

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL

APRIL 13, 2020 | 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT (via iCloud - GoToMeeting

MICHAEL KSIAZEK, CHAIRPERSON	}	
AMY STROUSE, VICE CHAIRPERSON	}	
TOM TOSTI, SECRETARY	}	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ANNA PAYNE	}	
DAWN QUIRPLE	}	
STEPHANIE TEOLI KUHL, TOWNSHIP MANAGER	}	
JAMES ESPOSITO, ESQ., TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR	}	
ISAAC KESSLER, P.E., TOWNSHIP ENGINEER	}	

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

Mr. Ksiazek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Tosti called the roll and all Supervisors were in attendance along with the Township Manager, Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Solicitor, James Esposito, Township Engineer, Isaac Kessler along with several Department Directors.

2. Announcements and Special Items.

- a. Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – **Monday, May 4, 2020 @7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Esposito advised that the Board met in Executive Session on the following dates to discuss personnel matters and ongoing litigation matters: March 20, March 28 and April 9, 2020.

3. **Consent Agenda Items.**

- a. Consideration of authorizing payment of April 13, 2020 Bill List in the amount of \$1,310,769.10
- b. Consideration of approving the March 2, 2020 Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors and the March 23, 2020 Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Supervisors.
- c. Consideration of approving agreement with CSX for Woodbourne Road Quiet Zone Improvements Project.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to approve consent agenda items A thru C as listed above. Ms. Strouse seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

4. Consideration of the minor subdivision plan located at 131 N. Hawthorne Avenue, in the R-2 Residential Zoning District, TMP #22-0-13-088, S/LD #16-4.

John M. Dura, engineer represented the applicant, Thomas Brennan who was also present. Mr. Kessler advised that the project is located at 131 N. Hawthorne Avenue, in the R-2 Zoning

District. The applicant proposes to subdivide the existing lot into two lots and construct a single-family home on the new lot.

Action: Ms. Strouse moved to grant final minor subdivision and land development approval for 131 N. Hawthorne Avenue, Langhorne, S/LD #16-4, with the following conditions:

- 1. Applicant shall comply in full with all requirements of the Middletown Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and the Middletown Township Zoning Ordinance, unless relief was granted by the body having jurisdiction.*
- 2. Confirmatory deeds shall be recorded at the time of plan recordation confirming the new legal descriptions for Lots 1 and 2. The deeds shall be in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor prior to recording with the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds.*

Mr. Tosti seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

5. Consideration of enacting Ordinance #20-02 providing for a stop sign eastbound at the intersection of Four Leaf Road and Forsythia Drive East and to prohibit parking for 102 feet on East Ravine Avenue.

Mr. Sadowsky advised that the Board of Supervisors authorized advertisement of an ordinance making two changes to the traffic and vehicle regulations at their February 3, 2020 public meeting. The two changes are the creation of a stop sign on Four Leaf Road at the intersection and Forsythia Drive East and a no parking zone on East Ravine Avenue.

The proposed eastbound stop sign on Four Leaf Road will reinforce the right-of-way for vehicles traveling on Forsythia Drive East while creating consistency with other three-way intersections along the Drive.

The parking prohibition on East Ravine Avenue running 102 feet from the stop bar at Old Lincoln Highway will ensure that vehicles entering and exiting the road will have proper sight distances.

Both measures stemmed from resident concerns that were discussed at public meetings of the Citizens' Traffic Commission (CTC). Both issues have been recommended by staff, the Police Department, and traffic engineers from Traffic Planning and Design.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to enact Ordinance #20-02 providing for a stop sign eastbound at the intersection of Four Leaf Road and Forsythia Drive East and to prohibit parking for 102 feet on East Ravine Avenue. Ms. Payne seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

6. Consideration of awarding the 2020-21 Consortium Road Material Supplies Contract to Eureka Stone Quarry, Chalfont, Pa. in an amount not to exceed \$57,000.

Mr. Gartenmayer advised that the Township has been a participating member of the Bucks County Consortium for numerous years. The Public Works Department submitted an estimate on road material items to be used in the upcoming year will all items to be purchased on an as needed basis. Eureka Stone Quarry is the low bidder.

Action: Ms. Strouse moved to award the 2020-2021 Road Material Supplies Contract to Eureka Stone Quarry, Chalfont, Pa in an amount not to exceed \$57,000. Mr. Tosti seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Tosti thanked Mr. Gartenmayer for the great job he is doing scheduling crews and getting things done during this pandemic. Mr. Ksiazek echoed Mr. Tosti's sentiments.

7. Consideration of Resolution #20-14R extending the due date for Middletown Township Real Estate Taxes face period from July 1, 2020 to July 30, 2020.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls advised that the Bucks County Board of Commissioners recently extended the face period for County Real Estate Taxes from July 1 to July 30. Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that the proposed resolution would make the Township's due dates consistent with the County action. She also stated that the discount period remains the same.

Mr. Esposito clarified that the extra month of face period is an extension of the date and does not extend the amount due. The discount period ends at the end of April.

Action: Ms. Strouse moved to enact Resolution #20-14R extending the due date for Middletown Township Real Estate Taxes face period from July 1, 2020 to July 2020. Mr. Tosti seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

8. Consideration of accepting the resignation of Michael McCann from his position on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Action: Mr. Tosti accepted the resignation of Michael McCann from his position on the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Payne seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Tosti thanked Mr. McCann for his service to the Township and Mr. Ksiazek echoed his sentiment.

9. Consideration of Resolution #20-15R, authorizing execution of a Stipulation to settle Zoning Hearing Board Appeal of KTMT Stone, allowing Jeff Miller, Linda Mead, Carla Jones and Save Stone Meadows Farm to intervene in Land Development Appeal of KTMT and setting Zoning Hearing Board appeal.

Mr. Esposito provided an explanation of the proposed stipulation.

Action: Mr. Ksiazek moved to enact Resolution #20-15R authorizing execution of a Stipulation to settle Zoning Hearing Board Appeal of KTMT Stone, allowing Jeff Miller, Linda Mead, Carla Jones and Save Stone Meadows Farm to intervene in Land Development Appeal of KTMT and settling Zoning Hearing Board Appeal. Ms. Quirple seconded. Motion Carried by a vote of 5-0.

10. Emergency Management Update – Jim McGuire.

James McGuire, Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator explained the duties of the Office of Emergency Management during an emergency, emphasizing the importance of coordinating resources and communication among all emergency response agencies and following the approved Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. McGuire explained that he began tracking the COVID19 issue in late December, monitoring response in other countries. Of importance to him at the time was the fact that quarantining was part of the response plan, along with the need for overflow hospitals. Discussions were initiated in early January with different emergency management organizations within the Township along with the Township Manager. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were ordered beginning in early February.

Mr. McGuire stated that he has made staffing changes for his team to respond to the pandemic, initiating two (2) independent groups working twelve (12) hour shifts; seven (7) days a week. Briefings are held daily with emergency response agencies including hospitals where information is shared and logistics are discussed.

Alan Welsh, Deputy of Emergency Management has been working with nursing homes making sure they have the supplies they need. Also of importance are grocery stores, pharmacies, and funeral homes.

Mr. McGuire explained that the department has been able to secure supplies to build ultraviolet sterilization systems and have given one to every fire department, rescue squad station, police department and St. Mary Medical Center Emergency Room Department for the ER staff to sterilize their masks. In addition, the team has developed a process to decontaminate ambulances/rescue vehicles that have had COVID exposure. This process is saving the rescue squad approximately 45 minutes, allowing the ambulances to get back on the street as soon as possible.

Mr. McGuire thanked the Board of Supervisors for their leadership during the crisis.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Mr. McGuire for everything he and the department have been doing and being prepared and following the plan they set forth.

Mr. Tosti agreed with Mr. Ksiazek stating that the Office of Emergency Management has been doing a great job.

Ms. Quirple appreciates all of the hard work and efforts keeping the community safe.

Ms. Payne said as someone who is immune-compromised, she is very proud to be working for a township that cares so much about the community and are always ready to help.

Mr. Ksiazek advised that there is public comment:

Marc Lewis, Golf Club Drive, Langhorne asked the status of the Township's emergency squad and fire department services. He asked if the services have been impacted due to coronavirus from lack of staff or volunteers, and how are they doing with personal protective equipment.

Mr. McGuire stated that the Township is doing very well from a staffing perspective.

Mr. Lewis also asked if the County Health Department has been sharing information on positive coronavirus infection rates and info on deceased individuals at long term care facilities.

Mr. McGuire stated that the County did start to release the nursing homes that are having issues with COVID-19 patients inside the facilities on Friday of the past week. The County Health Department has the information to get out to the community.

11. COVID-19 Public Information Efforts.

Nick Valla, provided an update on the information that is available on the Township website concerning the COVID-19 epidemic. Mr. Ksiazek said that this site is a very good place to start to find information concerning COVID-19.

Mr. Tosti inquired if information concerning signup for unemployment is available to be placed on the Township website. He also stated that another important issue is the availability of unemployment for self-employed who have not been eligible in the past, but with the stimulus program are now eligible.

Police Department Update

Chief Joe Bartorilla provided an update on the 9 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Police Department. He advised that 3 of the 9 will be returning to work soon. The shortage of police in the department did not affect the coverage of the community. He said that he and the department have learned a lot through this situation and have shifted schedules around to maintain a safe community.

The Police Department has been doing a lot of business checks and are also driving through the communities to make their presence known so residents can see them offering a sense of safety.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Chief Bartorilla for his efforts during this crisis. Ms. Quirple also thanked Chief Bartorilla. Chief Bartorilla said that Officer Ryan Morrison returned to work this evening and is doing well.

Ms. Payne also thanked the Chief stating that they have been doing a great job.

12. Public Comment.

None.

13. Other Business.

Mr. Tosti thanked the Township's grocery workers who are on the front lines and are appreciated. He also gave a big shout out to the health care system because without them we would not be able to survive in this country.

Ms. Strouse also thanked all those groups of workers who are doing their best to help us get through this pandemic. She also thanked all teachers in the Neshaminy School District and appreciates the job they are doing for all children in the community.

Ms. Payne thanked all residents who are finding creative ways to interact with each other through social distancing. She said we are all in this together and we will make it through.

Ms. Quirple echoed everyone's sentiments and stated that the efforts the teachers are putting forth are greatly appreciated. She is very proud of the entire community for their efforts in social distancing.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls advised that although the Municipal Center building is closed, township operations are moving forward with employees responding to calls and emails. Each department has developed plans for continuity of service with assistance from the IT department to enable teleworking. She thanked the entire staff for their efforts working as, "one department".

Mr. Esposito thanked everyone on the front lines and reminded them to stay safe and please stay home.

Mr. Kessler remarked that the meeting had a hint of normalcy and thanked the Board and Staff for their efforts.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked the Township residents for doing something that he knows is difficult, but the Board thanks them for their efforts.

Mr. Tosti mentioned that this is the first time in his lifetime that Neshaminy High School will not have a graduation ceremony. He suggested that this is something that the Board should look into for the future.

Ms. Quirple, as the mother of a senior at Neshaminy High School, thanked Mr. Tosti for thinking of the graduating class.

14. Adjournment.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Quirple seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.