

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 3, 2017**

**PRESENT**

<b>THOMAS GALLAGHER, CHAIRPERSON</b>	}	
<b>WILLIAM OETTINGER, VICE CHAIR</b>	}	
<b>H. GEORGE LEONHAUSER, SECRETARY</b>	}	<b>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b>
<b>AMY STROUSE</b>	}	
<b>THOMAS TOSTI</b>	}	
<b>JOSEPH PIZZO, ESQ., TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR</b>	}	
<b>LARRY YOUNG, P.E., TOWNSHIP ENGINEER</b>	}	

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call.

Mr. Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Leonhauser called roll. All Supervisors were in attendance along with Township Solicitor Joseph Pizzo, Township Engineer Larry Young, Pat Duffy, Director of Building & Zoning, Brian Shapiro, Finance Director, Chief Joe Bartorilla, Scott Sadowsky, Assistant to Township Manager and interested citizens. Ms. Teoli Kuhls was not in attendance.

2. Announcements, correspondence, awards and reports.
  - a. Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – **Monday, April 17, 2017 @7:30 p.m.**
  - b. Presentation to Girl Scouts Alexandra Matlack and Jessica Raab. The Girl Scouts were unable to attend the meeting so commendations will be sent to them.
  - c. Local Government Month Proclamation - Mr. Gallagher read the proclamation into the record.
  - d. Upcoming Events:
    - Shred Day – April 8, 2017 - Oxford Valley Mall (In Front of Old Strawbridge’s – Woodbourne Entrance.) 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
    - Coffee with a Cop – April 8, 2017 at Chick fil A from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
    - Earth Day - Saturday, April 22, 2017 - Core Creek Park 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

3. Public Comment. ***Non-Agenda Items only.*** (Maximum 30 minutes)

Helene Ratner, Langhorne requested a copy of Solicitor expenses for 2016.

4. **Consent Agenda Items.**

- a. Consideration of authorizing payment of April 3, 2017 Bill List in the amount of \$809,044.11.
- b. Consideration of approving the March 20, 2017 Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.

**ACTION:** MR. LEONHAUSER MOVED TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A & B AS LISTED ABOVE. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

5. Consideration of Resolution #17-15R regarding redistricting.

Ms. Strouse said how appropriate it is that it is Local Government Month and we are talking about a resolution where local government may have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the residents of this Township to the higher levels of government at the state and federal level.

Ms. Strouse wishes that there were a way for the state and federal representatives to have conversations with constituents and questioned what the political discourse would be if they were talking to those that weren't representing their own point of view. The way the districts are drawn in Pennsylvania there are 86 percent of the legislators that face no opposition in the primaries and 57 percent face no opposition in the general election. We have a unique opportunity in Pennsylvania this year to change that and the proposed resolution encourages Harrisburg on behalf of the residents of Middletown to adopt a resolution that encourages an independent panel to do the redistricting the next time so that what we have is a situation where instead of the politician picking their voters we return to voters actually picking their representatives.

Ms. Strouse encouraged the Board to listen to the folks that have come this evening to speak about the resolution and to ultimately accept it.

**ACTION:** MS. STROUSE MOVED TO ENACT RESOLUTION #17-15R IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZEN'S COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

Mr. Tosti echoed Ms. Strouse's comments and stated that here in Pennsylvania we are one of the worst gerrymandered states in the entire country. Last year's election alone, there were 25 state senate seats that were up for election, 10 were unopposed because of the gerrymandering. In the House of Representatives there are 203 seats and there were 95 seats unopposed because of the gerrymandering. The congressional seat in the Lehigh Valley, held by Matt Cartwright starts in Dauphin County and runs across the middle of the state and ends in Easton. Mr. Tosti is not sure how Congressman Cartwright is representing the people of his district when it covers 8 counties. Pat Meehan of Delaware County runs up the eastern part of Pennsylvania and ends in Montgomery County by the Indian Valley which is another 4 counties and once again is he representing his districting or just protecting his seat.

Mr. Tosti is in full support of the proposed resolution and believes that we need to let the voters decide who is going to be representing them. Mr. Tosti recommended that other counties support this resolution as well as it is the only way that gerrymandering will end.

Andy Warren, Middletown resident stated that although he has not read the resolution before the Board this evening, he is going under the assumption that the Board of Supervisors will support Senate Bill 22 which asks for an independent commission.

Ms. Strouse clarified that the resolution being discussed this evening does not specifically call out Senate Bill 22, what it does is enshrines the principals of an independent panel without endorsing any specific legislation. It fundamentally supports the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission devoid of political motivation.

Mr. Warren went into great detail about this issue. Mr. Tosti asked Mr. Warren if the gerrymandering can only be changed constitutionally or can it be changed through the legislators without being a constitutional amendment. Mr. Warren stated that a piece of legislation passed will be challengeable far more than a constitutional amendment.

Todd Wayman, resident of Pennswood Village, provided information about districting and how it relates to the State Constitution. Mr. Wayman requested the support of the Board as the local representative body to petition the state general assembly to pass a joint resolution amending the state constitution to create an Independent Citizens Commission for redistricting for both state legislative and senatorial districts and federal congressional districts in time for the federal census in 2020.

Mr. Gallagher pointed out that the Board has already gone on record at the point of the last redistricting by enacting a resolution and called it an absolute “slap in the face” that Middletown was split into three different state assembly districts and that resolution is still on record.

Ruth Peterson, resident of Pennswood Village, expressed her concern with the gerrymandering that goes on in the state of Pennsylvania. She explained in great detail her concerns that politicians in the safe districts do not have an incentive to work across the party lines. Calls for ending the political gerrymandering had been made by Presidents Regan, Bush and Obama and our current Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

6. Consideration of authorizing the sale and disposition of obsolete/scrap vehicles.

Lisa Berkis, Public Information Officer advised that the sale of a lot of seven (7) out of service, non-roadworthy vehicles have been recommended for sale by the Township Mechanic, Tom Scott. Parts have been salvaged from these vehicles to keep other Township vehicles in service. These vehicles have reached the end of their useful life of service to the Township and are now taking up valuable space in the Public Works equipment yard.

Bid specifications were prepared, advertised and posted to secure the sale of these scrap vehicles to be sold as one lot, with a bid opening date of March 23, 2017. Notice of this public bid was duly advertised in the *Bucks County Courier Times* on March 7, 2017; proof of publication has been received.

One bid, in the amount of \$1,200 was received K & F Auto Wholesalers, Inc., Birmingham, AL. K & F Auto Wholesalers has complied with all the terms for bid submission, as outlined in the bid packet, and included a cashier's check for \$120.00 (10% of the bid amount) with their bid.

**ACTION:** MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF ONE (1) LOT OF SEVEN (7) OBSOLETE/SCRAP VEHICLES TO K & F AUTO WHOLESALERS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,200.00. MR. LEONHAUSER SECONDED.

Mr. Warren asked how many bids were received in total. Ms. Berkis stated that only one bid was received.

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

7. Consideration of purchasing police vehicles.

Chief Joe Bartorilla advised that three (3) Ford Taurus marked police vehicles are being requested and the purchase is in the 2017 Budget along with funding from the RDA Municipal Grant program. Chief Bartorilla also advised that two (2) of the vehicles were totaled in car accidents and the Township is being reimbursed by insurance companies.

Mr. Tosti said that the RDA grant was for \$168,000 and the \$128,000 was from the Capital Fund. He thought that when the budget was done, the thought was that the Township was going to get the full amount for the vehicles from the RDA grant.

Mr. Gallagher said it was budgeted for all three vehicles in the capital budget in the hopes that it would not have to be used and that the RDA grant would cover all the purchase.

Mr. Tosti said during the budget work sessions, the police vehicles were on the “wish list” and doesn’t believe that they are in the approved budget for 2017.

There was confusion about the purchase of the vehicles and after a lengthy discussion it was decided to table this agenda item to the next Public Meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

**ACTION:** MR. GALLAGHER MOVED TO TABLE THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) 2017 FORD UTILITY POLICE INTERCEPTOR AWD VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE APRIL 17, 2017 PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.

8. Other Business.

Mr. Tosti said that Saturday is Opening Day for MAA, LAA and Penndel and he wished all players and parents the best of luck for the season and to have a good time.

Mr. Tosti asked for an update on the RFP for the Healthcare Broker.

Mr. Gallagher responded that the question Mr. Tosti asked had been responded to in the February timeframe. As far as the rest of it is concerned, unless a majority of the Board is in favor of making a change. The existing broker of record remains until there is a vote to change.

Mr. Tosti said if the RFP was put out the Board should have taken action upon it and not just assuming that the current broker of record would remain. Mr. Tosti’s follow up question is that since the February deadline has past can the Board still do something.

Mr. Gallagher said the current broker of record contracted with Blue Cross this year, and the insurance broker serves at the pleasure of the Board and can be replaced at any time. If there is a majority of the Board that wishes to replace the broker of record from one of those that submitted a quote through the RFP, Mr. Gallagher would be willing to accept a vote at this time.

Mr. Tosti would like this to be an item on the next agenda and then we could see if there is a majority for one of the three brokers.

Ms. Strouse agreed that she would like to see it on the next agenda.

Mr. Gallagher to place the broker of record on the next agenda for consideration.

Mr. Tosti asked for an update on the firefighter tax credit. Mr. Tosti asked if the Board would be willing to do something other than what the state is proposing to see if we can recruit and maintain volunteers for the fire departments.

Mr. Oettinger said that before anything is done as a Board on this issue, we should reach out to all four fire departments to see what they have to say and work together.

After discussion it was decided that this will be on the next Board of Supervisors Agenda.

Ms. Strouse asked Mr. Gallagher for an update on the Recovery Home issue. Mr. Gallagher stated that this issue will be on the next Board of Supervisors Agenda.

Ms. Strouse congratulated the organizers of the "Sk8 Jam" held at Falls Township Skate Park this past Saturday; \$2,000 was raised for the rebuilding of the Middletown Skate Park. Ms. Strouse once again emphasized that if anyone has a business or knows someone that may be interested in helping with contributions for the skate park to please pass on the information.

Ms. Strouse said how pleased she was that the Board was able to do a 5-0 bipartisan passage on Resolution #17-15R Gerrymandering/redistricting.

Mr. Gallagher encouraged anyone over the age of 60 to get the shingles vaccine as it is a very painful disease.

9. Other public comment. (Only applicable if initial Public Comment period exceeds the 30 minute time limit.)

10. Adjournment.

**ACTION: MS. STROUSE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AT 8:20 P.M. MR. TOSTI SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-0.**