

MINUTES

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING JULY 13, 2023

REGULAR MEETING:

President Lynch called to order the Regular Meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of Commissioners on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 6:45 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Lynch informed those in attendance that Executive Sessions occurred prior to this meeting and the Workshop Meeting on June 22, 2023. At these meetings matters as allowed by law were discussed.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS:

Jody Rebarchak – Present
Gary Rothrock – Present
Carl Hisiro – Present
Frank Lynch – Present
Tom Pyne – Present
Fred Faylona – Present
Fred Engle – Present
La Tasha Williams - Excused
Steven Napper – Present

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL:

David Pribulka – Secretary-Manager
Morgan Madden, Esq. – Township Solicitor
Betsy Logan – Assistant Township Manager
Alex Greenly, P.E. – Township Engineer
Douglas Knauss – Director of Parks & Recreation
Nathan Bragunier – Director of Public Works
Kathy Fry, Executive Assistant

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Harris, Pastor Earl Harris, Deepak Sharma, Charles Graves, Nupur Aggarwal, Olufemi Ogunnaike, Kendra McDowell, Michael Fure, James Short, Sharon Bass, Andrea Weikert, Jonathan Baus, Mike Gennett, Debbie Tramontin. Daniel Mills, Joseph Green, John & Sheila Heapes, and Laura Pyne

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

President Lynch asked Commissioner Pyne to lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence.

PETITIONS, COMPLAINTS, SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS:

Mike Gennett and Debbie Tramontin of 205 Montrose Street were in attendance to voice their concerns regarding truck traffic and the signs that were posted in their area after the traffic study. They noted that the signs that were posted are confusing, and trucks cut through their residential neighborhood. This makes for a very unsafe situation for the kids, dogs, bicyclists, and pedestrians in this area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hisiro moved to approve the June 8, 2023, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pyne and then unanimously approved.

Commissioner Hisiro moved to approve the June 22, 2023, Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pyne and then unanimously approved.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

1. 2023/2024 DAUPHIN COUNTY LOCAL SHARE GRANT PROGRAM - CO-SPONSORSHIP REQUEST PRESENTATIONS

David Pribulka, Township Manager reported that the fund for these grants is received from the proceeds from gaming revenue at the casino located in East Hanover Township. He noted that the County opens a small portion of the funding for these grants to contiguous and non-contiguous municipalities and to municipal and non-municipal applicants.

Martin Harris, owner of American Design Technology was in attendance to request support of the \$75,000 grant proposal he will be submitting to the County for the facility he plans to open for professional and management training. The funds if received, would be used for start up improvements of a leased building, electronic equipment, and office materials.

Pastor Earl Harris and Olufemi Ogunnaike, the Administrator of Apex Healthcare Services were in attendance to request support for a \$70,000 grant they will be submitting to the County to purchase newer used vehicles. These vehicles will assist employees who do not own their own vehicles or have access to public transportation with getting to disabled client's homes so that they may provide the assistance that they need.

Michael Fure of the Ecumenical Retirement Village was in attendance to request support for the grant application they will be submitting to the County in the amount of \$75,000. This grant, if received, will assist in the purchase of locks for their facility. The lock hardware in their buildings is approximately 25 years old and was damaged due to cleaning that had to occur during the pandemic.

James Short of the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church was in attendance to request support for the Grant application they will be submitting to the County in the amount of \$125,000. This grant, if received will be used to replace 7 air conditioning units and the sidewalk along Progress Avenue. He noted that the air conditioning units are more than 20 years old, and the refrigerant used will go out of production soon. Commissioner Hisiro noted that he believed the maximum grant amount that could be requested was \$75,000. This amount was then confirmed by Solicitor Madden.

Deepak Sharma and Nupur Aggarwal owners of the Kiddie Academy of Harrisburg were in attendance to request support in securing a \$75,000 grant from the County to purchase playground equipment, interactive projection, smart boards, disinfecting equipment, computers, laptops, and tablets.

Kendra McDowell, Director of Premier Health & Human Services was in attendance to request support for this grant from the County in the amount of \$75,000 for two new projects. The first project would help assist people with transportation to medical appointments by utilizing non-emergency transportation. The second project would create podcasts that would assist disadvantaged children with improving their reading skills.

Pastor Joseph Green of the Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church was in attendance to request support for this grant to the County in the amount of \$75,000. This grant, if received would help to offset the costs of updating the church's restrooms, roof repairs, sound and video equipment, and the paving and resealing of the parking lot.

Andrea Weikert of the HANNA Foundation was in attendance to request support for a \$75,000 grant request from the County to purchase cameras for the Susquehanna Township High School and Thomas W. Holtzman Elementary School. These cameras will assist in the security and safety of students and staff at these buildings.

Commissioner Hisiro moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the requests for co-sponsorship from non-municipal applicants for the 2023/2024 Dauphin County Local Share Grant Program. He noted that the letter from Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church would need to be updated to the correct requested amount of \$75,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Faylona and then unanimously approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Building & Grounds – No Report
2. Budget, Finance, Insurance & Pension – Commissioner Pyne had no report but did note that the audit report is still pending.
3. Public Works – No Report
4. Health & Sanitation – Commissioner Rebarchak reported that there will be one yard waste pickup this month and it will occur on July 15th.
5. Administration & Personnel – No Report
6. Police – No Report
7. Fire, EMS, EMA – Commissioner Hisiro reported that a fundraising event for EMS was held last evening at Texas Roadhouse where they received 15% of the proceeds.

Manager Pribulka noted that a Fire Study is currently underway and site visits will occur next week.

8. Recreation – Commissioner Faylona reported that the Recreation Advisory Committee met on June 20th and the Wedgewood Hills Master Plan was presented on June 27th.

9. Planning & Zoning – Commissioner Rothrock reported that the Planning Commission met on June 26th. At this meeting, a Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision Plan for 399 North 3rd Street was presented and recommended to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Six other items on the agenda were table until a later meeting.

Commissioner Rothrock also reported on the Zoning Hearing Board that occurred on July 5th. At this hearing, a special exception and variances were requested and approved for the expansion of a non-conforming use.

10. School Board – No Report

11. Authority – Vice President Napper reported that the budget and future projects were discussed at the most recent meeting.

12. Shade Tree – Commissioner Pyne reported that tree planting is slated to occur this fall. He also noted that the Shade Tree Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to July 27th.

13. Communications – No Report

14. Human Relations – Commissioner Hisiro reported that the Township will be sponsoring a table at the Pride Fest that is to be held at Soldier's Grove on July 29th from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

BIDS AND AGREEMENTS

1. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE TWO NEW DUMP BEDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Nathan Bragunier, Director of Public Works reported that the chassis of these trucks have already been purchased. This purchase would allow for the upfitting which includes dump beds, plows, and LED lighting.

Vice President Napper moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of two new dump beds from U.S. Municipal for a total amount of \$181,320. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Engle and then unanimously approved.

ACTION ON ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

1. RESOLUTION 2023-R-20 A RESOLUTION OF SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA RATIFYING A SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT WITH THE SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP POLICE ASSOCIATION TO ESTABLISH A RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE FOR NEWLY HIRED OFFICERS

Manager Pribulka reported that this recruitment incentive for newly hired police officers, if approved would provide them with payments totaling up to \$10,000 over three years. This agreement would be

retroactive to January 1, 2023, in effect for one year, and would be subject to an annual renewal by mutual agreement.

Commissioner Pyne moved that the Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution ratifying a Side Letter Agreement with the Susquehanna Township Police Association for the establishment of a recruitment incentive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Faylona and then unanimously approved.

REPORTS

1. Township Manager – Manager Pribulka gave an overview of his report to the Board of Commissioners. These highlights included the items discussed at the recent Sewer Authority, Public Works Committee, and the Pennsylvania Municipal League meetings, and the Rental Housing Survey that was recently published.

2. Public Safety/Police – No Report

3. Community and Economic Development – Assistant Manager Logan reported that the Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for July 24, 2023, has been cancelled due to lack of agenda items. She also noted that the PA Game Commission Project is the first under the new Ordinance revisions.

4. Public Works – Director Bragunier reported that the Paxton Church Road Project is going well. He also noted the start dates of the upcoming sewer extension projects.

5. Engineer – Mr. Greenly reported that the paving project agreement for Edgemont has been received and is being reviewed by the Solicitor.

6. Solicitor – No Report

7. Parks & Recreation – Director Knauss reported that week 4 of Summer Camp was just completed with an increase in registrations. He noted that the Movie in the Park has been rescheduled to July 21st and National Night Out will occur on August 1st. The Peer-to-Peer grant has been received in the amount of \$19,800 to conduct the study at the former Latshmere Pool. So far of the four requests for the study that were sent out, two have already been received.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Statement of Bills Paid
- b. Financial Security Reduction – Susquehanna Union Green Traffic Signal (\$70,000)
- c. Tree Pruning Proposal – Shutt Mill Park

Commissioner Pyne moved that the Board of Commissioners approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Faylona and then unanimously approved.

2. 2023/2024 DAUPHIN COUNTY LOCAL SHARE GRANT PROGRAM –MUNICIPAL SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS

Manager Pribulka provided the Board of Commissioners with an overview of the requests for funding in this application cycle. These items include \$150,000 for the design and evaluation of a new Progress Fire Station; \$50,000 for sidewalk installation in front of the municipal building, \$50,000 for the Phase 1 development of Wedgewood Hills Park. He noted that some local matching funds would be required if the grants are received.

Commissioner Hisiro moved that the Board of Commissioners direct the Township Manager to submit a sponsorship request letter to Dauphin County for the projects outlined in the Township Manager's memorandum dated July 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Engle and then unanimously approved.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF 5TH WARD COMMISSIONER TOM PYNE

President Lynch stated that at the Board of Commissioners Workshop on June 22nd, it was announced that Commissioner Tom Pyne would be resigning from his position as Commissioner of Ward 5. He noted that his letter of resignation has been received and will be effective July 26, 2023. He thanked Commissioner Pyne for all his work in Susquehanna Township.

Commissioner Engle very reluctantly accepted the resignation of Commissioner Pyne effective July 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Vice President Napper.

Commissioner Pyne was thanked by his fellow Commissioners for all his hard work and dedication.

The motion then passed with a unanimous vote.

President Lynch noted that there is a vacancy that needs to be advertised and letters of interest will need to be accepted for the next 10 days. This vacancy is to be posted on the Township's website. Anyone who is interested will need to write a letter of interest and be prepared to address the Board of Commissioners at their Workshop on July 27, 2023.

President Lynch then presented Commissioner Pyne with a plaque that expressed the Township's gratitude for all his years of dedication.

Commissioner Pyne thanked everyone. He noted some of the items he is most proud of that occurred during his tenure as Commissioner. These items included the installation of sidewalk on Union Deposit Road, the proposed park in Ward 5, the sewer extension to 120 residents, and all the various forms of assistance that he was able to provide to his constituents.

He also noted his gratitude to God and how grateful he is for his wife Laura.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS – No additional comments were received from the Board of Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Engle moved to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hisiro.

The motion was approved with a unanimous vote and the meeting concluded at 8:25 P.M.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Pribulka", written over a horizontal line.

David Pribulka
Secretary-Manager