

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 11, 2020
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM**

**SPECIAL NOTIFICATION - This public meeting of the Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners was held online using the Zoom virtual meeting platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing guidelines.*

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Debra Brinton, President
Rodney Conn, Vice-President
James Seagreaves, President Pro-Tempore
Heather Lipkin

Staff Present:

Cathy Bonaskiewich, Township Manager
Sandy Nicolo, Assistant Township Manager/Code Enforcement Director/MS4 Coordinator
Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director
John Andreas, Director of Public Works
Kevin Soberick, Chief of Police
Kerry Rabold, Community Development
John Ashley, Esquire, representative of Davison & McCarthy, Township Solicitor
David Tetterer, representative of Keystone Consulting Engineers, Township Engineer

NOTIFICATION

Ms. Bonaskiewich welcomed the attendees to the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for May 28, 2020. She noted that the meeting is being held online using the Zoom virtual meeting platform due to the current COVID-19 conditions and with respect to social distancing and public gathering guidelines. Ms. Bonaskiewich commented that the meeting is being recorded electronically for the purpose of taking the Minutes and asked that attendees keep background noise to a minimum. She stated that if anyone would like to comment on a particular agenda item or during courtesy of the floor, he/she should unmute his/herself and use the hand raise button. All public comments on agenda items will be taken prior to the vote and all public comments related to non-agenda items will be taken after the agenda has been satisfied. Ms. Bonaskiewich requested speakers to please announce his/her name and address.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Seagreaves, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to approve the list of Bills Payable for the period 5/23/2020-6/5/2020, broken down as follows:

\$77,268.28 = GENERAL
\$691.06 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$178,068.94 = WATER
\$1,780.25 = SEWER
\$107,278.38= REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$10,643.88 = HIGHWAY AID
\$175,965.40 = CAPITAL GENERAL
\$551,696.19 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

Roll Call:

COMMISSIONER LIPKIN – YES
COMMISSIONER SEAGREAVES – YES
COMMISSIONER CONN – YES
COMMISSIONER BRINTON – YES

The Motion passed by 4-0.

MINUTES

May 28, 2020

Commissioner Brinton declared the Minutes of May 28, 2020 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

MOTIONS

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Lipkin thanked the Police Department for their presence in her neighborhood.

Commissioner Brinton requested that the Department of Public Works address a pot hole at the corner of Cypress Avenue and E. Wayne Avenue.

Commissioner Brinton brought forth concerns from neighbors about a property on E. Wayne Avenue with large, overgrown trees and an inground pool with no viable fence or a permanent cover. Mr. Nicolo stated that the resident has been issued two citations and fined, but noted that since the resident has time to respond, it is a matter of waiting to hear back from the court. He reiterated that Code Enforcement is working on it and they will see it through.

Commissioner Brinton inquired about the rights of homeowners who experience overgrown trees/shrubs on their property from a neighboring property. Mr. Nicolo stated that residents can reach out to the neighbor and offer to trim them, but it is ultimately a private matter between neighbors. He noted that if it looks like a dangerous situation, the Township will address it.

Mr. Nicolo commented that it is early in the enforcement season and the Township has already spent almost \$10,000 in cutting grass and cleaning up properties.

Mr. Andreas stated that the Drop-off Centers are up and running with the Monday through Friday schedule and they have also added Saturdays and evening hours this month. He noted that they are still developing a plan for the month of July, but will post the schedule online when it is completed.

Ms. Bonaskiewich announced that she is hopeful the appointment of the 5th Ward Commissioner can take place at the next regular meeting on June 25th. She stated that it has been difficult trying to schedule in-person interviews, so she is planning to send the candidates questionnaires to be completed and returned prior to the meeting. Ms. Bonaskiewich noted that the Board can then review the questionnaire, along with the applications and resumes, and can reach out to the individuals directly, if needed.

Commissioner Brinton suggested appointing two people to the Vacancy Board; the regular member and an alternate.

Commissioner Brinton announced that there will be an Executive Session held after the Workshop to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Mr. John Kelly, trustee of Western Salisbury Fire Department, made a clarification to the Minutes from the Board meeting of May 28th. He stated that the Minutes contained language on page 5 that incorrectly mentioned the Swain School owns the land on which the fire station sits. Mr. Kelly commented that the land and the buildings are owned by Western Salisbury Fire Department, but the deed contains a reverter clause stating, in part, that the building must be used as a fire company or to store fire equipment, or the land reverts back to the Swain School.

Ms. Shirl Desch stated that she rents a store at the South Mall and asked if there is anything the Board can do to open at the mall. She noted that the mall owners are abiding by the Governor's

orders that malls are classified as entertainment so they are unable to open until the County hits the “green phase” of reopening. The Board commented that they do not have veto power and must also abide by the Governor’s orders.

Ms. Desch also commented that her business receives deliveries at the back of the mall; however, the Fire Inspectors recently painted the entire area yellow and have been giving the vendors tickets when loading and unloading merchandise. Mr. Nicolo stated that the Township does fire safety inspections for commercial property, but he will follow-up with Mr. Dustin Grow, the Township’s Fire Services Liaison, to see what triggered the change.

Mr. Donald Didra of 2931 Edgemont Drive thanked the Township for cutting the weeds in the pollinator meadow at Lindberg Park.

Mr. Kevin Hosten questioned a grading permit issue for his property at 1239 Voortman Avenue. A brief discussion ensued before Attorney Ashley expressed concerns over Mr. Hosten’s threats of litigation against the Township, and advised the Board not to discuss the matter at a public meeting. Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that she will follow-up by forwarding the email correspondence from Mr. Hosten to the Board for further consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lipkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Conn. The time was 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Bonaskiewich
Township Secretary

These constitute the official minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on June 11, 2020.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL