

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY  
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM  
December 9, 2010**

The Public Meeting of the Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners was held on the above date in the Township Municipal Building located at 2900 South Pike Avenue, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

**Members attending:**

James Brown, President  
Robert Martucci, Jr., Vice President  
Norma Cusick, President Pro-Tempore  
James Seagreaves - Arrived Late  
Joanne Ackerman

**Staff attending:**

Randy Soriano, Township Manager  
Cathy Bonaskiewich, Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director  
John Andreas, Director of Public Works  
Allen Stiles, Chief of Police  
Cynthia Sopka, Director of Planning & Zoning  
John Ashley, Esquire, Township Solicitor  
David Tettermer, representative of Township Engineer, Keystone Consulting Engineers

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED**

**NOTIFICATION**

Mr. Soriano informed the attendees that all sessions of the Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners regular meetings are electronically recorded for the purpose of taking the Minutes. All public comments on agenda items would be taken prior to the vote. All public comments related to non-agenda items will be taken after the agenda has been satisfied.

Mr. Soriano announced that the Township records the meetings and archives its tapes and are available pursuant the Right-to-Know Law, if requested.

Mr. Soriano reminded everyone of the 3-minute rule and asked that everyone who wishes to speak to come to the podium, sign up, announce themselves and speak clearly in the microphone.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLES**

Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that there is an additional sewer payment to the City of Allentown in the amount of \$75,816.95. She noted that this change brings the total of the bills payable to \$472,073.81.

**Motion by Commissioner Cusick, seconded by Commissioner Martucci, to approve the list of Bills Payable for the period 11/20/2010 through 12/03/2010.**

**Roll Call:**

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN -YES  
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES-NOT PRESENT  
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI-YES  
COMMISSIONER CUSICK-YES  
COMMISSIONER BROWN-YES

**The Motion passed by 4-0**

### **MINUTES**

**November 23, 2010**

Commissioner Brown declared the November 23, 2010 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes approved as presented.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES**

**Consideration of an Ordinance amending Ch. 13, Part 2 of the Salisbury Township Code of Ordinances entitled “Cable Television Franchise” - Granting Cable Franchise Services to RCN and Service Electric Cable TV.**

Mr. Soriano noted that the Ordinance was advertised in accordance with the Township Code. Mr. Soriano commented that at the last workshop, the Board reviewed the new and revised Cable Franchise Agreement with RCN and Service Electric. Mr. Soriano noted that the biggest impact will be an increase to the Franchise Fee from 3% to 5%, the maximum allowed by law. The net result will be an approximate net increase in the General Revenue Fund of approximately \$75,000 per year. Mr. Soriano stated that since this Agreement will be in effect for ten years, the Township will realize approximately \$750,000 during the period. He strongly recommends that the Board adopts the Ordinance.

Attorney Ashley mentioned that RCN had some concerns that the Ordinance was inflexible regarding the timeline for construction. He noted that these issues could be addressed at a later time through amendments. Attorney Ashley recommended the adoption of the Ordinance.

**Motion by Commissioner Cusick, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to Ordinance amending Ch. 13, Part 2, of the Salisbury Township Code of Ordinances entitled “Cable Television Franchise” - Granting Cable Franchise Services to RCN and Service Electric Cable TV.**

**Roll Call:**

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN -YES  
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES-NOT PRESENT  
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI-YES  
COMMISSIONER CUSICK-YES  
COMMISSIONER BROWN-YES

**The Motion passed by 4-0**

**RESOLUTIONS**

None

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Appointment to the Environmental Advisory Council – Mary Stinner**

Mr. Soriano noted that this appointment is brought forth by Commissioner Ackerman. Commissioner Ackerman commented that Ms. Stinner was an ideal resident to serve on the Environmental Advisory Committee, and she provided a short synopsis of Ms. Stinner’s qualifications.

**Motion by Commissioner Ackerman, seconded by Commissioner Cusick, to appoint Mary Stinner to the Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council to serve out the term of Dr. Richard Niesenbaum, which expires at the end of 2012.**

**Roll Call:**

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN -YES  
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES-YES  
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI-YES  
COMMISSIONER CUSICK-YES  
COMMISSIONER BROWN-YES

**The Motion passed by 5-0**

Commissioner Brown acknowledged the presence of Commissioner Seagreaves, who arrived at 7:15pm and was seated.

### **MOTIONS**

#### **Consideration of a Motion to approve the revised Drop-Off Centers Schedule starting in 2011.**

Mr. Durner was present to explain the reasons for this change. Mr. Durner noted that due to low attendance, the drop-off centers would open the second half of March 2011, and the evening hours would run from May through July.

#### **Motion by Commissioner Cusick, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to approve the revised Drop-Off Centers Schedule starting in 2011.**

##### **Roll Call:**

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN -YES  
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES-YES  
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI-YES  
COMMISSIONER CUSICK-YES  
COMMISSIONER BROWN-YES

#### **The Motion passed by 5-0**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion and public comments on the proposed 2011 Budget.**

Commissioner Martucci expressed concern about the proposed purchase of the fire engine pump truck. Mr. Dave Tomcics, Eastern Salisbury Fire Department President, stated that cost of refurbishing the truck might be as high as \$400,000. He noted that if the Township decides to refurbish the current truck, it would have to be brought up to the code. Mr. Clint Ballek, Eastern Salisbury Fire Department Chief, stated that the truck has major mechanical defects, and the purchase of a new truck has been put off for two years.

It was the consensus of the Board to compare the cost of a new truck to the cost of refurbishing the current one.

Commissioner Martucci questioned if there was money allocated for the goose project at Laubach Park. Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that there is currently no money budgeted for the project.

Commissioner Ackerman stated that the residents in her Ward are requesting a Police Substation, possibly at Green Acres Park. Chief stated that the possibility does exist and may occur at no cost to the Township.

Commissioner Ackerman stated that she received phone calls from residents who are inquiring about the need for three new patrol cars and a QRS vehicle. Chief Stiles stated that the QRS vehicle is an EMS backup unit and it will be purchased at no cost to the Township residents because of a \$20,000 Grant from Lehigh Valley Hospital, as well as funding from the St. Luke's Ambulance subscriptions. He noted that the three patrol cars to be replaced have reached their limit. He also commented that Mr. Soriano and Ms. Bonaskiewich have sought out lease-purchase agreements to help lessen the cost.

Commissioner Ackerman and Commissioner Cusick expressed concerns about employee healthcare contributions and wage increases. A discussion took place about ways to cut Township costs.

Ms. Bonaskiewich commented on the Police Pension Contribution Rate. She referenced her Memo to the Board in which she recommends increasing the employee contribution rate to 1.54%. Mr. Soriano stated that between State Aid and employee contributions, the Township will not have to pay into the plan next year. Ms. Bonaskiewich noted that the Board has to pass a Resolution at the next meeting. Commissioner Brown commented that this rate does not have to be negotiated. He also noted that before last year, there was no contribution made by employees.

### **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. Daniel Mikuta of 2942 Fairfield Drive North spoke about Lindberg Park. He suggested that the basketball courts be turned into half courts in order to alleviate some of the traffic at the park. Mr. Mikuta also suggested that the parks should be reserved for Township residents only. Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Cusick commented that they are public parks, not Township parks.

Mr. Mikuta presented photographs of some maintenance issues at the park. He requested that the downed cables be reinstalled in order to block cars from getting into the park. Mr. Andreas responded that the cables are down because vandals drove through them as well as the chain link fence. He stated that the Public Works Department wants to install guardrails instead of cables. Mr. Soriano stated that the Board should look at the overall long-term development of the parks.

Commissioner Martucci stated that he received a phone call from a resident who was unhappy about the way her leaf pick-up complaint was handled. Mr. Andreas explained the leaf pick-up schedule by saying that they start in the East or West side of the Township, alternating years, and go in that direction until it is completed. He noted that there are still sporadic leaf pick-ups occurring in the Township.

Commissioner Cusick stated that she received an email from a resident who questioned the need for the Public Works Department to have to work on Saturdays to pick-up leaves. Mr. Andreas stated that during every leaf season, they try to work a total of four Saturdays from 8:00am – 1:00pm in order to complete leaf pick-up as soon as possible.

Commissioner Brown commended the Public Works Department on their leaf collection efforts.

Commissioner Cusick stated that there is an opening in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward for a resident to be a part of the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Chief Stiles stated that the Police Department's Community Policing Grant through Lehigh County has been renewed for 2011. He noted that the Grant helps pay for an officer's salary on the East side. Chief also commented that they are getting settled in their new building and he hopes to have an Open House in January.

Mr. Soriano stated that the Township has received a Grant from Lehigh County for the revision of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Cusick made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Martucci. The time was 9:10 p.m.