

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 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 will hold an Executive Session after the Workshop 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 – EXCUSED
Sandy Nicolo, Code Enforcement Officer
John Ashley, Esquire, Township Solicitor
David Tettemer, rep of Keystone Consulting Engineers, Township Engineer

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 Ackerman, seconded by Commissioner Martucci, to approve the list of Bills Payable for the period 1/21/2017-2/3/2017 and 2/4/2017-2/17/2017, broken down as follows:

1/21/2017-2/3/2017:

\$71,129.68 = GENERAL

\$24,883.75 = FIRE

\$0 = LIBRARY

\$5,655.37 = WATER

\$180,858.80 = SEWER

\$88,240.27 = REFUSE & RECYCLING

\$14,596.73 = HIGHWAY AID

\$385,364.60 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

2/4/2017-2/17/2017:

\$163,707.76 = GENERAL

\$2,039.12 = FIRE

\$0 = LIBRARY

\$13,361.20 = WATER

\$20,915.37 = SEWER

\$310.63 = REFUSE & RECYCLING

\$13,096.28 = HIGHWAY AID

\$6,419.79 = ESCROW RELEASE

\$219,539.52 = 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.

The approval of the Financial Report was tabled until the next meeting on March 9, 2017.

MINUTES

January 26, 2017

Commissioner Brown declared the Minutes of January 26, 2017 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

Police Pension Plan Ordinance Revision.

Ms. Bonaskiewich noted that the revision is amending the definition of “compensation.” She explained that the Police are now eligible to be covered under the Township’s cafeteria plan and eligible to receive compensation for waiving health insurance coverage. That amount of compensation they would receive is not considered compensation for pension purposes, thereby necessitating the change in the Ordinance.

Motion by Commissioner Martucci, seconded by Commissioner Seagreaves, to adopt Ordinance No. 02-2017-610.

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

Ms. Bonaskiewich turned the proceedings over to Attorney John Ashley, Township Solicitor.

Shade Tree Appeal Hearing - 2723 Kingsbridge Lane

Ms. Ann Marie Sarubin of 2723 Kingsbridge Lane was present to address the Board.

Mr. Sandy Nicolo, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that he sent a notice to the residents about the missing shade tree on December 6, 2016. He stated that there is an evergreen tree planted where a street tree was previously located. After reviewing the records, he found that no permit existed for the removal of the street tree.

Ms. Sarubin stated that the street tree died and she did not know about the permit, so she took the dead tree down and replaced it with an evergreen tree and perennial bed. She commented that the only way to replace the street tree would be to remove the evergreen tree and the perennial. Ms. Sarubin requested to leave the vegetation in place.

Commission Martucci inquired if she has documentation that the tree died. Ms. Sarubin responded that she felt she did not need documentation to say it was dead.

Mr. Nicolo stated that a lot of trees in the Buckingham development had died, and after having an official from Penn State evaluate the situation, they found that the developer had never planted the trees correctly.

Commissioner Brown stated that after looking at the picture, he does not have a problem keeping the tree as it currently exists.

Commissioner Brinton inquired as to how the Township can inform new owners about the Shade Tree Ordinance. Mr. Nicolo commented that the Township is developing a resale/rental inspection program and it is something that can be addressed before a new owner occupies the home.

Motion by Commissioner Brinton, seconded by Commissioner Brown, to GRANT a waiver to replant a street tree in front of 2723 Kingsbridge Lane because of an existing evergreen tree.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0

Shade Tree Appeal Hearing – 1827 Piccadilly Circle

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Eleanor Urban were present to address the Board.

Mrs. Urban stated that the tree was struck by lightning in 2009 and was taken down. Mr. Urban stated that the stump is still in the ground. Mrs. Urban stated that they do not want to replace the tree because of its location to the driveway and the existing root system.

Commissioner Seagreaves asked Mr. Nicolo if he observed any conditions at the property that would prohibit a tree being planted. Mr. Nicolo stated that the tree would not have been placed in the same spot so he believes there is room on the property.

A discussion ensued about where to plant a new tree. Mrs. Urban expressed concerns about underground utility lines.

Motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Martucci, to table the waiver request until March 9, 2017 to allow time for a PA One Call to determine the location of the underground utilities.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0

Shade Tree Appeal Hearing – 1180 Meadowbrook Circle West

Mr. Richard Orloski was present to address the Board.

Mr. Nicolo stated that while doing his pictometry imaging research of the property, he noticed that three street trees were on the property in 2007, but all three were down in 2015. Currently, two of the three have been replanted with one still missing.

Mr. Orloski stated that the trees were taken down by a professional because they were dead. He stated that instead of replanting a tree where the missing one is located, he installed native plants. Mr. Orloski commented that he went to a professional landscaper who told him a tree would not survive in the space.

Motion by Commissioner Brinton, seconded by Commissioner Seagreaves, to GRANT a waiver to replant a street tree in front of 1180 Meadowbrook Circle West due to existing native plants.

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES

COMMISSIONER MARTUCCI – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES
COMMISSIONER BROWN – YES

The Motion passed by 5-0

Consideration of Extension to Franko Farm Lease Agreement Tenant Vacation Deadline.

Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that due to the unfortunate and untimely passing of Mr. Charles Durner, Section 2h of the Franko Farm Lease Agreement is now applicable. She stated that the Agreement gives a three-month time period to vacate the premises, unless extended by the owner.

Commissioner Brown stated that it is the consensus of the Board to extend the vacation deadline.

Mrs. Durner's daughter requested the deadline to be extended to when the lease would have originally expired in November 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Martucci, to extend the Franko Farm Lease Agreement Tenant Vacation Deadline to November 30, 2017.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Dale Stephens of 2310 S. Dauphin Street suggested making Franko Farm a historical building and having Valentine Durner act as the curator.

Mr. Nicolo stated that he finalized the MS4 progress report and sent it to DEP for review.

Chief Stiles stated that on Saturday, March 25, 2017, the Police Department will be participating in a charity basketball game against SYA high school students at the Salisbury Township High School. He noted that it is a fundraising event for Project Lifesaver and National Night Out (August 1, 2017) with several different activities taking place from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Brown announced that he will not be running for reelection at the end of his term, January 1, 2018. He commented that he will be supporting Mr. Rodney Conn to take his place as the 4th Ward representative.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Martucci made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Brinton. The time was 8:19 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 February 23, 2017.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL