

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 23, 2017
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM**

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Brown asked everyone to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a short period of silence and reflection.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Brown announced that the Board held Executive Sessions on March 18th and March 23rd to discuss personnel matters.

Commissioner Brown turned the proceedings over to Ms. Cathy Bonaskiewich, Acting Township Manager.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

James Brown, President
Robert Martucci, Jr., Vice-President
Debra Brinton, President Pro-Tempore
James Seagreaves
Joanne Ackerman

Staff Present:

Randy Soriano, Township Manager – EXCUSED
Cathy Bonaskiewich, Acting Township Manager/Finance Director
John Andreas, Director of Public Works
Allen Stiles, Chief of Police
Cynthia Sopka, Director of Planning & Zoning
Sandy Nicolo, Code Enforcement Officer
John Ashley, Esquire, Township Solicitor
David Tettermer, rep of Keystone Consulting Engineers, Township Engineer
Genny Baillie, Recreation Director

NOTIFICATION

Ms. Bonaskiewich informed the attendees that all sessions of the Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners regular meetings are recorded electronically for the purpose of taking the Minutes. All public comments on agenda items will be taken prior to the vote. All public comments related to non-agenda items will be taken after the agenda has been satisfied. Ms. Bonaskiewich announced that the Township records the meetings and archives its tapes and records are available pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law, if requested.

Ms. Bonaskiewich reminded everyone of the three-minute rule and asked that anyone who wishes to speak come to the podium, sign in, announce oneself, and speak clearly into the microphone. She added that the speaker can choose not to list his/her address; however, it is preferred that the speaker announces if he or she is a Township resident. Ms. Bonaskiewich noted that if a resident does not divulge his or her address, it may impair the Township in administrative follow-ups on a particular issue.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Martucci, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to approve the unaudited Financial Reports for the period ending February 28, 2017, and the list of Bills Payable for the period 3/4/2017-3/17/2017, broken down as follows:

\$173,902.66 = GENERAL
\$241,906.46 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$80,172.67 = WATER
\$38,313.10 = SEWER
\$120.47 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$14,762.69 = HIGHWAY AID
\$550,178.05 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES
COMMISSIONER BROWN – YES

The Motion passed by 5-0.

MINUTES

March 9, 2017

Commissioner Brown declared the Minutes of March 9, 2017 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Shade Tree Appeal Hearing – 2749 Andrea Drive.

Ms. Bonaskiewich turned over the proceedings to Attorney Ashley.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Stephanie Schwab of 2749 Andrea Drive were present to testify.

Mr. Nicolo stated that after researching the Andrea Drive area for downed shade trees, he noticed that a shade tree was missing at 2749 Andrea Drive. He stated that he issued a letter to the homeowner notifying them of the missing tree and the need to replant it or appeal to the Board. Mr. Nicolo presented the Board with a picture showing a stump of a tree. He noted that he believes the current homeowners moved in after the tree was removed so this case could set a precedent for how the Board will handle similar cases.

Mrs. Stephanie Schwab stated that they purchased the property in 2011. She provided the Board with a copy of her settlement statement as well as a picture from the home listing which shows the tree was not there.

Mrs. Schwab noted that there are overhead power lines and a mature tree would impede upon and she also expressed concerns about the financial burden of replanting a shade tree. Mr. Nicolo stated that he is willing to work with the residents on the size of the tree.

Commissioner Martucci commented that in speaking with Attorney Ashley, if the shade trees were in the original land development plan, the Township has a legal right to expect the homeowner to replant.

Commissioner Martucci recommended that Mr. Nicolo research the subdivision plan for the property. Mr. Nicolo stated that because the development is so old, he was unable to find certain plan phases in the Township's record; however even though he could not find the plan, the Shade Tree Ordinance covers any tree within the Township right-of-way.

Mr. Dave Tettermer stated that street trees would not be on the recorded plan, but on the secondary plan. Homeowners would be required to plant street trees or get a deferral. He commented that it appears the tree was required since the picture shows a stump.

Motion by Commissioner Martucci, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to GRANT the waiver request by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schwab for the replanting of a Shade Tree at 2749 Andrea Drive.

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – NO
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – NO
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES

COMMISSIONER BROWN – NO

The Motion was denied 3-2.

SYA Request for a Temporary Batting Cage at Franko Park.

Mrs. Bonaskiewich stated that the Salisbury Youth Association has requested the issue be tabled for a future meeting.

A discussion ensued between Ms. Genny Baillie and Mr. Joel Schware (SYA) regarding the location of the batting cage.

The Board requested that SYA and the Recreation Committee work together to determine an agreeable location for the batting cage prior to coming back to the Board for approval.

Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

Ms. Bonaskiewich explained that the Board must take formal action on the snow emergency that was declared on March 14th. She noted that the declaration will be in place in case there are any residual effects from the snow storm.

Motion by Commissioner Brinton, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to approve the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the snow event on March 14th, 2017.

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES
COMMISSIONER BROWN – YES

The Motion passed by 5-0

Review of Township Manager’s Employment Status.

Motion by Commissioner Seagreaves, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to accept the early retirement request of Mr. Randy Soriano, subject to the terms encompassed in an agreement to be executed.

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES

COMMISSIONER BROWN – YES

The Motion passed by 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Proclaiming April 2017 as Volunteer Month.

Ms. Bonaskiewich commented that the Proclamation is in anticipation of the bi-annual Volunteer Recognition Awards on April 20th, 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Seagreaves, to proclaim April 2017 as Volunteer Month.

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES
COMMISSIONER BROWN – YES

The Motion passed by 5-0

Rename the Community Garden at Franko Farm in honor of Charles J. Durner, Jr.

Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that the Resolution would rename the Community Garden at Franko Farm in honor of Mr. Charles J. Durner, Jr. who passed away in January 2017. She commented that Mr. Durner served the Township and Franko Farm for many years, and a plaque and dedication ceremony will take place later this spring/summer.

Motion by Commissioner Martucci, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to rename the Community Garden at Franko Farm in honor of Charles J. Durner, Jr. and hold a dedication ceremony at a later date.

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES
COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES
COMMISSIONER BROWN – YES

The Motion passed by 5-0

ORDINANCES

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Adam Al-Khal, deputy Fire Chief of WSFD, provided the Board with an update of the fire company. He also announced that there will be an upcoming community event at the fire station allowing the public to meet the firefighters.

Commissioner Martucci commended the Public Works Department on their snow plowing efforts during the snow storm on March 14th. Commissioner Brown brought forth a letter from the Emergency Management Coordinator also thanking the Public Works Department for their snow plowing efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ackerman made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Brinton. The time was 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Bonaskiewich
Acting Township Secretary

These constitute the official minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on March 23, 2017.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____