

MINUTES

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 2, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. **President Pro Tempore:** Commissioner Elect Tom Connolly served as President Pro Temp.
2. **Call to Order:** President Pro Tempore Connolly called the Reorganization Meeting of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:03pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at the Swatara Township Municipal Building, 5599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17111.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Pro Tempore Connolly led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Invocation:** Reverend Mim Harvey delivered the Invocation.
5. **Meeting Purpose:** President Pro Tempore Connolly said the purpose of the evening's Reorganization Meeting is to reorganize the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners, to swear in newly elected Commissioners and other officials, to make committee assignments, to make appointments to boards, commissions and authorities, and any other business. President Pro Tempore Connolly noted that Commissioner Zubeck was unable to attend due to illness.
6. **Recognition of Dignitaries:** President Pro Tempore Connolly recognized state representatives, county commissioners, former commissioners and other local dignitaries that were in attendance.
7. **Introduction of Magisterial District Justice Michael J Smith and Commissioners Elect:** President Pro Tempore Connolly introduced Judge Smith who will be swearing in the officials this evening. The Commissioners being sworn in this evening were Commissioner Shaela Ellis being sworn in for her 2nd term and Commissioners Elect Tom Connolly and Shane Steele both being sworn in for this term.
8. **Administration of Oaths of Office:** Judge Smith administered the Commissioner's Oath of Office to Tom Connolly, Shaela Ellis, and Shane Steele.
9. **Election of Officers – Board of Commissioners:**
President: Commissioner Connolly opened nominations for the position of President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Steele nominated Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. No other nominations were made.
A roll call vote was taken for Commissioner Ellis as President:
Commissioner Tuckey No
Commissioner Steele Yes
Commissioner Ellis Yes
Commissioner Connolly Yes

The motion carried and Commissioner Ellis was elected President.

Vice President: Commissioner Connolly opened nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Connolly nominated Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. No other nominations were made.

A roll call vote was taken for Commissioner Steele as Vice President:

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Commissioner Steele	Yes
Commissioner Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

The motion carried and Commissioner Steele was elected Vice President.

10. Seating of Commissioners: President Ellis announced the seating of Commissioners, from her left to right facing the audience: Township Solicitor – to be elected, Commissioner Tuckey, Vice President Steele, President Ellis, Commissioner Connolly, Commissioner Zubeck, Township Manager Jim Fosselman.

11. Roll Call: Commissioners Shaela Ellis, Shane Steele, Tom Connolly, Michael Tuckey were present, Commissioner Christina Zubeck was absent.

12. Appointments:

- a. **Township Secretary:** Vice President Steele made a motion to appoint Jennifer Yesavage as Township Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Township Treasurer:** Vice President Steele made a motion to appoint Brittany Yarzinsky as Township Treasurer, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. **Township Solicitor:** President Ellis made a motion to appoint Scott Wyland as Township Solicitor, seconded by Vice President Steele. Commissioner Tuckey nominated Kevin Hall.

Discussion was had for Kevin Hall and a roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	No
President Ellis	No
Commissioner Connolly	No

A roll call vote was then taken for Attorney Scott Wyland as Township Solicitor:

Commissioner Tuckey	No
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

The motion carried and President Ellis invited Solicitor Wyland to join the Commissioners at the front table.

- d. **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Vice President Steele made a motion to appoint Thomas Stauffer as Sergeant-At-Arms, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

13. **Swearing In of Other Officials:** Judge Smith administered the Oath of Office to Township Secretary Jennifer Yesavage and Solicitor Scott Wyland.
14. **Rules of Order – Roberts Rules of Order: 12th Edition:** President Ellis entertained a motion from Commissioner Connolly to adopt Robert’s Rule of Order, 12th Edition as the operating mechanism for the Board, seconded by Commissioner Tuckey. Motion carried unanimously.
15. **Committee Assignments:** President Ellis assigned the following committees:
- a. **Commissioner Tuckey:** Chair Grants and Chair Senior Citizens
 - b. **Commissioner Zubeck:** Chair Shade Tree and Chair Facilities
 - c. **Commissioner Connolly:** Chair Public Safety, Chair Planning and Codes, co-chair Budget and Finance
 - d. **Commissioner Steele:** Chair Personnel, co-chair Parks and Rec, Chair Budget and Finance
 - e. **Commissioner Ellis:** Chair Public Works and Stormwater, Chair Communications and Technology and Chair Parks and Rec
16. **Other Appointments: Boards, Commissions and Authorities:** President Ellis stated that they would not be naming anyone to the Recreation Advisory Board or the Police Advisory Board at this time. She wanted members to speak to the community for anyone interested and have those names ready for the first regular meeting in February.
- a. **Civil Service Commission** (6 year term): Craig Powers – motion made by Vice President Steele and seconded by Commissioner Connolly – motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Planning Commission** (4 year term): Katie Ibberson – motion made by Commissioner Connolly, seconded by Vice President Steele; Commissioner Tuckey nominated Lee Pisano. On the nomination of Lee Pisano:

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	No
President Ellis	No
Commissioner Connolly	No

On the nomination of Katie Ibberson:

Commissioner Tuckey	No
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- c. **Stormwater Authority:** Shaela Ellis – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by Commissioner Connolly.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- d. Sewer Authority: Commissioner Connolly nominated Shane Steele and Keith Flynn and Vice President Steele nominated Sean Moyer and Jordan Golob, all nominations were seconded by President Ellis.

- i. Shane Steele
- ii. Keith Flynn
- iii. Sean Moyer
- iv. Jordan Golob

Commissioner Tuckey	No
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- e. Fire Service Committee (2-year term): Jack Harlacker – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by Commissioner Connolly.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- f. Capital Area COG: Delegate: Tom Connolly – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by President Ellis.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- g. Capital Area COG: Alternate: Shane Steele – motion made by Commissioner Connolly, seconded by President Ellis.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- h. Dauphin County Tax Collection Committee: Delegate: Brittany Yarzinsky – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by Commissioner Connolly.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- i. Dauphin County Tax Collection Committee: Alternate: Tom Connolly – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by President Ellis.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- j. Sewer Authority Liaison: Shane Steele – motion made by Commissioner Connolly, seconded by President Ellis.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

- k. Vacancy Board: Richard Boudier – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by Commissioner Connolly.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

17. Zoning Hearing Board: Resolution R-2024-01: Phillip Bear – motion made by Vice President Steele, seconded by Commissioner Connolly.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

18. Motion to Reopen the 2024 Budget: President Ellis made a motion to reopen the 2024 budget pursuant to the Township Code, seconded by Vice President Steele. Budget meeting date is set for January 10, 2024.

Commissioner Tuckey	No
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

19. Issue RFP for Engineering Services: Vice President Steele made a motion to Issue RFP for Engineering Services, seconded by Commissioner Connolly.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

20. Conditional Approval of Township Manager's Contract: President Ellis made the motion to approve the modified managers agreement conditioned upon approval of the final language reviewed by the solicitor, seconded by Vice President Steele. Commissioner Tuckey asked for a copy of the contract

prior to signing. Solicitor Wyland stated that a copy would be circulated to all Commissioners prior to signing.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Yes
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

21. **Ratification of Norfolk Southern Partial Release Agreement:** President Ellis asked Township Manager Fosselman to give an overview of the Partial Release Agreement to those in attendance. Motion to ratify the agreement was made by Commissioner Connolly and seconded by President Ellis.

Commissioner Tuckey	Yes
Vice President Steele	Abstain
President Ellis	Yes
Commissioner Connolly	Yes

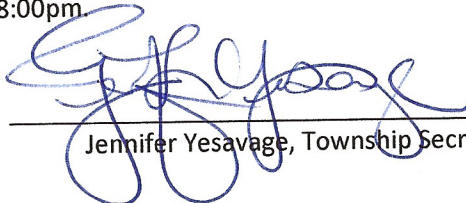
22. **Additional Business:** no additional business was presented.

23. **Public Comment:**

- a. **Lisa Neiter, 6140 Hocker Drive** – spoke about her continued concern regarding the proposed warehouses that were requested to be built within the Township.
- b. **Brian Beistline, Manager of Wal-Mart on Grayson Road** – thanked the Township for the support of the Shop With A Cop event to provide 120 kids an awesome Christmas. Brian hopes to continue the great relationship with the Township and the Board of Commissioners.

24. **Commissioners Comments:**

- a. **Commissioner Tuckey:** Thanked Wal-Mart for having a Shop With A Cop event and reiterated the warehouse discussion and the effects that they would have had on the Township as a whole.
 - b. **Commissioner Connolly:** Thanked Brian Beistline and spoke about the Shop With A Cop event hosted at Wal-Mart. He also encouraged everyone to stay involved in the local government.
 - c. **Commissioner Steele:** He started by thanking his immediate family for supporting him during this difficult campaign. He mentioned that he ran on 2 campaign promises: 1. For the RFP for the Engineers, 2. Vice President Steele requested that Solicitor Wyland start the process of looking into term limits for Commissioners under First Class Township Code.
 - d. **Commissioner Ellis:** She started by thanking her family and friends and welcomed the new board members. She reaffirmed her commitment to the more than 27,000 residents that she is governing for their benefit. She hopes to expand the viewing audience so that more residents within the Township can be more engaged with the meetings.
25. **Benediction:** Pastor Gary Lathrop provided the benediction for the evening.
26. **Social Announcement:** President Ellis reminded everyone that refreshments are available downstairs.
27. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Steele and seconded by Commissioner Connolly. Meeting was adjourned by President Ellis at 8:00pm.



Jennifer Yesavage, Township Secretary