



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 01, 2021

The Regular Meeting took place via an Authorized Telecommunication Device (GoToWebinar). Supervisors present included Marc Heppe, (Chair), Betsy Fadem (Vice Chair), Michael Wacey, Beth D'Antonio and Jim Oram. Also attending were Eugene Briggs (Township Manager), Dave Obzud (Chief of Police), Don Curley (Director of Public Works), Bill DeFeo (Finance Director), Sharon Norris (Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager), Andrew Rau (Township Solicitor), and Rob Schnorr (Emergency Management Coordinator).

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Heppe called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. He announced that the meeting is being recorded and made brief remarks regarding meeting protocol. Mr. Heppe stated that the Board met in Executive Session on February 24, 2021 to discuss personnel matters.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – resident Bruce Norcini recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Emergency Management Coordinator COVID-19 Update** – Mr. Schnorr gave an update on Township and County COVID-19 cases and noted numbers are going down overall in the County. He also noted the County is well positioned to administer the vaccination, but is limited by the lack of supply. Vice Chair Fadem asked if there is anything the Board and the public could do to get more vaccinations directed to Chester County. Mr. Schnorr recommended contacting our elected officials at the state level, and also the State Department of Health. Mr. Oram asked if Mr. Schnorr had heard anything from Chester County Health Department about plans for summer camps; Mr. Schnorr had no information, but offered to follow up with the County. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment.
4. **Board Motions, Presentations, and Resolutions**
  - A. **Consideration to Accept the Resignation of a Zoning Hearing Board Member** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Ms. Fadem made a motion to accept the resignation of Michael Tierney. The motion was seconded by Mrs. D'Antonio. The Board discussed the process for selecting candidates for this position. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. Mark Ward, 208 Dorset Road, commented on filling vacancies on the Authorities, Boards and Commissions (ABC's). Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0. The advertisement for the vacancy will be posted on the Township website, Facebook page and emailed to the Township's email distribution list.

**B. Consideration to appoint new members to the Historical Commission –** Mr. Oram reviewed the reasons the Historical Commission (HC) requested to add two additional members to the HC. The Historical Commission recommended to appoint Stacey Rohrbeck and Palmer Dalesandro to the Commission. Mrs. Fadem made a motion to appoint Stacey Rohrbeck to the Historical Commission to a term to expire on December 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wacey. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. D'Antonio made a motion to appoint Mr. Palmer Dalesandro to the Historical Commission to a term to expire on December 31, 2022. Mr. Wacey seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem reviewed a practice established in 2019 to allow volunteers to serve on one Township ABC. Since Mr. Dalesandro already serves on one Township Commission, it was decided he could choose between the HC and ECAC. For that reason, the motion was tabled. Mr. Oram will contact Mr. Dalesandro for his choice. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. Mark Ward commented on appointments to ABCs.

**C. Consideration to Appoint a New Member to the Parks and Recreation Board** – Mr. Wacey discussed the process for selecting the newest member of the Parks and Recreation Board (PRB). Mrs. Fadem made a motion to appoint Lisa Schwarcz to a five year term on the PRB to expire on December 31, 2025. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. Mrs. Fadem noted that Ms. Schwarcz established the Little Library in Hilltop Park. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. The motion passed 5-0.

**D. Consideration of Auditor for Easttown Township and Easttown Municipal Authority 2020 Audits** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mr. Fadem made a motion to appoint BBD, LLP to perform the 2020 Township and Municipal Authority Audit. Mr. Wacey seconded the motion. The Board complimented the Finance Work Group for their handling of this process and Mr. DeFeo's coordination. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. Mark Ward asked about the auditing firm. Mr. Heppe called for a motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**E. Consideration of Holding the 2021 Summer Camp Program** – The staff contacted neighboring townships and camp programs and came up with a proposal on how to hold a summer camp that follows the CDC guidelines for safe practices. This would require a change to the current camp program. Mr. Gluck, the long-time camp director participated in this discussion expressing that he is disappointed that we cannot hold our typical camp due to COVID. Mr. Gluck noted that to implement these guidelines would require a lot of planning that he wasn't prepared to do which is why he submitted his resignation for the 2021 season. The majority of the Board would like to offer some sort of summer camp program so the staff will continue to explore camp options and return to the BOS at their next meeting. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. Avis Yuni, 231 Waterloo Avenue, commented on camp and how to find a camp director. If camp is held, the Township will need a director so the staff will post a notice on the website, Facebook page and send an email to the distribution list announcing the camp director position.

**F. Consideration of Next Steps for the Devon Center District Zoning Amendments** – Mr. Heppe reviewed the process that led to the current draft ordinance. Directed by the Comprehensive Plan, the Task Force, the Planning Commission and now the Board of Supervisors, have all studied the Devon Center District (DCD). Mrs. Fadem noted that if drastic changes are made to the recommended draft ordinance from the Planning Commission, the achievement of the original goals of a transit-oriented development may not be reached and there may not be a need to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Wacey commented that the Township has invested a considerable amount of time and effort into this project and would like to see some return on this investment. Mrs. D’Antonio noted that although the Board may not want to make some of the larger changes, the community could support parts of this project which might allow the Township to maintain its contractual obligations. She cited the equestrian overlay and new equestrian uses as an example. Mr. Briggs noted that the horse show properties were specifically looked at by the Task Force, but at that time, the Task Force recommended making the horse show its own project. Additionally, he noted changes can be made to the zoning, but the County funding is most likely for the Devon Center.

Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mr. Oram made the motion to not move forward with the Devon Center District Zoning Amendments. Mrs. D’Antonio seconded the motion. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. Bruce Norcini, 202 Bella Vista Road, commented about the horseshow overlay. Joe Kohn, 240 Sugartown Road, commented on the components of the project and the process, developing an action plan, and securing grants. Ann Rothman, 209 Darby Road, and a member of the Planning Commission, clarified a few comments from the PC perspective, commented on the PC’s review and appreciation of the Board’s consideration and recommending the services of a land planner to tweak the ordinance. Mark Ward commented on the process. Avis Yuni commented on the good ideas that came out of the process and the Township following the Plan outlined in the Contract. Joan Bergquist, 217 Devon Boulevard, commented on this process and moving forward on some of the projects. Cheryl Harper, 214 Pheasant Run Drive commented on the Vision and adding additional design requirements into the zoning. Mr. Heppe thanked the Board and public for their positive comments and called for the vote. Mr. Wacey revised the motion to include “and to seek full or partial reimbursement for all money spent by all means necessary.” The revised motion was seconded by Mrs. D’Antonio. The Board continued the discussion with Mr. Rau offering his opinion that there is nothing that stops the Township from seeking reimbursement from the County, citing this was an intensive and lengthy process with many issues. Mr. Briggs will speak to the County and determine if anything is salvageable to meet the ordinance requirements of the current contract. Mr. Oram made a motion to table the previous motion. Mrs. Fadem seconded that motion. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

## **5. Departmental Reports**

**A. Interim Manager Report** – Mr. Briggs summarized the key elements of his report.

**B. Public Works Report** – Mr. Curley summarized the details of his report. The Board thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work removing snow and de-icing the roads during the recent storms.

## **6. Regular Township Business**

**A. Consideration of the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadem made a motion to approve the February 16, 2021 minutes. Mr. Heppe asked if the Board had any comments or prospective edits for the minutes. There were no changes to the minutes. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

**B. Consideration of the February 17, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadem made a motion to approve the February 17, 2021 minutes. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. Mr. Heppe asked if the Board had any comments or edits for the minutes. There was no changes. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

**C. Authorize the Payment of Bills: \$36,000.00 and a total of Warrants (\$36,000.00) date ending February 19, 2021** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mr. Oram made a motion to authorize the payment of a bill in the amount of \$36,000.00 and a total of warrants of \$36,000.00 for date ending February 19, 2021. Mrs. D'Antonio seconded the motion. This one item was for snow removal/deicing. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

**D. Authorize the Payment of Bills: \$605,714.52; a total of Warrants (\$446,477.29), and Payroll (\$159,137.23) dated ending March 01, 2021** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mr. Oram made a motion to authorize the payment of bills in the amount of \$605,714.52; a total of Warrants of \$446,477.29 and Payroll in the amount of \$159,137.23 for date ending March 01, 2021. Mrs. Fadem seconded the motion. Mr. DeFeo led the discussion and answered questions as the Board reviewed the bills page by page. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

## **7. Other Business**

## **8. Announcements**

Mr. Heppe made the following announcements: The Township building is open weekdays to the general public by appointment only and exclusively accommodates access by high risk members of the public between the hours of 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM.

The following virtual meetings are scheduled:

- Planning Commission Meeting, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Zoning Hearing Board Meeting, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Easttown Citizens Advisory Committee (ECAC), March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM

- Easttown Municipal Authority, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Historical Commission, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
- Board of Supervisors Meeting, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Mrs. Fadem noted that a Policy Committee Meeting will be held on March 11th at 6:30 PM.

Please visit the Township website at [www.easttown.org](http://www.easttown.org) to find information on how to view and participate in each of the meetings.

We also encourage you to visit the website for up to date information on all Township activities.

## **9. Public Comment**

Joe Kohn commented on his letter regarding the old Studebaker building and the condition of the gas station.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris  
Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager