

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL

MAY 18, 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 KUHLIS, 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, and Isaac Kessler along with several Department Directors.

2. Announcements and Special Items.

- a. Next Board of Supervisors Meeting - Monday, June 15, 2020 @7:00 p.m.
- b. Proclamation: Alfonso G. Durante

Ms. Payne introduced a video that was played in honor of Mr. Durante after which Ms. Payne read the proclamation into the public record. A phone message was received from Terry Martian, a teacher at Carl Sandburg Middle School stating how lovely it was to see a former student, Anna Payne, on the meeting channel and said it was a lovely tribute to her dear friend, Al Durante.

Dawn Kelly, Principal of Carl Sandburg Middle School and a Middletown resident thanked the Township for honoring Mr. Durante. She stated that he was a role model for so many and she is proud to be a part of a township that acknowledges that kindness matters.

- c. Proclamation: Police Month

Mr. Ksiazek stated that Congress and the President of the United States have designated May 13 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which it falls as Police Week. Mr. Ksiazek read the proclamation into the public record.

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

None.

4. Consent Agenda Items.

- a. Consideration of authorizing payment of May 18, 2020 Bill List in the amount of \$1,307,226.79.
- b. Consideration of approving the May 4, 2020 Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.
- c. Consideration of enacting Resolution #20-14R Traffic Signal Approval Langhorne Yardley Road/Walnut Lane.

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

5. Consideration of authorizing advertisement of an Ordinance establishing an Early Retirement Incentive Program

Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that the proposed Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) has been developed to reduce expenditures in the General Fund.

The proposed ERIP includes the following components:

- Employee must be age 60 on June 15, 2020
- Employee must have at least 10 years of experience
- Participants may select from two options: 1) one year health insurance coverage at current level or 2) \$20,000 cash incentive
- A decision regarding participation must be made by July 13, 2020
- Retirement must take place by August 14, 2020

An ordinance amending the Non-uniformed Pension Plan is required for the establishment of the ERIP.

Ms. Teoli stated that the impact to the General Fund will be a reduction in expenditures in 2020 and 2021 for salary and benefits, based upon the number of participants in the ERIP. There are 16 employees eligible for participation. Vacancies created from the ERIP will not be filled until the COVID-19 pandemic crisis is over, with one exception. If a department's operation is jeopardized by multiple vacancies, replacements will be considered as necessary.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance establishing an Early Retirement Incentive Program for the Non-uniformed Pension Plan. Ms. Strouse seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

6. Consideration of authorizing rejection of all bids for the Woodbourne Road Quiet Zone Project

Mr. Kessler advised that the bids received have been reviewed and the required Responsible Contractor Ordinance (RCO) documentation received on March 26, 2020 for the proposed project. A total of 4 bids were received for this project. The documents provided by the low bidder at the time of request did not satisfy the Township RCO requirements; therefore, the lowest qualified bidder is Road-Con, Inc.

Mr. Kessler stated that the lowest qualified bidder, Road-Con, Inc., submitted their bid in the

amount of \$91,000. Unfortunately, this bid amount for the site work and pedestrian safety improvements added with the estimated costs of the quad-gate arm installation, for which SEPTA has recently notified the Township they will not be able to provide funding, would total a project cost well above the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of \$177,800. Therefore, in line with the Township's available budget for Quiet Zone Improvements in 2020, Remington Vernick Engineers recommends the Township reject all bids and consider opportunities for other funding sources for the feasibility of the project.

Action: *Ms. Strouse moved to authorize the rejection of all bids for the Woodbourne Road Quiet Zone Project. Mr. Tosti seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.*

7. Consideration of authorizing payments for the 2020 Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program

Ms. Teoli Kuhls said that during the 2020 Budget process, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$30,000 for the Volunteer Firefighter Incentive. As part of the program, all active volunteers will receive \$250 for their service in 2019. Volunteers are also given \$100 credit toward Parks & Recreation programming for their family. Ms. Teoli Kuhls advised that this is the second year for this program.

All four five companies and the rescue squad have provided their lists of active volunteers from 2019. Below is a list of the eligible volunteers for each entity and the corresponding payment to be made:

Parkland	-	18	\$4,500
Penndel	-	23	\$5,750
Langhorne-Middletown	-	32	\$8,000
William Penn	-	38	\$9,500
Penndel Middletown Rescue Squad	-	32	\$8,000

The total amount to be paid is \$35,750 from the Fire Protection fund for 2020.

Action: *Ms. Quirple moved to authorize the 2020 Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Response Incentive. Mr. Tosti seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.*

8. "Middletown Go" Citizen Portal and Website Presentation

Nick Valla, Management Analyst provided an in-depth presentation on the new website that will go live on Friday, May 22, 2020. Mr. Valla also presented was the "MTGo" Citizen Portal which is a way for residents to request services from the Township without having to place calls or emails.

Ms. Payne said she likes the accessibility feature of the new website.

Mr. Ksiazek congratulated Mr. Valla on a job well done. Ms. Strouse said the new website looks amazing and the MTGo is something residents have been asking for. Ms. Strouse asked if it will be easy to use a mobile device with the website. Mr. Valla provided the information for the use of a mobile device.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls pointed out that the new website was a huge team effort with Mr. Valla as the point person.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked everyone involved in the website project.

9. Other Business.

Lisa Berkis, Special Projects Manager provided a detailed report on grants that have been received for the Middletown Senior Center. To date, \$19,500 has been received for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), disinfectants and sanitizing supplies. She also advised that the Bucks County 2020 COVID-19 grant in the amount of \$25,000 is also being submitted by the Senior Center.

Ms. Berkis stated that the Middletown Senior Center is a 501C3 that accepts donations. To make a monetary donation please call the head of the Senior Center, Lydia Konopka at 215.945.2920.

Mr. Esposito advised that the Board met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting regarding a possible litigation matter. Mr. Esposito said that there is a ZHB Case on the upcoming ZHB agenda for 363 White Swan Way where the applicant is requesting a second driveway thru the rear of his property. Mr. Esposito recommended the Board send the Township Solicitor to attend the ZHB Meeting to oppose this request as it would be setting a precedent.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to send the Township Solicitor to attend the May 27, 2020 ZHB Meeting to oppose ZHB #20-82 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Strouse seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Kessler said to stay safe and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ms. Payne thanked everyone for their help with the Proclamation for Mr. Durante. She wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day weekend and to please continue to wear your mask.

Ms. Quirple wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and to continue to stay safe.

Mr. Tosti said that the Bucks County Memorial Service at the Township would have been today but because of COVID-19 was cancelled. He thanked the staff of the Fire Marshal's Office and Department of Public Works for the work that was done to coordinate the parade at St. Mary Medical Center for the front line workers. Mr. Tosti said to be safe and have a Happy Memorial Day.

Ms. Strouse wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and said it is sad that the parades are cancelled because it is a time to remember those armed forces members who have fallen.

Mr. Ksiazek wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day weekend.

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

11. Adjournment.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors public meeting at 7:45 p.m. Ms. Strouse seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.