

# MINUTES

## SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING II

JUNE 10, 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, June 10, 2020 in the outdoor truck shed located at the Swatara Township Administration Building (rear), 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Swatara, PA 17111.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: President Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Moment of Silence/Invocation: Pastor Gary Lathrop gave the invocation.
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, Mapping Specialist Chelsea Gordon, Highway Superintendent Todd Webb, Public Safety Director Darrell Reider, Fire Chief Michael Ibberson and Secretary Mary Kepp.
5. Executive Session: An Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting to discuss a real estate matter. No action was taken.
6. Promotion/Recognition of Officers: Director of Public Safety Reider introduced the following newly promoted Police Officers to the audience: Corporal Shawn Moore, Sergeant Isaac Levine and Sergeant Scott Neal. Director Reider introduced Fire Chief Michael Ibberson to the audience. On March 2, 2020 he received the prestigious Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Designation. There are currently only 1,400 CFO's worldwide.
7. Swearing-In of Officer Francisco Gonzalez: Officer Gonzalez was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family.

In light of what is going on in our Country at this time, Director Reider called on Magisterial District Judge Michael J. Smith to renew the Police Oath of Office to himself and all Officers in attendance.

8. Recognition and Awards: President Connolly recognized the following individuals
  - A. Craig Powers, EMA Director: Thanked Craig for all of his hard work and dedication to the residents of Swatara Township during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - B. Director of Public Safety Reider introduced Devon Leaver as the Mental Health Co-Responder for the Police Department.
  - C. Swearing-In of EMA Deputy: Jonathan Kibe was sworn in as a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator by Judge Smith.
  - D. Jim Fosselman, Township Manager: Recognized Jim for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
  - E. Reverend Mim Harvey: Recognized for her time and generosity by providing food and compassion to residents throughout Swatara Township during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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9. **Visitors Requests and Comments**
  - A. Mary Klaus, 447 Pritchard Court: Mary serves as the President of the Chambers Hill Fire Company. Addressed the Board regarding 1) lack of apparatus responding to a recent fire. 2) membership in the fire company 3) live-in's at the fire house 4) fire house mortgage.
  - B. Neal Reager, 531 West Drive: Requested a stop sign be placed at West Drive and Park Drive.
  
10. Motion to Approve Agenda: Vice President Boudier made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.
  
11. Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.
  - A. Monthly Departmental Reports
  - B. Committee Reports
  - C. Codes Report
  - D. Educational Incentive Request for Dominic Payne
  - E. Contract for Services Agreement with Jim Fosselman, Manager
  - F. Permission for Rutherford Fire Company to Attend Annual Schuylkill County Firemen's Convention
  
12. Consideration of Minutes:  
Regular Meeting I – June 3, 2020: Vice President Boudier made a motion to approve the June 3, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Zubeck feels she was misrepresented in the minutes. President Connolly asked for a roll call vote
  - Commissioner Zubeck No
  - Commissioner Varner Yes
  - Commissioner Ellis Yes
  - Vice President Boudier Yes
  - President Connolly YesMotion carried.
  
13. Reports: All reports are posted in the lobby of the municipal building.
  - A. Manager's Report – Nothing at this time.
  - B. Treasurer's Report – Nothing at this time.
  - C. Solicitor's Report – Nothing at this time.
  - D. Stormwater Report – Chelsea Gordon, Mapping Specialist, passed out a report to the Board and made a presentation regarding stormwater.
  - E. Swatara Rising Comp Plan Report – Nothing at this time.
  - F. Fire Services Report – Fire Chief Ibberson presented his report to the Board. Response policies have been modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He addressed the Board and public regarding social media postings that have upset the fire services regarding abolishing volunteering fire companies. This is a false rumor. Also addressed the rumor of abolishing all of the volunteer fire companies and having only a fulltime, paid fire department. This is also false. He stated Swatara Township will

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have to pay firefighters in some form of a combination fire department.

Director of Public Safety Reider spoke regarding the outstanding job the volunteer fire companies do for the township. He expressed his concern for the volunteers that carry a large load in this municipality and everywhere. He would like to see positive changes made to the volunteer services and thanked the volunteers for their service. Fire Chief Ibberson went over incentives the volunteers receive for their service. There is nothing else to offer, except a paycheck. Two of the biggest changes discussed at Fire Advisory Board meetings and Board of Commissioners meetings are merger and consolidation. Numerous studies and reports have been completed over the past fifty years addressing the declining numbers of volunteers and detailing the need for change. He made it very clear that you can't involve emotions in making decision for public safety, you must base it on facts and data. A few things to consider when looking at consolidation and merger are road miles and response time. Dawood Engineers have done maps for the township regarding these matters (maps are available upon request).

Brenden Orth 6310 Huntingdon Street: He is the Health and Safety Chief for Swatara Township Fire Services. He spoke regarding the health and safety of the fire companies. He was proud to state that no Swatara Township volunteer firefighter ever lost their life in the line of duty. He works very hard to make sure that our volunteers stay safe and go home to their families every day. Cancer and suicide are the two main killers in fire services nationwide. Every one of our firefighters will have the opportunity this year to receive a physical to make sure they are cancer free and healthy. He encouraged audience members to reach out to Fire Chief Ibberson with ideas and suggestions for the fire services department. Mr. Orth is the former Chief of Chambers Hill Fire Company, now that he is the Health and Safety Chief for Swatara Fire Rescue, he can dedicate more time and be more focused on the health and safety of all firefighters, not just one company.

- G. Director of Public Safety Report – Director of Public Safety Reider presented his report to the Board.
14. Consideration of Resolution: Crosswalk at 501 Mall Road: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-19, placing a crosswalk at 501 Mall Road, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Consideration of Resolution: Borrowing: President Connolly made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-20, exploring the feasibility of undertaking a project and exploring potential financial options. Motion seconded by Commissioner Boudier. Mr. Ben Kapenstein of PFM Financial Advisors LLC presented a borrowing update to the Board. The resolution this evening gives approval for the Board to move forward to investigate borrowing options. Right now, no monies are being spent by the township for this proposed borrowing. Commissioner

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Zubeck asked the maximum debt capacity for the township, Mr. Kapenstein thought it was around \$31-32 million. She asked for a specific list of projects with costs moving forward. Commissioner Varner reiterated the importance of updating the debt capacity. President Connolly asked for updated borrowing figures for \$20 and \$22 million. A roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner Zubeck Yes  
Commissioner Varner Yes  
Commissioner Ellis Yes  
Vice President Boudier Yes  
President Connolly Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Approval to Purchase Security Fence – Not to Exceed \$50,000: President Connolly made a motion to approve purchase of security fencing for the municipal building not to exceed \$50,000, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. The motion carried unanimously.
  
17. Subdivision/Land Development
  - A. Release of Financial Guarantee for Dauphin County General Authority for Magisterial District Justice Office on 28<sup>th</sup> Street: Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve the final reduction and full release of the Merchants National Bonding, Inc. Bond in the amount of \$13,290.10 that was being held for the Dauphin County General Authority for Land Development Plan #2018-10C. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ellis, motion carried unanimously.
  - B. Land Development Plan of Tek Dulal for 5590 Derry Street Property: Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-21 for conditional approval of the land development/stormwater management plan dated February 21, 2020, last revised on June 4, 2020. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
  
18. Visitors Requests and Comments:
  - A. Michael Tuckey, 5875 Gensemer Lane: Takes full responsibility for the social media posts on the Chambers Hill Community page and the Swatara Action Team page. He would like to file a right to know for the audio of the June 3 meeting. He would like to see everything listed in the minutes that goes on at the meeting. He is concerned about taxes and would like to see the Board be conservative with tax money. He would like to see transparency with spending. He would like the meeting agenda posted a week ahead of the meeting. He asked if there are currently four fire company buildings in the township, why do we need one more? He commented on the expenses already used for the proposed municipal complex at Bishop Farm.  
President Connolly said in 2016 ten fire company members met with the Board of Commissioners and voted to go forward with Swatara Fire and Rescue. He also said the plans and engineering studies already drawn up will be used for future plans at Bishop Farm. Mr. Tuckey asked where the money is coming from if taxes have not been raised in years. President Connolly said the township has reduced spending and increased revenues.

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B. Mike Farling, 620 Rutland Drive: He commented on the purchase of the Bishop tract and the monies expended then for a municipal complex, will additional monies be spent again for a park site that was not in the plans originally proposed. President Connolly said the land was purchased in 2010 and over the years there were studies done to see what could be done with the property. These studies are still valid.

Mr. Farling would like to see plans for a new police building, and questioned why there needs to be another fire building when four already exist. How much of the proposed project would be just for fire services? He is all for a new police building, but questioned the need for another fire building. President Connolly said the need for a new building is based on studies and the future of the township.

Mr. Farling would like more transparency from the township. He is concerned that the township is approaching its maximum spending limit. He questioned why some things are not recorded into the written minutes. President Connolly said the minutes are not verbatim, and are not required to be, minutes are not even required to be recorded. Mr. Farling asked if the meetings could be videotaped. President Connolly said the township could look into the cost of videotaping the meeting.

C. Tom Garlic, 6050 Hocker Drive: Was concerned about budgeting numbers. If the township borrows its limit now, what happens in the future for other projects. Commissioner Ellis said the township is not going to borrow its capacity. Mr. Garlic asked where future money would come from if the township maxes out now. President Connolly said more revenue is being generated every time a home is built, or a new business comes into the area. President Connolly will post the tax rates for all municipalities in Dauphin County on Facebook. Mr. Garlic wants the township to be fiscally responsible.

D. Rose Brown, 5600 Plainview Road: Thanked the men there for what they do. She is a member of the Swatara Action Team and said the group is focused on the community. She wants transparency, and what fire company, and what park will exist in the future. There are a lot of parks that are not maintained right now. The nets are off of the basketball courts. She is focused on the community. She thanked the men, thanked those that serve us. She wants to know how the township spends the money of the taxpayers and what is going on in the community. President Connolly asked what park, and what is wrong. She said there are no basketball nets at Swatara Crest Park. President Connolly said they were removed because of COVID, but are now back up. They were removed according to CDC recommendations.

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

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

Commissioner Varner: He has heard a lot of talk about the past. He thinks the township could do a better job relating information moving forward.

Commissioner Zubeck: Agreed with Commissioner Varner's comments and thanked the residents who came out and Director Reider for recognizing his officers. Thanked fire services for coming out to the meeting. Thanked everyone for their commentary this evening.

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Commissioner Ellis: Thanked everyone for coming out tonight and all the volunteers. She congratulated everyone who received recognition this evening. She reminded everyone that tomorrow is the last day for grab and go lunches for Central Dauphin School District. Boxes of food are still available at Central Dauphin East High School every Thursday.

Vice President Boudier: Thanked everyone for coming out and their suggestions. He would like to see more residents coming to meetings to help with transparency. Reminded everyone that the Chambers Hill Fire Company is having a chicken BBQ on Saturday.

Commissioner Connolly: Thanked all of the staff and first responders for their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. He would be available to meet with the Swatara Action Team if they wanted to invite him to one of their meetings.

22. Adjournment: Commissioner Boudier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting II adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

  
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Karen Alleman, Assistant Township Secretary