

MINUTES

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING I

APRIL 3, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. **Call to Order**: President Ellis called the Regular Meeting I of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:10pm on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. The meeting was held at the Swatara Township Municipal Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**: President Ellis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Moment of Silence**
4. **Roll Call**: Commissioners Michael Tuckey, Christine Zubeck, Tom Connolly, Shane Steele and Shaela Ellis were present. Also present: Manager Jim Fosselman, Solicitor Scott Wyland, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Ihlein, Lieutenant Krehling, Deputy Police Chief and Sergeant-At-Arms Thomas Stauffer, Treasurer Brittany Yarzinsky and Secretary Jen Yesavage.
5. **Announce Executive Session**: An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.
6. **Visitors Requests and Comments**:
 - A. **Tom Garlic, 6050 Hocker Drive**: he revisited the topic of putting up dividers at the intersection of Mushroom Hill Road and SR322 to prevent people from turning off of SR322 and into the Speedway. President Ellis stated that we will have a more detailed updated at the next meeting. There is also an issue with asbestos under the ground which is complicating the situation.
 - B. **Scott Kocevar, 9030 Bridge Road**: asked about a traffic study being done on Pleasantview Rd near the former Hoss's.
 - C. **Maria Morris, Steelton**: she spoke about the Steelton Terminal Project, she has concerns about the neighboring homes and the traffic plans for this project
 - D. **Chris Fries, 3800 Brisban Street**: spoke out against the selling of the Ladder Truck that was going to be discussed later in the meeting (Item #12)
7. **Motion to Approve Agenda**: Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda**: Commissioner Connolly made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice President Steele. There was some discussion about the Ragnar Relay. Only a portion of the event will take place in Swatara Township and no roads will need to be closed on the day of the event which is Friday, August 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

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9. **Consideration of Minutes:**

A. **Regular Meeting II of March 13, 2024:** Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by President Ellis. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Presentation on Plan No. 2023-12C: "Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for Swatara Paxton Developers LLC – Proposed Wawa Food Market and Fueling Station", dated 11/21/2023:**

Claudia Shenk from McNees Wallace and Nurick gave a presentation updating the status of the proposed Wawa. Discussions still need to happen with the Township engineers and she hopes to be back in the next few months seeking plan approval. This is a 5,500 sq foot store with fueling stations for 16 cars. Eric Mountz with Traffic Planning Design spoke as the traffic consultant on this project. In order to receive the HOP, there are 3 steps that need to be completed: the scoping process, the traffic impact study and the final design. They are currently working through the reviews from both PennDOT and the Planning Commission after the traffic study. There is a need to have pedestrian connectivity from the parking lot at the park across the street to the Wawa. One plan is to put a walkway across Bridge Street. Another thought is to utilize the trail that runs under Bridge Road and see if there is a way to connect that trail and the Wawa. There is also a need to have a deceleration lane leading to the exit from 322 onto Bridge Road. There is a challenge on the length of that lane due to the slope from 322 to the current parking lot. There was a traffic study which only showed small intervals of high traffic in this area which they feel will be reduced once the construction on 322 is completed.

11. **Approval of Agreement with PFM for Financial Advisory Services:** Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the agreement with PFM for the Financial Study. There was discussion on how far back the study would go. Exhibit A only states 2022 but Commissioner Zubeck asked that they look back further, Vice President Steele stated that they would probably be looking back at least 10 years. Commissioner Zubeck asked if making a motion to state that the Financial Study be done for a minimum of 5 to 10 years. Solicitor Wyland cautioned against placing stipulations on how many years PFM reviews as to not tie their hands and to just allow PFM to perform their job. The motion carried unanimously.

12. **Consideration of Resolution: Authorization to Set Fair Market Value Bid for 2017 Pierce Enforcer 107' Aerial Ladder Truck:**

President Ellis made a motion to set the FMV of the 2017 Pierce Enforcer Ladder Truck, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. Commissioner Connolly explained that a FMV is required when placing equipment out for bid. Commissioner Zubeck questioned some of the language in the resolution and wanted to confirm that all bids would come before the board and that Township employees would not be able to accept bids and take actions to facilitate the sale of the

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equipment. Solicitor Wyland confirmed that the language in the resolution is ambiguous but feels that all bids would need to be confirmed by the board. Vice President Steele, due to the ambiguity of the resolution, made a motion to table this topic, seconded by Commissioner Tuckey.

Commissioner Tuckey – yes
Commissioner Zubeck – yes
Commissioner Connolly – yes
Vice President Steele – yes
President Ellis – yes

13. **Consideration of Resolution: Special Purpose Parking Zone at 1284 Main Street:**

President Ellis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion carried unanimously. Resolution R-2024-18

14. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions:** Commissioner Connolly deferred to Deputy Chief Stauffer who nominated Binita Puri Rai to the Citizen’s Advisory Council. Motion was made by President Ellis and seconded by Vice President Steele to approve this nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

15. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**

- A. **Chris Fries, 3800 Brisban Street:** he spoke about sidewalks at Wawa and making sure that they are installed
- B. **Rainer Niederoest from Dawood:** in response to the request for bids for a Township engineer, he handed out an expanded copy of the continuance letter from Dawood with some added qualifications

16. **Possible Stormwater Violations for Investigation:** Nothing at this time.

17. **Commissioners Requests and Comments, Additional Business and Correspondence:**

Before individual comments, Commissioner Connolly announced that due to some serious allegations and the initial stages of an investigation, effective immediately, Swatara Township would be discontinuing services of Friendship Fire Company until the investigation is complete.

- A. **Commissioner Tuckey:** he spoke about the 2nd Annual Senior Fair, April 24th from 10am-1pm at the LCBC Church off Chambers Hill Road with 75 vendors attending to provide information for seniors and caregivers, he doesn’t agree with shutting down a fire station as we should consider them innocent until proven guilty

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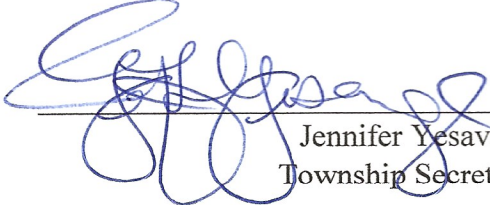
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- B. **Commissioner Zubeck:** she acknowledged Commissioner Tuckey and all the work that is being put into the Senior Fair and is waiting to find out more information before speaking about the situation with the Friendship Fire Company.
 - C. **Commissioner Connolly:** He spoke about sidewalks and how more areas of the township are now pedestrian friendly. He's looking forward to the senior fair and thanked everyone for their help with the Easter Egg hunt and especially with needing to move everything inside due to the weather. He is hoping for a quick investigation.
 - D. **Commissioner Steele:** He thanked all in attendance, those that gave their remarks and concerns as well as those watching the meeting online.
 - E. **Commissioner Ellis:** She thanked the staff for the work for the Easter Egg Hunt, Earth Day clean up location will be announced at the next meeting but if you are looking to clean up other areas, the Township can supply gloves, trashbags, etc and will pick up the bags that are left behind. She stated that the allegations need to be taken seriously which is why the action was taken tonight to suspend the Friendship Fire Company.
18. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm, seconded by Commissioner Zubeck. Motion carried unanimously.


Jennifer Yesavage
Township Secretary