

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 24, 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 announced that an Executive Session will be held after the Workshop to discuss real estate and litigation matters, as well as contract negotiations.

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
Alok Patnaik

Staff Present:

Cathy Bonaskiewich, Township Manager
Sandy Nicolo, Assistant Township Manager/Code Enforcement Director/MS4 Coordinator
Dustin Grow, Fire Services Director
Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director
John Andreas, Director of Public Works – EXCUSED
Kevin Soberick, Chief of Police
John Ashley, Esquire, representative of Davison & McCarthy, Township Solicitor
David Tettermer, representative of Keystone Consulting Engineers, Township Engineer
Genny Baillie, Recreation Director

NOTIFICATION

Ms. Bonaskiewich welcomed the attendees to the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for September 10, 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 themselves

muted to 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 for the purpose of taking down the Minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Seagreaves, to approve the unaudited Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2020 and the list of Bills Payable for the period 9/5/2020-9/18/2020, broken down as follows:

\$138,027.96 = GENERAL
\$1,710.52 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$223,789.55 = WATER
\$12,926.02 = SEWER
\$12,219.09 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$195.56 = HIGHWAY AID
\$6,658.40 = CAPITAL GENERAL
\$397,527.10 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

MINUTES

September 10, 2020.

Ms. Brinton declared the Minutes from September 10, 2020 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

MOTIONS

Motion to Certify the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for both Police and Non-Uniformed Defined-Benefit Pension Plans.

Ms. Bonaskiewich explained that the Motion is to simply acknowledge that the Board has received and reviewed the MMO information for 2021. She commented that there is one last-minute addition of the new Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Pension Plan. Ms. Bonaskiewich noted the amounts as follows: MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit Plan is \$823,217; MMO for the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan is \$17,200; and the MMO for the Police Pension plan is \$405,648.

Commissioner Brinton commented that the total amount is over a million dollars.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to certify the 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Police and Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit Pension Plan and the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Lipkin inquired about speed limit signs on Weil Street. Chief Soberick noted that Weil Street is not listed in the Township Ordinances as 25mph, so the street would have to be posted at 35mph. He commented that if a change to the speed limit on that road would be needed, it would have to be done so by an Ordinance.

Commissioner Patnaik noted that he attended an informal meeting at the Municipal Building to discuss residents' concerns regarding Green Acres Park.

Commissioner Brinton stated that she received a concern from a resident regarding the CDC's recommendation to not hold a Trick-or-Treat Night. It was the consensus of the Board to continue to hold Trick-or-Treat night on October 30, 2020 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Mr. Grow provided an update on Eastern Salisbury Fire Department's new fire truck. He also passed along a message from Fire Chief Ian Dodson acknowledging the team work between the Township's two fire departments as well as with other departments in the County.

Mr. Grow provided an update on the volume of calls from Western Salisbury Fire Department and noted that they will be participating in Trick-or-Treat Night at the Swain Station as usual.

Mr. Grow commented that the Fire Inspectors are working on a joint fire-prevention program for Salisbury Elementary School, probably via the Zoom platform.

Ms. Genny Baillie stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee held a meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020 and noted that all planned activities have been put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Baillie commented that the Committee had issues with park maintenance but those have been addressed by the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Ziegenfuss noted that he will have the first copy of the 2021 Budget sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting on October 8, 2020.

Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that both the Municipal Building and Eastern Salisbury Fire Department will be open as voting locations.

Ms. Bonaskiewich announced that the Township has modified the Board room to add cameras in order to facilitate holding Zoom meetings from the Board room to the general public. She noted that the plan is to have the members of the different Boards and Commissions, staff and applicants *only* attend meetings in person while the public will view the meeting remotely. Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that she is hoping to “test” the new system at the next Board of Commissioners meeting on October 8, 2020, mostly to make sure everything is connected correctly for the Planning Commission Meeting on October 13, 2020.

Mr. Jeffrey Seybolt of 2756 Andrea Drive expressed concerns with the Township’s plan to install pickleball courts at the upper basketball court at Green Acres Park. He commented that parking and the potential increase of noise were of concern to him, as well as the proximity of the courts to the homes on Andrea Drive. Mr. Seybolt also noted that there is a large crack in the court where the pickle ball court is to be installed. He suggested the Township install pickleball courts at the older tennis courts at Devonshire Park instead.

Mr. Seybolt stated that he believes the plan for an 8-foot high fence on the Andrea Drive side of the court is excessive and will detract from the beauty of the park. Mr. Seybolt commented that the neighbors agree that in order to serve the community, the upper basketball courts should be converted to a bicycling riding area for the children.

Commissioner Brinton stated that Green Acres Park is a Salisbury Township public park and the Recreation Advisory Committee is trying to do what is best for all the parks.

Ms. Baillie stated that while this matter has already been discussed, in regards to the issue with the proximity to Andrea Drive, the pickleball courts are actually a smaller footprint than what is currently there for basketball. She explained that the pickleball courts will extend from the separation in the existing court to the interior of the park, which is a huge setback from Andrea Drive. Ms. Baillie stated that the Township is going to address parking concerns by allowing parking that will extend from the opposite direction of the separation in the court to the street.

Ms. Ballie stated that in order to prevent pickleballs from going into the street, an 8-foot high fence is the choice for the safety of the area. She noted that regarding the installation of additional pickleball courts throughout the Township, there are no plans to covert, through construction, any tennis courts at Devonshire or Laubach Park. Ms. Baillie explained that the discussion has been to stripe and paint the existing tennis courts at Laubach Park, which is a common procedure in order to allow for pickleball to be played in addition to tennis. She is hopeful that the work can be completed by the end of the year.

Ms. Baillie stated that as far as the suggestion about using the court as an area for bikes, bikes are not allowed in the Township parks. She commented that the Township parks are public parks for the community and the Township seeks to understand the leisure interests of the community at large. Ms. Baillie noted that by installing pickleball courts at Green Acres, the Township is addressing the parking issues at Green Acres as well as providing activities and fitness to the middle-aged, tax-paying residents.

Commissioner Patnaik noted he had a meeting with Mr. Seybolt and other residents around the park and commented that the Recreation Advisory Committee has representatives from each Ward. Commissioner Brinton reiterated that this particular issue has already been discussed and decided upon by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Seybolt requested that once the plan is completed, it be made available for public viewing. Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that the Township can do that, but it would just be for the sake of sharing. She noted that the work is not going to be a contracted project as it is something the Township will do in-house.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lipkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Conn. The time was 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Bonaskiewich
Township Secretary

These constitute the official minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on September 24, 2020.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL