

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

May 3, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Mr. Tosti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Quirple called roll. All Supervisors were in attendance along with the Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Solicitor James Esposito, Engineer Isaac Kessler and department directors.

2. Announcements and Special Items.

- a. Next Board of Supervisors Meeting - Monday, June 14, 2021 @7:00 p.m.
- b. Proclamation designating May 15, 2021 as National Police Officers' Day

Mr. Tosti read a proclamation into the record designating May 15, 2021 as National Police Officers' Day.

- c. Proclamation designating May 4, 2021 as International Firefighters' Day

Mr. Tosti read a proclamation into the record designating May 4, 2021 as International Firefighters' Day.

- d. Gerald C. Wydro, MD presentation of Stroke Awareness Month

Gerald C. Wydro, MD made a presentation reminding those in Bucks County that May is Stroke Awareness Month. Dr. Wydro provided 10 important facts that can help everyone recognize the signs of stroke.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls provided Dr. Wydro with a token of the Township's appreciation for his help in expediting employees getting COVID-19 testing at the onset of the pandemic.

Dr. Wydro graciously thanked the Board members and Ms. Teoli Kuhls and said it has been a privilege working with the Township during this difficult time of the pandemic.

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

None.

4. **Consent Agenda Items.**

- a. Consideration of authorizing payment of May 3, 2021 Bill List in the amount of \$1,021,085.
- b. Consideration of approving the April 19, 2021 Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.
- c. Consideration of approving Resolution #21-15R – Act 537 - Oxford Valley Multi-Family Redevelopment Planning Module.

Action: *Mr. Ksiazek moved to approve consent agenda items A-C as listed above; seconded by Ms. Quirple.*

Mary J. McLaughlin, 934 Hulmeville, Road, Langhorne asked for more information about Resolution #21-14R.

Mr. Ennis explained that the resolution is an amendment to the sewage treatment plans to allow Oxford Valley Multi-Family development to tie in and then the plan will go to the Department of Environmental Protection for approval.

Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

5. Consideration of authorizing the purchase of an on-site kennel for the Police Department from The Barn Raiser, LLC at a cost of \$15,500.

Chief Bartorilla thanked the Board for the recognition of May 15, 2021 as National Police Officers Day. He advised that a memorial service will be held on Monday, May 17th at the Municipal Center beginning at noon to honor the fallen police officers of Bucks County along with all police officers. He also shared that there will be a 7 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Newtown on Monday, May 17th.

Chief Bartorilla said the purchase of an on-site kennel is requested to fill a need to provide temporary housing for animals that are taken into custody by the Middletown Township Animal Control Officer and/or police officers while addressing community concerns and calls for service.

Having an on-site kennel to temporarily house a stray pet waiting to be reunited with its owner, securely house a "dangerous dog" pending a court outcome, or to house pets taken into custody due to an emergency situation, etc., would greatly assist with animal control efforts. He also stated that the kennel being located conveniently at the Police Department is beneficial to all concerned.

Three (3) quotes were received with the Police Department recommending The Barn Raiser structure in the amount of \$15,500. The structure has three (3) runs where the other

products only have two (2) runs. Chief Bartorilla said the three (3) runs are set up so that the animals do not see each other. The structure will be delivered in one piece and the finished structure will fit into the secured area where the kennel is to be located.

Mr. Tosti asked how many animals are being held at one time and how long are they housed.

Most animals are identified in the first 24 hours and are returned to their owners.

Action: *Mr. Tosti moved to authorize the purchase of an on-site kennel from The Barn Raiser, LLC in the amount of \$15,500; seconded by Ms. Strouse. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.*

6. DPW Vehicle Purchases.

- a. Consideration of authorizing purchase of Utility Truck - \$87,766 – Chapman Ford
- b. Consideration of authorizing purchase of Pick Up Truck - \$45,708- Chapman Ford
- c. Consideration of authorizing purchase of a Kaufman Landscape Trailer from H. A. DeHart & Son in the amount of \$12,680

Mr. Gartenmayer advised that the Department of Public Works researched the PA State Contract Costars list for items that would best service the Department. All proposed purchases are approved in the 2021 Budget.

Action: *Mr. Ksiazek moved to authorize the purchase of a Utility Truck - \$87,766 – Chapman Ford; a Pick Up Truck - \$45,708- Chapman Ford; and a Kaufman Landscape Trailer from H. A. DeHart & Son in the amount of \$12,680; seconded by Ms. Quirple. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.*

7. Consideration of authorizing Settlement regarding the Durham Ridge Development.

Mr. Esposito briefly explained the proposed settlement of an outstanding site improvement bond issued by Lexon Insurance Company to Middletown Township for the Durham Ridge Residential Subdivision and Land Development Project in exchange for the payment of \$163,317.25 to Middletown Township.

It is the recommendation of Mr. Esposito that the Board of Supervisors accept this settlement given the passage of time, disappearance of the original surety bond, the amount of the original bonding proposal from Lexon Insurance Company and the fact that Middletown Township completed the paving work itself, which include the paving of resident driveways which was not work that was included within the scope of the original site improvement bond.

Mr. Tosti thanked Mr. Esposito for his work in getting this handled as this issue has been ongoing since Mr. Tosti became a Board member.

Ms. Strouse thanked Mr. Tosti for keeping after this issue and pushing the Board to get the repairs completed for this neighborhood.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to authorize the Solicitor to enter into a comprehensive settlement and General Release Agreement with Lexon Insurance Company, now owned by Sampo International, for Surety Bond No. 105680, for the construction project known as the Durham Ridge, Project No. 03-19, for consideration paid from Lexon Insurance Company to Middletown Township in the amount of \$163,317.25; seconded by Ms. Strouse. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

8. Stormwater Management Presentation – Isaac Kessler, P.E.

Mr. Kessler presented the stormwater management program and explained that MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The goals of the MS4 Program are: continue to improve Township's waterways, inform the public about improvements in the Township, reduce pollution loads, monitor illicit discharge and construction violations; and manage stormwater and drainage infrastructure.

Mr. Kessler said that working as a community discharging lines to yard or storm sewer; minimizing use of pesticides; cleaning up after pets and composting are examples of stormwater management. He pointed out the importance of proper disposal of one use plastics; gloves and masks, and stated that with proper disposal pollution will be limited in the waterways.

Ms. Strouse thanked Mr. Kessler for bringing stormwater projects to the Board and for spacing them out to help residents.

Mr. Tosti asked for an update on the Langhorne Gables project.

Mr. Kessler said the overall scope of the work is being done in two phases and phase one includes the new drains and sewers along Buttonwood and Longview up to Cypress Avenue. Phase two will be replacing the culvert along the stream on Willow Avenue. The work should be completed by the end of summer.

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

10. Other Business.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls advised that the Parks & Recreation Department seeks the Boards approval to commit the Township to a 15% match on two different grants, each grant is for \$250,000. The 15% match on each grant equals \$37,500 (\$75,000 if both grants are awarded to Middletown).

The first grant called the "Twin Oaks Park Project", in the amount of \$250,000 is to mitigate the flooding at Twin Oaks Park and the second grant called the "Forsythia Trail Project", also in the amount of \$250,000, is for a trail that runs through Forsythia Crossing Park safely connecting the neighborhoods of Forsythia and Snowball Gate and bringing more foot traffic to Forsythia Crossing.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to approve Resolution #21-16R and Resolution #21-17R authorizing the submission of two grants. Ms. Quirple seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Esposito advised that the Board met in Executive Session prior to this evening's public meeting to discuss ongoing litigation matters.

Ms. Payne advised that walk-in appointments to be vaccinated are available at the County. She also stated that approximately a year ago the Township recognized Al Durante and suggested that anyone who is interested to do a random act of kindness in Mr. Durante's honor during the month of May.

Mr. Tosti said the Township will be opening the Municipal Center on June 1st from 10 to 2 for limited hours. Masks and social distancing will still be required.

Mr. Tosti advised that he attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Bob Blum. Mr. Blum achieved the rank of Eagle Scout by completing the project of refurbishing the cross on the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Tosti has invited Mr. Blum to attend the next Board of Supervisors meeting to receive public recognition.

Mr. Tosti also recognized Blake Weaver of SEPTA who introduced President Biden last week when the President rode Amtrak to Philadelphia to speak.

11. Adjournment.

Action: Ms. Strouse moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors public meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Ksiazek seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.