

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

July 12, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

TOM TOSTI, Chairperson	}
DAWN QUIRPLE, Secretary	} Board of Supervisors
AMY STROUSE	}
MIKE KSIAZEK	}
STEPHANIE TEOLI KUHL, TOWNSHIP MANAGER	
JAMES J. ESPOSITO, ESQ., TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR	
LEANNA COLUBRIALE, P.E., TOWNSHIP ENGINEER	

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

Mr. Tosti called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Strouse called roll. All Supervisors were in attendance with the exception of Anna Payne who had a medical emergency. Also, in attendance were the Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Solicitor James Esposito, Engineer Leanna Colubriale and department directors.

2. Announcements and Special Items.

- a. Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – Monday, August 16, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

- b. Upcoming events:

- o Movie in the Park – Thursday, July 29th (Community Park).
- o National Night Out – Tuesday, August 3, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Municipal Center Parking lot).

- c. 2021 Earth Day Cleanup Acknowledgment

Paul Kopera, Director of Parks and Recreation, shared with the Board of Supervisors the success of this year’s Earth Day clean-up which was held on April 24, 2021. He noted that with 120 volunteers, they picked up 75 bags of trash over six different sites. He shared pictures from the day of the event.

Senator Sharif T. Street, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 3rd District, thanked the Earth Day volunteers and presented the group with a citation acknowledging the stewardship of the Middletown Township community and thanked them for their participation in honoring Earth Day this past April.

Mr. Kopera thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work with a five-dollar free ice cream chip from Dairy Delite. Mr. Tosti thanked all volunteers and Senator Street for joining the Township on Earth Day and for presenting the citation at tonight’s meeting.

d. Proclamation designating May 2020 as "Alfonso 'Al' G. Durante month

Mr. Tosti read the proclamation to the audience, which proclaimed that the month of May 2020, as "Alfonso 'Al' G. Durante month" in Middletown Township. He presented the proclamation to Mr. Durante's sister.

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

Jihad Ali, 205 Chilton Way, Fairless Hills, shared with the Board of Supervisors how one day in 2019 forever changed his life. Mr. Ali shared a message written by his wife as he woke up in the intensive care unit and does not recall what happened. He explained that he and his wife were at the Regal Oxford Valley Movie Theater when he had a heart attack. He shared how bystanders in the movie theater rushed to his side to help him. He expressed how thankful he was for the help he received from the bystanders, EMT's, and Police Officers. As a retired Philadelphia Sargent and U.S. Marine, he expressed how touched he was to have the EMT's and Police Officers by his side and made a point to visit him in the hospital.

Mr. Ali made a promise to everyone that helped him on that day, that he would share his story to the Board of Supervisors. He stated how thankful he is to each person that helped him and that he is forever united with this county because he had a second chance at life. He expressed his gratitude to Andrew Taggart; EMT, Ian Liberatore; EMT, Ryan Packer; Paramedic, Layne Shore; Paramedic, Zach Cooperman, Deputy Chief, EMT, and Middletown Township Police Officer Mary Alice Felt. Also present was Langhorne Middletown Fire Company.

Patricia Fitch, 343 Wyoming Ave, concerned about flooding on her property as both the retention basin & sewer manhole located in her neighborhood are not properly working. Patrick J. Ennis, Director of Building & Zoning, noted that Ms. Fitch's area is not currently being evaluated but the Township has received a few complaints regarding the same issues in that area. Mr. Tosti has requested the Township Engineer to perform a site visit.

4. Consent Agenda Items.

Mr. Tosti read the following consent agenda items into record:

- a. Consideration of authorizing payment of July 12, 2021 Bill List in the amount of \$1,347,400.30.
- b. Consideration of approving the June 14, 2021 Minutes of the Public Meeting of Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.
- c. Consideration of approving Change Order #2 for the Langhorne Gables Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$5,719.00 for additional driveway restoration work on Cypress Ave and Payment #5 in the amount of \$43,627.40 to CDU Stormwater Maintenance & management Systems, LLC for completed work during construction.
- d. Consideration of approving Payment #1 for the 2021 Road Paving Project in the amount of \$90,858.45 to James D. Morrissey for completed work during construction.
- e. Consideration of approving Resolution #21-22R, Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant.

Action: Mr. Ksiazek moved to approve consent agenda items A-E as listed above; seconded by Amy Strouse;

Helen Gordon, 758 Cypress Ave, was pleased to see that her driveway issue is being addressed but she concerned about the drainage easement located on her property as it is not properly working. Mr. Tosti has requested the Township Engineer to perform a site visit. Eric Gartenmayer, Public Works Superintendent, explained that there may be silt stock still in the drainage which is preventing water from flowing properly, as this is related to the Langhorne Gables drainage improvement project. Mr. Gartenmayer stated that he will make a site visit to the property.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

5. Consideration awarding the 2021-2022 fuel Consortium Contract to Papco Inc., of Aston, PA for unleaded gasoline, heating fuel and low sulfur diesel.

Eric Gartenmayer, Public Works Superintendent, works noted that the Township has been a participating member of the Bucks County Consortium for numerous years. In May 2021, we received the Bucks County Consortium Fuel Bid participation request which was completed and returned before the deadline. The bids were posted on PennBid and opened June 29, 2021. The results of those bids along with supporting documentation were forwarded to all participating townships. In the correspondence it is acknowledged that each township is required to award binds on an individual basis. He confirmed that the 2021 Budget has allocated funds for fuel costs.

Action: Mr. Tosti move to award the 2021-2022 Fuel Consortium contract to Papco Inc., of Aston, PA for unleaded gasoline with an estimated amount of \$154,537.50; Papco Inc., of Aston, PA for heating fuel with an estimated amount of \$7,664.65, on an as needed basis; and Papco Inc., of Aston, PA for low sulfur diesel with an estimated amount of \$46,278.00, second by Ms. Strouse. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

6. Parks & Recreation department update.

Paul Kopera, Director of Parks and Recreation, announced that July is P&R Month, and so it is fitting for the Parks & Recreation department update to occur in July. Mr. Kopera noted that parks are at the center of so many experiences and memories — moments that park and recreation professionals help make happen. These are places to gather with friends and family, spaces to celebrate life's special moments, spots of respite and healing, sites that connect us with essential community services, and so much more. He noted that local parks have been essential throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with many of your community members finding a new appreciation for the essential spaces we manage and vital programs we provide as a Township.

Mr. Koperka provided a slide show presentation which provided photographs of the current 2021 summer camp activities, archery, residents using the skateboard park even during the winter months, as well as programs such as dog training, Zumba, yoga outdoors and the outdoor basketball program which will begin this week.

He also provided an update on progress of Parks & Recreation construction projects such as Twin Oaks Park Lighting, the Kickwall, Upper Orchard Playground and proposed work at the Forsythia Rink. He announced upcoming Parks & Recreation events; movie in the park, scheduled for July 29th, Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park scheduled for Sept 26th and Parkland Day scheduled for October 2nd.

Mr. Koperka provided a short update on Township trails, trash and trees. He noted that the Environmental Advisory Committee planted 28 trees in Upper Orchard Park on Earth Day.

Mr. Tosti expressed his excitement for the lighting project at the Twin Oaks Park, as this will allow lighting on field that never had light before.

Ms. Strouse thanked Mr. John Lopuszanski from the Environmental Advisory Committee for participation on Earth Day. She also thanked Mr. Koperka for all that he is doing to keep the community engaged. Ms. Strouse noted that she hopes to see the return of Earth Day event at Core Creek Park next year.

7. General Fund key revenue source update.

Mega Bhandary, Finance Director, provided an update on the Township's Key Revenue Drivers for June YTD 2021 as compared to the same time in 2020 and 2018. She noted that the property taxes are on target and the earned income taxes are doing much better. She expressed that the reason the Mercantile taxes is low is due to delinquent payments, which efforts are ongoing to receive those payments.

Mr. Tosti noted that he was glad to see the amusement taxes are going back up. He did question how many businesses were affected by the pandemic? Ms. Bhandary noted that she would reach out to Berkheimer and determine that number for him.

Ms. Strouse reminded all residents that did not commute for work during the pandemic and telecommuted to make sure that their Earned Income Tax (EIT) is sent to Middletown Township. She noted that this could save residents a lot of money.

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Manager, also encouraged residents to check with their employer and complete a change of residency form, which will impact their EIT. Ms. Teoli Kuhls added that the Township will place a link on the Township website which will provide additional information to the residents about the Earned Income Tax.

8. Consideration of Planning Commission appointment.

Mr. Tosti moved to accept the resignation of Kevin Strouse from the Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Ksiazek. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Tosti moved to appoint Kieran Hastings the Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Ksiazek. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

9. Consideration of Environmental Advisory Committee appointment.

Mr. Tosti moved to appoint Kevin Deeny to the Environmental Advisory Committee; second by Ms. Strouse. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

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

11. Other Business.

James J. Esposito, Esq. noted that the Board of Supervisors had an executive session and discussed ongoing litigation & employment matters.

Dawn Quirple, reminder to all Township residents that there is essentially no place legally in the Township where fireworks can be discharged. She noted to always follow Township laws and ordinance.

Mr. Tosti noted the following updates from the June 14th Board of Supervisors meeting:

Undedicated (paper streets): Mr. Tosti noted that he had visited Mr. Hainze of 323 Elmwood Avenue and explained that the Township has over 40 undedicated "paper" streets within the Township. He explained the options to Mr. Hainze if the Township were to dedicated road and it was determined to be unaffordable for the residents.

Golf Balls from Middletown Country Club: Mr. Tosti noted that Stephanie Teoli Kuhl, Township Manager met with the Middletown Country Club staff and they provided a list of items that they are doing or plan to do to alleviate stray ball problem on hole #12. The list of items includes:

- Signs located at various points advising of player responsibility, removal of two trees and trimming of trees. This will open up fairway to redirect players tee shots, repair netting has been ordered, tee box will be moved to redirect, hole #12 has been changed from a Par 4 to a Par 5, signs are on golf carts identifying player responsibility and fairway will be narrowed by 10 feet off to redirect.

Resolution #21-20R recognizing Juneteenth as a Township Holiday:

Mr. Tosti confirmed that the Finance Department determined the total cost to be approximately \$41,000.00 as a regular pay day. He noted that this would have been the case regardless of if it was provided as a holiday or not.

Mr. Tosti thanked the Middletown Township Police Department, Bucks County Detectives and District Attorney's office for all their hard work and following through on last year's attack of a Sesame Place employee.

12. Adjournment.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors public meeting at 8:01 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Strouse. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.