

MINUTES

---

REGULAR MEETING II

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

MAY 8, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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The students from Swatara Middle School led the meeting for the Richard Boudier Local Government Day. They performed the duties of the board members during the first portion of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:02pm on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. The meeting was held at the Swatara Township Municipal Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The audience recited 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: Solicitor Isaac Wakefield, Director of Planning and Zoning Robert Ihlein, Deputy Police Chief and Sergeant-At-Arms Thomas Stauffer, Treasurer Brittany Yarzinsky and Secretary Jen Yesavage.
5. **Announce Executive Session:** An Executive Session was not held prior to this meeting.
6. **Student Government Date 2024:** Richard Boudier gave some remarks and history about the Swatara Township Local Government Day and thanked the Board of Commissioners and the Central Dauphin School Board for naming the day in his honor.

**The students gave brief remarks for all of the following:**

- A. President's Message
- B. Vice President's Message
- C. Police Report
- D. Senior Committee Report
- E. Facilities Report
- F. Fire Report
- G. Recreation Report
- H. Treasurer's Report
- I. Public Works
- J. Closing Statements:
  - i. Commissioner Tuckey: he thanked the students and hoped they had an enjoyable day
  - ii. Commissioner Zubeck: she thanked the students as well as their parents and teachers for their support, she hoped everyone learned something valuable today and hopes to see them back again in the future

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- iii. Commissioner Connolly: he thanked all the students for their participation today and was happy to have many of them return to participate in the meeting
- iv. Vice President Steele: he thanked Commissioner Boudier for this many years of service to Swatara Township, he thanked the students for their courage to participate in the meeting
- v. President Ellis: she thanked the students for their participation in the Local Government Day, she thanked the school and Township staff that assisted in the planning of the day, she concluded by thanking the school board for naming this day for Commissioner Boudier.

*There was a brief recess to allow for the students and their families to leave.*

**7. Visitors Requests and Comments:**

- A. **April Weiss, 881 S. 80<sup>th</sup> Street:** she spoke about her concerns regarding the excessive speeding on 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Deputy Chief Stauffer responded by stating that there is an aggressive driver detail coming up which will enable additional patrols to be on that street
- B. **Shala Pulgare, 80<sup>th</sup> Street:** she reiterated the need for some speed control on 80<sup>th</sup> Street
- C. **Debra Noles, 6080 Hocker Drive:** she spoke about the difference in arguing and discussing that happens among the Commissioners
- D. **Joanne Cibort, 799 High Street:** she spoke about the varying degrees of discrimination and spoke against the actions that the board took at the last meeting to close to Friendship Fire Company, she spoke about the released report from the investigation committee
- E. **Bruce Tamelio:** he spoke to the Commissioners to ask for assistance regarding a matter with his home
- F. **Keith Flynn, North Harrisburg Street:** he spoke about some comments that were made at the previous meeting pertaining to the Bressler Fire Company as he was the person who was at the front desk when the individual firefighters arrived at the building for the interviews – he took offense to the comments about him being intimidating and that those coming in for the interviews were walking thru a gauntlet, Commissioner Zubeck responded that she received the feedback with the specific wording from members of the community, Commissioner Tuckey stated that he felt the intimidation may have stemmed from comments that were posted on Facebook regarding the Bressler Fire Company
- G. **Beth Sviben, Dayton Road:** she thanked the students from Swatara for their participation early in the meeting, she also spoke about the Bressler Fire Company and the closing of the Fire Station

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- H. Gary Harvey, 105 S. 47<sup>th</sup> Street:** he once again spoke about putting firefighters back on the boxes at Paxtang, Commissioner Steele stated that those decisions would need to be made by the Fire Chief and not by the Commissioners
- I. Lisa Neiter, 6140 Hocker Drive:** she spoke about some fire situations that morning and the coverage of the equipment that was dispatched to those locations, Commissioner Steele responded by clarifying the situation and provided more accurate information about the manpower and the equipment that was dispatched
- J. Mary Klaus, 447 Pritchard Court:** she asked that item #13 be removed from the agenda this evening, she also suggested that the board add an item to the agenda to rescind their decision to close the Fire Company from the previous meeting
- K. Maria Marcinko, 2704 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street:** she spoke about the decision to close the Friendship Fire Company
8. **Motion to Approve Agenda:** Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda:** Commissioner Connolly made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Vice President Steele. The motion passed unanimously.
10. **Subdivision/Land Development Plans:**
- A. **Consideration of Financial Security Reduction for The McNaughton Company – Chambers Pointe Phase 2:** Director Ihlein gave an overview of Chambers Pointe Phase 2 by The McNaughton Company. Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve the security reduction, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. After much discussion, it was agreed upon that the reduction would bring the bond value down to \$57,764.00.
- Commissioner Tuckey – Yes  
Commissioner Zubeck – Yes  
Commissioner Connolly – Yes  
Vice President Steele – No  
President Ellis – Yes

Director Ihlein went over the next steps regarding the dedication of the streets within Chambers Pointe Phase 2. Manager Fosselman then stated that there are various unpaid engineering invoices with The McNaughton Company for a number of projects including Chambers Pointe Phase 2 with some invoices dating back to 2017.

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- B. **Consideration of Road Dedication – Randolph Drive:** Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the road dedication, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously. R-2024-25
- C. **Consideration of Road Dedication – Barbara Drive:** Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the road dedication, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously. R-2024-26
- D. **Consideration of Road Dedication – Anthony Drive:** Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the road dedication, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously. R-2024-27

11. **Reports**

- A. **Manager’s Report:** Manager Fossleman reported that they are working to have quarterly financial reports on the website, he also started to forecast for the 2025 budget and have been working to computerize systems and processes that had been done manually in the past
- B. **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Yarzinsky gave the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Connolly and seconded by Vice President Steele. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Solicitor’s Report:** Solicitor Wyland was not at the meeting, no report was given
- D. **Swatara Rising Comp Plan:** Director Ilhein spoke about the HATs TIP (Harrisburg Area Transportation, Transportation Improvement Plan) and the budget for 2025-2028 is now open for review. There is a public review & comment period for the Eisenhower Blvd Pedestrian Safety Project, the design is on PennDOT’s website for the public to review with construction planned for 2025
- E. **Fire Services/EMS Report:** Commissioner Connolly gave the fire report in the absence of Fire Chief Ibberson – 130 calls in the month of April with a response time of 4 minutes 46 seconds with the full detailed report being available online. Eric Durham gave the EMS report for April with 446 EMS calls, 415 were covered by LifeTeam or 93% with an average response time of 9 minutes 18 seconds.
- F. **Public Safety Report:** Deputy Chief Stauffer gave the Police Report for April. The Department handled 1,254 calls for service which included 93 Part I Crimes and 118 Part II Crimes. Our Officers arrested a total of 85 people for Felony & Misdemeanor Crimes which included 9 for DUI. Our officers conducted a total of 10 foot patrols and 14 school foot patrols. A complete breakdown on our calls for service and the Community Services report will be posted in the Township lobby and on our web portal for anyone who is interested.

12. **Authorization to Advertise Finalized Amendments to Ordinances to Permit Keeping of Chickens:** Director Ihlein spoke about the draft amendments to the Township Ordinances that are being proposed. The drafts have been reviewed by the Dauphin

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County Planning Commission and revisions were provided. The plan is to have the zoning hearing in June as required by law. The motion to advertise the finalized amendments was made by Vice President Steele and seconded by President Ellis. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing was set for the first meeting in June – June 5, 2024.

13. **Motion to Rescind Display of Banners Over State Roadways: Bressler Fire Company R-2024-10:** Commissioner Connolly made a motion to approve rescinding the resolution, seconded by Vice President Steele. The motion passed unanimously.

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

14. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions:** none at this time

15. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**

- A. **John Cassett, 4912 Derry Street:** he spoke about the Meet the Chief event happening at the 40&8 Club on Saturday, May 18th
- B. **Debra Noles, 6080 Hocker Drive:** she spoke about the EMS report criticizing the response time that was given of 9 minutes, Commissioner Connolly did explain that these are an average which means that some responses are higher while other will be lower
- C. **Joe Craig, Lower Paxton Township on behalf of his parents:** he spoke against rescinding the resolution to advertise the Bressler Fire Picnic, the investigative report that was released, he again asked about the release of the Lawnton Report

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

17. **Commissioners Requests and Comments:**

- A. **Commissioner Tuckey:** he spoke about his concerns for Paxtang Fire not being allowed to run in Swatara Township and wants the residents concerns and questions to be answered and addressed in a timely manner, he finished by thanking everyone that came out to the meeting
- B. **Commissioner Zubeck:** she spoke about her concerns for public safety in the Township and asked that resident requests be addressed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns, she concluding by wishing all the Mother's a Happy Mother's Day

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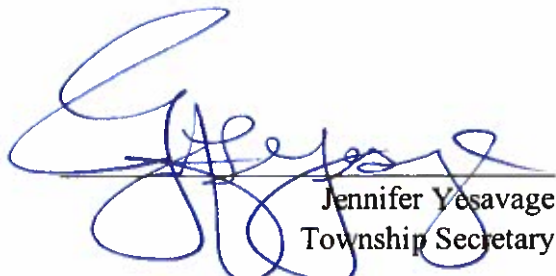
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- C. Commissioner Connolly:** he spoke about the Richard Boudier Local Government Day and the participation of the students and the teacher in making the day a success, the Midland Cemetery will have their Memorial Day Service, he complimented the public safety officials within the township, he thanked everyone for coming out the meeting
- D. Commissioner Steele:** he offered his condolences on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to the Johnson Family who recently lost their teenage son, he spoke about those who are making the decisions of the board personally instead of matters of the Township, he offered an apology for the actions of the board at the last meeting but will not apologize for his vote, he commended those who served on the investigative committee, especially Deputy Chief Stauffer and stated that we should value the work that the committee did, he thanked the work of all those who helped to make the Richard Boudier Local Government Day a success, he cautioned those that are critiquing the public safety officials and spreading incorrect information
- E. Commissioner Ellis:** she gave her remarks early in the meeting but again thanked the students and the staff for their work on the Richard Boudier Student Local Government Day, they are looking for volunteers to help clean up the Midland Cemetery prior to the Memorial Day service, she stated she has been in contact with the Attorney General's Office who was pleased with the action that was taken by the Board of Commissioners, she thanked the Commissioner for a respectful meeting
18. **Adjournment:** Vice President Steele made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02pm, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.



Jennifer Yesavage  
Township Secretary