

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 4, 2014
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 turned the proceedings over to Randy Soriano, Township Manager.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

NOTIFICATION

Mr. Soriano 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.

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

Mr. Soriano 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. Mr. Soriano added that the speaker can choose not to list his/her address; however, it is preferred that the speaker announce if he or she is a Township resident. He noted that if a resident does not divulge his or her address, it will impair the Township administrative follow-ups on a particular issue.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT AND LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Mr. Soriano presented the unaudited Financial Report and the list of Bills Payable.

Motion by Commissioner Ackerman, seconded by Commissioner Martucci, to approve the unaudited Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2014 and the list of Bills Payable for the periods 11/1/2014-11/14/2014 and 11/15/2014-11/26/2014, broken down as follows:

11/1/2014-11/14/2014

\$338,115.01 = GENERAL

\$7,225.25 = FIRE

\$0 = LIBRARY

\$57,486.76 = WATER

\$33,003.55 = SEWER

\$620.00 = REFUSE & RECYCLING

\$18,382.54 = HIGHWAY AID

\$44,000.00 = SUBDIVISION & ESCROW

\$498,833.11 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

11/15/2014-11/26/2014

\$46,509.29 = GENERAL

\$5,838.68 = FIRE

\$17.86 = LIBRARY

\$3,456.86 = WATER

\$43,477.76 = SEWER

\$126,682.79 = REFUSE & RECYCLING

\$100.14 = HIGHWAY AID

\$226,083.38 = 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

November 6, 2014 and November 13, 2014

Commissioner Brown noted a correction on Page 1 and Mr. Tettemer noted a correction on Page 6 from the Minutes of November 13th.

Commissioner Brown declared the Minutes of November 6, 2014 accepted as presented and the Minutes of November 13, 2014 approved with corrections.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 12-2014-592 – Establishing a 25 mph maximum speed limit on Lindberg Avenue, from South 24th Street to South Cedar Crest Boulevard.

Attorney Ashley questioned the statutory requirements for speed limits because the Pennsylvania Statutes provide that this would be a 35 mph speed limit zone. Chief Stiles stated that First Class Townships are permitted by PA Statutes to lower the speed limits to 25 mph in residential areas on Township roads. Attorney Ashley commented that the speed study provided by Chief Stiles indicated that 85% of the motorists travel six miles per hour under the speed limit in the area so he inquired as to why the Department feels it necessary to reduce the speed limit. Chief Stiles responded that the Police Department would then be able to enforce the 25 mph.

Attorney Ashley commented that he believes the traffic study does not support changing the speed limit and, in addition, there was no engineering study provided as required by the statute. He explained that are certain requirements that must be met in order to change the speed limit, and the information provided does not meet the criteria.

Commissioner Brinton opined that it might make sense to lower the speed limit because it is in the area of Lindberg Park.

Mr. Soriano stated that he does not believe an engineering study is necessary because Lindberg Avenue is in a residential area where the speed limit would default to 25 mph.

Commissioner Martucci inquired as to who would do the engineering study. Mr. Tettemer replied that he is qualified as a traffic engineer.

Mr. Soriano commented that a letter should be sent to PennDOT for further clarification.

It was the consensus of the Board to table the Ordinance pending clarification on PennDOT requirements.

Motion by Commissioner Martucci, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to table Ordinance 12-2014-592 upon further review by PennDOT, the Township Solicitor and the Township Engineer, if necessary.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

Ordinance No. 12-2014-591 – Establishing a 25 mph maximum speed limit on 33rd Street, from W. Emmaus Avenue to Lehigh Street.

It was the consensus of the Board to table the Ordinance pending clarification on PennDOT requirements.

Motion by Commissioner Martucci, seconded by Commissioner Ackerman, to table Ordinance 12-2014-591 upon further review by PennDOT, the Township Solicitor and the Township Engineer, if necessary.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

MOTIONS

Motion to exonerate the LC Tax Claim Bureau from collection of delinquent taxes – Property located at 1414 E. Susquehanna Street, Lot 27, in the amount of \$13.64.

Mr. Soriano stated that the Township received a letter from the Tax Claim Bureau requesting that the Township exonerate them from collecting delinquent taxes for the property at 1414 E. Susquehanna Street, lot 27. He noted that the mobile home was removed from the site. The total amount to exonerate is \$13.64.

Motion by Commissioner Ackerman, seconded by Commissioner Seagreaves, to exonerate the Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau from collection of delinquent taxes from 1414 E. Susquehanna Street, Lot 27, in the amount of \$13.64, and authorize the Township Manager to sign documents effectuating the Motion.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Soriano commented that the trash and recycling bids are due on December 5th. He noted that there are 12 options, such as the current twice a week pick-up versus once a week and other combinations of automated and manual schedules. Mr. Soriano is hopeful that will be able to recommend a new contract by the next Board meeting on December 18th.

Mr. Soriano stated the State changed its tax collection laws, which now requires a tax collector to have certain minimum qualifications before being elected. He noted that the current tax collector in place will be grandfathered, but will not be grandfathered from the six credits they are now required to earn each year to continue in that position. He stated that the Act also requires the current tax collector to appoint a deputy tax collector, but that person must be approved by the taxing jurisdiction.

Mr. Soriano commended the Workplace Safety Committee for providing a safe workplace environment for the Township employees, and he noted that the Committee was once again certified by Pennsylvania Labor & Industry. He explained that their purpose is to recommend to management certain areas, equipment, etc. in which the Township needs to improve. Mr. Soriano also noted that the Township receives a five percent discount on its insurance policy for having the Committee in place.

Mr. Soriano announced that four applicants were chosen for the available Public Works positions. He stated that one chosen applicant is a woman. He commented that the candidates are in the process of CDL background checks and criminal and medical clearances.

Mr. Soriano announced that the Township is in receipt of a new Pennsylvania State Flag courtesy of Senator Boscola.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Martucci thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts with the leaf collection.

Commissioner Ackerman inquired about Police Officers wearing body cameras and applying for grants to get those cameras. Chief Stiles commented that he acquired a body camera at a Police Expo and is currently testing its use with various officers. He noted that he believes the cameras protect both the public and the officers, but their use depends on recommendations by the International Association Chiefs of Police so that the laws for their usage are the same across the country. Chief Stiles also commented that the Department will try to obtain any grants that would be available. Sergeant Sabo expressed concerns about the storage of the data.

Commissioner Seagreaves announced that Eastern Salisbury Fire Department will hold its annual Santa Run on December 20th.

The Board thanked Ms. Boanskiewich for her memo which explains the information in the Financial Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ackerman made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Brinton. The time was 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Soriano
Secretary

These constitute the official minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on December 4, 2014.

Approved and certified on this date:

Randy Soriano

Date: _____

SEAL