

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

September 20, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

TOM TOSTI, Chairperson	}
DAWN QUIRPLE, Secretary	} Board of Supervisors
AMY STROUSE (Virtually)	}
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. Supervisors Tosti, Quirple, and Ksiazek attended in person, along with the Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Solicitor James Esposito, Engineer Isaac Kessler and department directors. Supervisor Strouse attended the meeting virtually. Supervisor Payne was not able to attend the meeting.

2) Announcements and Special Items.

- a) Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – Monday, October 4, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b) Upcoming Events:
 - *Middletown Township Shred Event*
 - Saturday, September 25th – 9:00 a.m. to noon – Oxford Valley Mall
 - *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication*
 - Sunday, September 26, 2021 @ 11:30 a.m. – Veterans Park
 - *5th Annual Parkland Fest Community Day*
 - Saturday, October 2, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Firefighters’ Park

3) Public Comment. *None.*

4) Consent Agenda Items

- a) Consideration of authorizing payment of September 20, 2021 Bills List in the amount of \$571,894.16.
- b) Consideration of approving the September 7, 2021 Minutes of the Public Meeting of Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.
- c) Consideration of enacting Resolution #21-24R Towns Against Graffiti (TAG) Joint Grant Submission.
- d) Consideration of approving Payment Certificate #2 for the 2021 Road Paving Project in the amount of \$760,669.64 to James D. Morrissey for completed work, which incorporates Change Order #3 in the amount of negative \$4.50 for reduced quantities.
- e) Consideration of approving Payment Certificate #7 for the Langhorne Gables Drainage Improvement Project, in the amount of \$42,920.68 to CDU Stormwater Maintenance and Management Systems, LLC for completed work.

- f) Consideration of approving of Change Order #4 in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Langhorne Gables Drainage Improvement Project.
- g) Consideration of Resolution #21-31R authorizing application of the 2021 PECO Green Region Open Space Program.

Action: Mr. Ksiazek made a motion to approve consent agenda Items A-G as listed above; seconded by Ms. Quirple.

Helen Gordon, 758 Cypress Ave, expressed concern about the Township work that was completed to her driveway due to issues with an easement within her neighborhood. Mr. Kessler provided detail of the completed work to Ms. Gordon's driveway. Mr. Tosti requested that Ms. Gordon send pictures of the work completed work to the Board for review.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

5) Presentation of the 2021 Fire Services Study by Dynamix Consulting Group.

Mary-Ellen Harper and Stuart McCutcheon, Dynamix Consulting Group, presented an overview and findings of the 2021 Fire Services Study. Mr. McCutcheon expressed that the purpose of this study was to assess the current delivery of fire protection services to the community and offer possible changes pursuant to industry standards and best practices. He noted that the focus of this project was to evaluate the fire services in Middletown Township as a whole and that the analyses are cumulative unless there is a specific reason to differentiate by fire company.

Ms. Harper and Mr. McCutchen recommended a long-term transition to a "combination" system where paid daytime staff and volunteers are working cooperatively, as well as working toward rebuilding trust and communication between the Township and fire companies. An itemized list of recommendations to achieve both of these goals is outlined in the report, ranging from personnel/staffing matters and deployment of apparatus, to finances and training. Upon acceptance of the study, the consultants are recommending development of a strategic plan to identify and prioritize implementation of the most critical recommendations.

Mr. Tosti recognized the dedicated members of the local fire and emergency services companies that were present at the meeting. He stated that that the Township is working on improving trust and communication between the Township and the local fire and emergency departments. He also added that he is looking forward to working as a community to implement the recommendations of the consultants by bettering the services of the fire departments.

Mr. Tosti thanked Ms. Harper and Mr. McCutchen for their presentation and the work they did on the fire study.

Ms. Ksiazek questioned Ms. Harper if their recommendation was transitioning to a combination model system. Ms. Harper confirmed that would be their long-term recommendation.

Ms. Quirple questioned Ms. Harper if the Township is currently a dual model system. Ms. Harper confirmed that the Township exhibits more tendencies of the dual model than the combination model system. She noted that this is a key weakness of the Township.

Ms. Strouse asked Ms. Harper to review the specific recommendations that will help better support the Township volunteers.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Ms. Harper and Mr. McCutchen for the work that was put into the study. He explained that this study was completed to help the Township understand what we need to do better for the community and the Fire Departments.

Mr. Tosti thanked the fire service members for everything they do each day for the community.

Action: Ms. Quirple moved to accept the 2021 Fire Services Study; seconded by Mr. Ksiazek. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

6) Presentation of the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the Township Pension Funds.

Mega Bhandary, Finance Director, noted that in accordance with State Law (Act 205), the Township is required to annually certify the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for each pension plan for the following year. Ms. Bhandary noted that the MMO must be certified to the municipality's governing body by the chief administrative officer by September 30th of each year.

Ms. Bhandary stated that for 2022 the estimated minimum contribution required to the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is \$470,246 and the estimated minimum contribution requirement for the Police Pension Plan is \$3,266,198.

7) Consideration of adopting the 2021 Climate Action Plan.

Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager, reviewed that the 2021 Climate Action Plan noting that the plan was formally presented at the August 16, 2021, meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The Climate Action Plan was advertised in the Bucks County Courier Times in early September, and shared through multiple public information channels. No comments from the public have been received. With no critical concerns to address, final adoption of the CAP is recommended.

Ms. Strouse encouraged residents to review the 2021 Climate Action Plan presentation from the August 16, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting video.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to adopt the 2021 Middletown Township Climate Action Plan; seconded by Ms. Quirple. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

8) Consideration of approving the following 2022 RDA Grant Program Application Resolutions:

- Resolution #21-25R - Police Department Vehicles
- Resolution #21-26R - Public Works Vehicles
- Resolution #21-27R - Police Technology
- Resolution #21-28R - William Penn Fire Company
- Resolution #21-29R - Pennel Fire Company
- Resolution #21-30R - Pennel Middletown Emergency Squad

Mr. Ksiazek read the resolutions into the record.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls provided an overview of the 2022 RDA Grant Program Applications, noting a total of approximately \$700,000 in grant requests. She also confirmed recommending the requests be prioritized.

Mr. Tosti confirmed the priority list as mentioned by Ms. Teoli Kuhls.

Action: Ms. Ksiazek moved to adopt the Resolutions #21-25R thru #21-30R as listed above; Ms. Quirple seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

9) Consideration of appointing Jacqueline Ratner to the Planning Commission.

Action: Mr. Tosti moved to appoint to Jacqueline Ratner to the Planning Commission; seconded by Mr. Ksiazek. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

10) Other Business.

Mr. Tosti encouraged residents to attend the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication scheduled for this Sunday, September 26th starting at 11:30 a.m. at Veterans Park. Parking is at the Carl Sandburg Middle School/Albert Schweitzer Elementary School.

11) Adjournment.

Action: Mr. Ksiazek motioned to adjourn the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors at 7:50p.m. Ms. Quirple seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0.