioner Zubeck said he was not counting the \$19 million in interest. Mr. Fosselman said the bank does not count that either. The interest is paid every year. He spoke with S&P and they look at the unpaid liability, not future interest. Commissioner Zubeck asked if we had to pay back the \$19 million in interest. Mr. Fosselman said yes, eventually over 20-30 years. She asked how much monthly the township would be required to pay with even a \$20 million borrowing. Mr. Fosselman said he did not know off hand. The total for the year would be \$882,000 for the entire year. She asked how much would be borrowed. He said \$17.7 million. She asked how much for \$26 million. Mr. Fosselman said we are not borrowing \$26 million. She said the majority of the Board authorized borrowing up to \$26 million. Mr. Fosselman said the financial advisors have been giving the township information regarding \$20 million, but the \$20 million will only cost \$17.7 million. Its in black and white. President Connolly said the township had the ability to borrow \$26 million, we only had the potential need to borrow \$20 million. Because we are in a good financial position, we zeroed in on \$20 million but they gave us \$2.3 million that doesn't have to be paid back. The only number that is relevant is \$17.7 million, what the borrowing would be. If you add that to the existing borrowing of \$8 million, that's \$25.7 million total. The borrowing capacity of the township is now \$54 million. Mr. Fosselman has \$28 million left in the borrowing capacity. There's a lot of room there. President Connolly has Commissioner Zubeck's notes and comments and she didn't want to go to the max borrowing capacity. In the summer months the township was told the max borrowing capacity was around \$42-43 million, but then they upped it to \$54 million because everything was going really good. According to his notes, Commissioner Varner thought \$26 million was to high, so everyone's concerns were taken into consideration. Commissioner Zubeck said she will wait for each individual project to come before the Board and make her decision based on each individual project, not an entire list. She is 100% in favor of the police, she feels that they need to expand. She supports certain road projects, she will

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submittal of a preliminary plat. Commissioner Zubeck seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Varner made a motion to approve a waiver from Section 253.32 A and B of the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that requires construction of sidewalks or pay a fee in lieu of. Commissioner Zubeck seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve a waiver from Section 295-124.C of the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that requires landscaping and street trees. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Varner made a motion to waive from Section 295-124.C of the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance that requires "solar skyscape easements." Commissioner Zubeck seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Varner made a motion to approve the waiver from sections 247-12 and 247-13 of the Township Stormwater Management Ordinance that requires the design and construction of stormwater management facilities. Commissioner Zubeck seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

President Connolly made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-44 for conditional approval of the preliminary/final land development plan dated September 29, 2020 last revised October 30, 2020. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Re-Approval of Subdivision Plan for Lane Schiavoni Partnership – 6-Lot Residential Subdivision: Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-45 for conditional re-approval of the preliminary/final subdivision plan titled Lane Schiavoni Partnership – Kelker Street Plan dated June 30, 2016 last revised December 16, 2016 as approved on January 11, 2017. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Letter of Support for Zoning Hearing Board – Dauphin County Commissioners – Fence at Dauphin County Prison: The County would like to put up a security fence around a wing of the prison to keep people away from the building. The Township Zoning Ordinance prohibits a fence from being placed in the right-of-way of Mall Road and prohibits a fence more than four feet high in the front yard area. This request must go before the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Ihlein would like the Board to send a letter of support to the Zoning Hearing Board for the fence. President Connolly would like to see the fence in a different location which would not interfere with the safety of pedestrians at the prison. Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to send a letter of support to Dauphin County for a variance of the fence, with the condition the County constructs a sidewalk parallel to Mall Road the length of the fence connecting to the other fence. Commissioner Varner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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16 **Visitors Requests and Comments**

- A. **Robert Patterson, 6111 Chatham Court**: Commented on the fire report. He feels the number of eight personnel per call is for Swatara Fire and Rescue, which includes four township fire companies. There is only a couple of people on each piece of apparatus. Rutherford used to respond with an average of seven per call, now the whole township is averaging eight. He feels if things continue as they are, the Township will have to budget for full time firefighters.
- B. **Amy Kern, 7102 Creek Crossing Drive**: Asked who is involved in making the decision for the playground, and the process to choose what play pieces go there. The recreation department makes the decision what equipment goes into the parks. The residents near the park were told by their realtor that nothing would go in the park area. She asked if residents could give input on equipment or possibility of what could go in the area such as trees. President Connolly said this area has been set aside by the developer, Szeles Corporation, to place a recreation area. Creek Crossing is a heavily used roadway with speeding. She wanted to make sure there would not be trash and litter by people using the park. She does not want to see graffiti or obscene drawings on bathroom walls like at other parks. She pays an HOA fee not to have that sort of thing in her neighborhood. She wants to make sure the park will be maintained, not like other parks such as Sue Drive. She does not want any violence, drugs or litter in her neighborhood which the residents take pride in. She wanted to make sure that if there is an issue it will be taken care of in a timely manner. She wanted to make sure that if people from outside of the neighborhood came in and there was violence or anything the police would respond.
- C. **Albert Tsang, 7101 Pine Ridge Drive**: He moved into the area in 2013 and supports the playground equipment being put in.
- D. **Meghan O'Neill, 5870 Bell Road**: Requested the Board take action to reverse Ordinance 2017-7. She was against lowering the taxes last year. Money should have been saved to fix things and go into savings. She is for using grants and the stormwater funds instead of borrowing money to make improvements to the roads. The loan is for 30 years, road will need to be fixed before that time is up. She would like the proposed improvement plan to be put onto the website. She would like to know how the Board is going to raise revenue to pay for the borrowing. She would like to see savings used to pay for things, not borrowing.
- E. **Michael Tuckey, 5875 Gensemer Lane**: Asked what is actually being borrowed for the bond. He asked if it was \$20 million for 30 years. President Connolly told him we are getting \$20 million dollars but borrowing \$17.7 million. He would like to see money set aside to record the meetings and live stream them onto the website.
- F. **Tom Garlic, 6050 Hocker Drive**: He would like to state on public record that the township is not paying back \$17.7 million, they are paying back like \$26.3 million with all the interest at 2%. Asked why the township locks in bonds that can't be prepaid.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING II

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- 17 **Possible Stormwater Violations:** None at this time.
- 18 **Commissioners Requests and Comments**
- A. **Commissioner Varner:** Nothing at this time.
 - B. **Commissioner Zubeck:** Nothing at this time.
 - C. **Commissioner Ellis:** Thanked the veterans and the audience for coming out this evening.
 - D. **Vice President Boudier:** Thanked the veterans for their service.
 - E. **President Connolly:** Thanked the veterans and thanked Vice President Boudier for his service. He was pleased to put the budget up for review that was the same tax rate as last year. Thanked everyone for coming out tonight.
19. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Varner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.



Karen Alleman, Assistant Secretary

**SWATARA TOWNSHIP
COUNTY OF DAUPHIN
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER : James R. Fosselman				October 2020	October 2019
	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$2,132,940.80	\$1,020,894.78	\$2,245,463.29	\$908,372.29	\$1,903,977.43
GENERAL PAYROLL	\$299,523.79	\$581,791.87	\$863,729.77	\$17,585.89	\$324,042.06
GENERAL FUND	\$2,432,464.59	\$1,602,686.65	\$3,109,193.06	\$925,958.18	\$2,228,019.49
FIRE FUND	\$270,762.84	\$11,321.06	\$89,409.70	\$192,674.20	\$171,441.19
FIRE RESERVE	\$301,345.57	\$65.78	\$0.00	\$301,411.35	\$308,531.60
FIRE PROTECTION FUND	\$572,108.41	\$11,386.84	\$89,409.70	\$494,085.55	\$479,972.79
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$1,546.95	\$1,874.72	\$0.00	\$3,421.67	\$37,962.23
SWATARA AMBULANCE EMS FUND	\$62,284.68	\$3,022.24	\$8,250.00	\$57,056.92	\$47,013.16
LIQUID FUELS FUND	\$795,063.36	\$167.42	\$44,384.72	\$750,846.06	\$663,128.12
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$4,017,545.71	\$878.13	\$0.00	\$4,018,423.84	\$3,970,053.26
BOND BUILDING FUND	\$1,922,875.19	\$400.93	\$230,994.50	\$1,692,281.62	\$2,269,762.81
POLICE BOOKING	\$7,886.58	\$429.23	\$0.00	\$8,315.81	\$24,716.79
POLICE DONATIONS	\$10,697.75	\$2.34	\$0.00	\$10,700.09	\$37,179.91
POLICE 5K RUN	\$12,166.31	\$252.67	\$0.00	\$12,418.98	\$34,405.24
POLICE FEDERAL FORFEITURE	\$598.67	\$0.13	\$0.00	\$598.80	\$1,742.45
POLICE DA	\$13,723.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$13,726.00	\$15,090.02
POLICE K-9	\$15,763.42	\$1,082.91	\$3,988.94	\$12,857.39	\$65,518.33
FIRE DONATIONS	\$5,145.36	\$226.14	\$0.00	\$5,371.50	\$4,149.46
SPECIAL FUNDS	\$65,981.09	\$1,996.42	\$3,988.94	\$63,988.57	\$182,802.20
SIDEWALK ESCROW	\$43,910.71	\$9.59	\$0.00	\$43,920.30	\$43,525.34
MCNAUGHTON RECREATION	\$148,182.34	\$32.39	\$0.00	\$148,214.73	\$146,881.02
OLDS RESERVE	\$46,380.79	\$352.79	\$4,088.58	\$42,645.00	\$47,495.06
GROWING GREENER GRANT	\$2,708.04	\$0.59	\$0.00	\$2,708.63	\$24,043.34
TOTAL FUNDS	\$10,111,051.86	\$1,622,808.71	\$3,490,309.50	\$8,243,551.07	\$10,140,658.82

ALL ABOVE MONETARY ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN RECONCILED WITH BANK STATEMENTS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020 AND TRULY REFLECT THE BALANCES AS OF THAT DATE

JAMES R. FOSSELMAN, FINANCE DIRECTOR and TREASURER