



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 02, 2020

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

- 1. Call to Order** – Chairman Oram called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 - Mr. Oram announced that this meeting is being recorded and made brief remarks regarding the positive response of Easttown's citizens and first responders to COVID-19
 - Mr. Heppe led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Emergency Management Coordinator COVID-19 Update** – Mr. Schnorr gave an update on Township and County COVID-19 cases. On Election Day, the County will be staffing their Emergency Operation Center should any support be requested. Mr. Schnorr had no indication that any unrest was expected. The State data portal has all of the up-to-date COVID-19-related data in one place. The Township will post that link on the Township website. Mr. Schnorr reported that the schools reported two cases of COVID-19. Mrs. Fadem noted that those interested in what is happening in the schools can visit <https://www.tesd.net/dashboard>. Mr. Schnorr reminded the Board of Supervisors and the Community that the Berwyn and Paoli Fire Companies are running their fund drives and encouraged everyone to support them.

- 3. Board Motions, Presentations, and Resolutions**
 - A. Consideration of Request for Construction Escrow Release Number 1 for SD 518-1016 Newtown Road Subdivision and Land Development** – Mr. Kulakowsky explained that this subdivision was approved by the Township earlier this year and the builder is requesting an escrow release. Mr. Oram called for a motion. Mr. Wacey made a motion to approve Escrow Release #1 in the amount of \$94,938.00 for the Tiburon Subdivision, to authorize the Township Engineer to submit the approved release to the Financial Institution as defined by the Financial Security Agreement dated August 3, 2020 and to authorize future escrow release

requests for this subdivision to be approved at the staff level. Mrs. D'Antonio seconded the motion. Mr. Oram called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Oram called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Wacey discussed changing the method of authorizing future releases and Mr. Oram suggested he poll neighboring townships on their practices before bringing this back to the Board. Mrs. Fadem asked Mr. Rau to confirm the legal requirement for escrow releases.

- B. Consideration of Vision Partnership Program Grant Contract Extension** – Mr. Briggs updated the Board that he contacted Chester County as requested. Susan Elks, the Chester County Vision Partnership Program Grant Administrator stated that no additional monies are available and it was not necessary to amend the contract. Ms. Elks did make it known that the County supports the Township's ongoing efforts to conduct additional responsive public meetings. Mr. Briggs estimates the remaining cost to complete the project to be \$24,300 (from the date of the October 05, 2020 meeting). Mr. Oram called for a motion. Mrs. Fadem made a motion that the Board of Supervisors approves the Vision Partnership Program Grant Contract Addendum #1 extending the contract term by six months to June 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heppe. The Board discussed the contract. Mr. Oram called for public comment. Mr. Mark Ward, 208 Dorset Road, commented on the contract and project costs. Mr. Briggs will provide Mr. Ward with the meeting minutes from the date that the Township accepted the grant contract. Mr. Joe Kohn, 240 Sugartown Road, also commented on the contract. Mr. Rau explained the contract extension details and stated should the Board extend the contract, it wouldn't prohibit the Board from further discussing consultant fees and the contract moving forward. Mr. Oram called for the vote. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Wacey voting nay.
- C. Consideration of Township Volunteer Reappointments** – Mr. Oram contacted each Board member individually for their thoughts on the upcoming reappointments. Mrs. Fadem made a motion that for this year's reappointments, the Township will follow its traditional policy of reappointing those volunteers who have expressed an interest in serving an additional term. The Board will notify them that, beginning on January 1, 2021, the Township will follow the new guidelines for reappointment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heppe. Mr. Oram called for public comment. Mr. Mark Ward, 208 Dorset Road, commented on the most recent appointments to the Planning Commission. Mr. Michael DeFlavia, 125 Bartholomew Road, asked about Mr. Wacey's concern with regard to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Oram called for the vote. The motion passed 3-2 with Mr. Wacey and Mrs. D'Antonio voting nay.
- D. Consideration of Board of Supervisors Operating Policy #140 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda** – Mrs. Fadem explained the changes to the Policy which were recommended at the November 02, 2020, Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Wacey made a motion to accept the changes to Board of Supervisors Operating Policy #140 "Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda." The motion was seconded by Mrs. D'Antonio. Mrs. Fadem recommended that the Board of Supervisors revisit this policy in six (6) months to make sure it is working. Mr. Oram called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Oram called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

- E. **Township 2021 Preliminary Budget Presentation** – Mr. Oram announced this topic was not an Action Item and was strictly for the Board’s information. The expected outcome of the discussion is to determine the direction the Board wants to go after hearing all of the budget information. The information included a power point presentation that described the 2021 budget and projections of expenses. Discussion also included proposed projects for 2021, proposed staffing changes to the Police Department and the effects of the pandemic on the budget numbers. Mr. Oram explained that since this was not an action item, public comment might be more appropriate when there are more specifics, but would entertain any pressing questions. Mr. Oram called for public comment. There was none.

4. Departmental Reports

- A. **Interim Manager Report** – In the interest of time, the Chairman announced that the Board of Supervisors would not be going through this report tonight as they were provided a written copy. There were no questions from the Supervisors. Mr. Oram called for public comment. There was none.
- B. **Public Works Report** –. In the interest of time, the Chairman announced that the Board of Supervisors would not be going through this report tonight as they were provided a written copy. There were no questions from the Supervisors. Mr. Oram called for public comment. There was none.

5. Regular Township Business

- A. **Consideration of the November 02, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Oram called for a motion. Mr. Heppe made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Wacey seconded it. Mr. Oram asked if the Board had any comments or prospective edits for the minutes. Mrs. Fadem provided several edits and corrections. There were no additional questions or comments. Mr. Oram called for the vote with the corrections stated. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. **Authorize the Payment of Bills: \$864,842.14; a Total Warrants (\$708,077.46) October 30, 2020, Payroll (\$156,764.68) date ending November 02, 2020** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadem made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Wacey. The Board of Supervisors discussed the bills and questioned the Staff about specific expenditures. Mrs. Fadem and Mr. Heppe both recused themselves from voting on reimbursement payments made to them as part of the volunteer appreciation project. The Recusal form will be included as part of the minutes. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. Ms. Elaine Jenkins-Wacey, 1049 Beaumont Road, asked about a legal expense. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Business

Mr. Wacey brought up 3 topics he’d like to discuss in the future:

- 1) The large political sign near the Devon Horse Show.

- 2) Density Issues as discussed at the November 05, 2020 Planning Commission meeting
- 3) Sewer Project spending options

7. Announcements

Mr. Oram made the following announcements: The Township building is open weekdays to the general public by appointment only and exclusively accomodates 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, November 05, 2020 at 7:00 PM;

Easttown Citizens Advisory Committee, November 09, 2020 at 6:15 PM;

Municipal Authority, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM;

Historical Commission, November 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM;

Board of Supervisors, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Veterans Day is November 11, 2020 – the Easttown/Tredyffrin Veterans Association usually holds a small service – this year it will be done by video and will be available on the Veterans website on November 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM. It will be available on the Township’s Facebook page a little later than that.

Please visit the Township website at www.easttown.org to find information on how to view and participate in each of these meetings. Also visit the website for up-to-date information on all Township activities. Members of the public should sign up for the Emergency Alert system, Blackboard Connect, through the website. Additionally, members of the public can receive relevant, Township-related information by providing their emails to the Township at easttown@easttown.org.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Oram called for public comment. Mr. Joe Kohn had several comments including his recent letter to Mr. Rau, the previously mentioned legal expense and zoning amendments.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris
Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager