

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING II

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

JULY 10, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. **Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting II of the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:10pm on Wednesday, July 10, 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, Fire Chief Michael Ibberson, Treasurer Brittany Yarzinsky and Secretary Jen Yesavage.
5. **Announce Executive Session:** An Executive Session was held to discuss personnel.
6. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**
 - A. **Patrick Bradnick, minor:** he spoke about the benefits of being a Boy Scout and presented Deputy Chief Stauffer and Fire Chief Ibberson with donated coupon cards that he sold to residents to help him attend the annual summer camp.
 - B. **Debra Noles, 6080 Hocker Drive:** she commended officers who had recently responded to an incident on her street, she also spoke about how Paxton Chief Steve Bartholomew helped someone with a flat tire, she also spoke about a story she heard about a township firefighter who was recently charged with theft
 - C. **April Weiss, 881 S. 80th Street:** she continued to ask for updates on the excessive speeding that occurs on 80th Street but also wanted to extend her gratitude to the officers who have been focusing on her street to help with the speeding motorists
 - D. **Dylan Jorich, Schmidt Sausage, 1035 Eisenhower Boulevard:** he spoke to request that Schmidt Sausage be added to the agenda and the approval list for the Gaming Grant Co- Applicant Requests. He laid out the plans that they have and the specific use of the funds that they would potentially receive. Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to add them to the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Tuckey. Solicitor Wakefield stated that this change to the agenda could take place. Commissioner Connolly explained that there was still time to file their application with the County. President Ellis stated that other companies had submitted their request earlier that day and they were not added to the agenda that had already been published for the meeting that night.

Commissioner Tuckey – Yes

Commissioner Zubeck – Yes

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING II

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

JULY 10, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Connolly – No
Vice President Steele – No
President Ellis – No

- E. **Gavin Ford, 3731 Rutherford Street**: he pointed out the points that Schmidt Sausage could be losing by having them wait for approval at the August 7th meeting.
 - F. **Lisa Neiter, 6140 Hocker Drive**: she presented Commissioner Connolly with a signed petition to place Chambers Hill Fire Company back in service
 - G. **Joanne Cibort, 799 High Street**: she spoke about the board attempting to move the polling place from the Friendship Fire Company, she would like a complete report from the investigation the took place about the Fire Company, she also wants to know the number of firefighters in the Township and how many are minorities
 - H. **Bonnie Miller, 1037 Main Street, Oberlin**: she voiced her feelings about some of the Commissioners who she felt were bringing down the Township
 - I. **Paula Ruppert, 930 Main Street, Bressler**: she spoke about her family history of firefighters and voiced her displeasure at having Friendship Fire Company closed
 - J. **Bonnie Miller, 1037 Main Street, Oberlin**: she asked where the money goes for the sale of fire equipment
 - K. **Deb Harvey, 105 S. 47th Street, Lawnton**: she spoke about a policy that was put in place in September 2016 and specifically spoke about the portion covering termination and asked about an incident where a firefighter brought a loaded firearm into one of the Township Fire buildings, he was suspended after that event, and she is concerned as she is now learning that he has been reinstated
7. **Motion to Approve Agenda**: Commissioner Connolly made a motion to approve the agenda with corrections to item F of the Consent Agenda – adding the word Academy after Karate (Swatara Karate Academy) and item K – removing the words Gaming Grant Application. The motion was seconded by President Ellis. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Motion to Approve Items on Consent Agenda**: Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the amended consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **Consideration of Minutes**:
- A. **Regular Meeting I of June 5, 2024**
 - B. **Regular Meeting II of June 12, 2024**

C. Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Permit Keeping of Chickens

Vice President Steele made a motion to approval all minutes with the addition of the Resolution number (R-2024-28) to item #11 of the minutes from June 5, 2024, seconded by President Ellis. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Subdivision/Land Development Plans:

- A. **Consideration of Financial Security Reduction and Release for PDC Property Holdings at 401 Port View Drive:** Director Ihlein confirmed that all work has been finished and the final inspections were completed. The motion for the Board is to approve the final reduction of the First Commonwealth Bank letter of credit that is being held for PDC Property Holdings Two LLC to zero and return the letter of credit to the bank.
- B. **Consideration of Financial Security Reduction and Release for LG AS Franchisor LLC at 435 Port View Drive:** Director Ihlein confirmed that all work has been finished and the final inspections were completed. The motion for the Board is to approve the full reduction of the Liberty Mutual Surety bond that is being held LG AS Franchisor LLC to zero and return the bond to the issuer. Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the Financial Reductions of both 10A and 10B, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Consideration of Road Dedication – Liz Lane:** Director Ihlein stated that this was the final road in the Wellington Manor development but all outstanding items have been completed. Motion to approve the Road Dedication was made by Vice President Steele and seconded by Commissioner Connolly. R-2024-35

11. Reports

- A. **Manager's Report:** no Manager's Report was given
- B. **Treasurer's Report and Quarterly Budget Review:** Treasurer Yarzinsky gave the Treasurer's Report for the month of June. Motion to accept the report was made by Vice President Steele and seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously. Treasury Yarzinsky gave an overview of the actual dollars spent vs the amount budgeted for Q1.
- C. **Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Wakefield gave no report
- D. **Swatara Rising Comp Plan:** Director Ilhein reported that the I83 widening project is moving along, with that comes the closure of the 29th Street bridge, the work on 322 around Chambers Hill Road is ongoing as well as the additional buildings that are being built on along Paxton Street. A few chicken permits have been requested. There are some new retail stores moving into High Pointe Commons – Crumbl Cookies and Warhammer – a retail game store. There are still 6 Land Development

MINUTES

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING II

JULY 10, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Plans being reviewed by the Planning Commission: Wawa, Steelton Terminal, Swatara Exchange, Bishop Park, 425 Pear Avenue and 10 Mars Street Apartments.

- E. Fire Services/EMS Report:** Chief Ibberson gave the Fire Report – in June 2024, Swatara Fire Rescue responded to a total of 124 calls for service including 7 fires, 31 medical incidents, 10 hazardous conditions, 21 service requests, 21 good intent calls and 31 false alarms. The team consisted of 50 active members, dedicated 1,682 staffing hours and 343 training hours. There was an average of 6.1 responders per incident with a response time of 4 minutes, 22 seconds from dispatch to arrival. Mutual aid was provided 17 times and received 33 times. He also commended the whole team that was involved to cover the recent visit of the President within the Township. There was some discussion about a recent incident that was brought up during visitor requests and comments – Commissioner Connolly asked Chief Ibberson for some clarification, Vice President Steele also gave some additional information as he was one of the responders. Commissioner Zubeck asked Chief Ibberson to provide her with a list of new members added since 2016 and those that became inactive during that same time. Eric Durham gave the EMS report – LifeTeam responded to 485 calls for service with an average response time of 8 minutes, 35 seconds. Commissioner Zubeck asked if there was a potential for LifeTeam to have a training program for 16–17-year-olds as right now, they only accept EMTs that are age 18 plus. President Ellis asked if moving forward, a report can be sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting to be included in their packet.
- F. Public Safety and Community Service Report:** Deputy Chief Stauffer gave the Police Report for June. The department handled 1,285 calls for service which included 114 Part I Crimes and 104 Part II Crimes. Our offices arrested a total of 79 people for Felony & Misdemeanor Crimes which included 7 for DUI. They issued 74 traffic citations and 102 traffic warnings to motorists. We also issued 29 non-traffic citations, handled 23 Parking violations and conducted a total of 5-foot patrols. A complete breakdown of 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. Deputy Chief Stauffer mentioned that they received a glowing review from the Secret Service during the post event debrief. He thanked all the additional agencies that supported the department for this event. Deputy Chief Stauffer gave a brief overview of the Community Service Report and the various events throughout the township that were attended by some of our police officers. He concluded with a reminder about National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th from 6-8:30 at Vanatta Park.
- G. Public Works/Recreation Report:** Manager Trafka gave the June Public Works and Parks & Rec report. Public Works will be assisting with National Night Out. Staff worked at the compost facility as well as turning the leaf compost, they

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING II

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

JULY 10, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

performed normal maintenance operations such as street sweeping, roadside mowing and pothole repair. The quick curbing was installed on 322 at the bottom of Mushroom Hill. There was a major storm event that caused various trees/branches to fall across roads and the staff did a great job at clearing that debris and getting the roads reopened. Parks & Recreation's 2nd movie night is August 24th at Vanatta Park. Maintenance for all the parks was ongoing to include mowing, trash removal, cleaning bathrooms, etc. Playground mulch is being dispersed and a new metal roof was installed on the concession stand at the Swatara Crest Park.

12. **Consideration of Resolution: Special Purpose Parking at 351 North 70th Street:** Deputy Chief Stauffer gave an overview of the request and stated that a traffic study was completed and that this request is appropriate and supported by the Police Department. Vice President Steele made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously. R-2024-36
13. **Consideration of Resolution: Loading/Unloading Zone at Huntingdon Street in Front of Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church:** Deputy Chief Stauffer gave an overview of this request as this was previously designated as a no parking zone which was separated from another handicapped loading/unloading zone. This request would move these two zones to be butted up against each other. The loading zone would restrict the parking time limit to 15 minutes. Commissioner Zubeck made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. The motion passed unanimously. R-2024-37
14. **Announcement of 2025 Budget Meeting Dates: September 5, 2024 and September 12, 2024:** Vice President Steele gave the overview of the 7 Step process to prepare the 2025 Budget.
15. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions:** none at this time
16. **Visitors Requests and Comments:**
 - A. **Paula Ruppert, 930 Main Street, Bressler:** she wanted to refute some statements that were made about her previous comments
 - B. **Chris Fries, 3800 Brisban Street:** he spoke about the comparisons being made between Swatara Township and Susquehanna Township
 - C. **Randy Conway, 5580 Fulcroft Ave:** he asked what station closure was recently made in Susquehanna Township as he felt that the station they were referring too was closed several years ago and he felt that the questioning earlier in the meeting was misleading

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING II

SWATARA TOWNSHIP

JULY 10, 2024

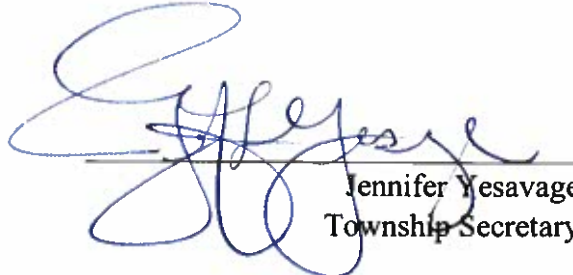
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

17. **Possible Stormwater Violations for Investigation:** none at this time.

18. **Commissioners Requests and Comments:**

- A. **Commissioner Tuckey:** he felt that Schmidt Sausage should have been added to the agenda for the Gaming Grant, he thanked the young Boy Scout for his actions in donating the coupon cards to first responders, he thanked those who came out and wished everyone a good evening.
- B. **Commissioner Zubeck:** she echoed the comments about Schmidt Sausage, she tries to refrain from comparing our Township to other local townships as each one is unique in their needs, she will be putting in a request to know the specifics for both the Lawnton and the Bressler Fire Company, she brought up concerns from residents about the removal of a No Parking sign Chamber Street and High Street and asked that the timing of the traffic light at Derry Street and Paxtang Avenue potentially be adjusted as there is more traffic due to the closure of the 29th Street bridge
- C. **Commissioner Connolly:** he spoke about the 29th Street bridge closure and thanked the staff that cleaned up Paxtang Park and the road to prepare the area for the additional traffic, he stated that he did meet with Mary Klaus as well as some other volunteers to discuss Chambers Hill Fire to see if they are able to be put back into service, he spoke about his involvement with the closure of some previous fire stations, he thanked the current firefighters for the work that they have been doing for the past several years
- D. **Commissioner Steele:** he thanked those who came out the meeting in person and those that joined online and thanked the staff who handled the Presidential visit
- E. **Commissioner Ellis:** she thanked the first responders of the Township for the Presidential visit as well as the numbers that were presented about the financial aspects of the Township, she reminded everyone about National Night Out on August 6th from 6-8:30 at Vanatta Park, she thanked everyone who came out and those that watched online

19. **Adjournment:** Vice President Steele made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04pm, seconded by Commissioner Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.



Jennifer Yesavage
Township Secretary