

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 23, 2021
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 Brinton asked everyone to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Commissioner Brinton announced that an Executive Session will be held after the Workshop to discuss two legal matters and a real-estate matter.

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 - EXCUSED
Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director - EXCUSED
James Levernier, Director of Public Works
Kevin Soberick, Chief of Police
John Ashley, Esquire, representative of Davison & McCarthy, Township Solicitor
David Tetterer, representative 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 commented related to non-agenda items will be taken after the agenda has been satisfied. Ms. Bonaskiewich reminded everyone of the three-minute rule and asked that anyone who wishes to speak, come to the podium, announce oneself, and sign-in with name and address so as to assist Township administration with follow-ups.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to approve the list of Bills Payable for the periods 8/21/21-9/3/21 and 9/4/21-9/14/21, broken down as follows:

8/21/21-9/3/21:

\$37,726.67 = GENERAL
\$1,000.84 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$22,668.22 = WATER
\$198,519.47 = SEWER
\$139,110.34 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$159.71 = HIGHWAY AID FUND
\$292.09 = CAPITAL GENERAL FUND
\$399,477.34 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

9/4/21-9/14/21:

\$585,248.01 = GENERAL
\$1,064.15 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$220,595.39 = WATER
\$11,798.25 = SEWER
\$1,666.64 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$11,355.04 = HIGHWAY AID FUND
\$6,560.25 = CAPITAL GENERAL FUND
\$838,287.73 = 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

August 26, 2021

Commissioner Brinton declared the Minutes from August 26, 2021 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

MOTIONS

Motion to Appoint a Representative to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Brinton stated that there has been a vacancy on the Planning Commission since June, but Mr. John Barbaz has expressed interest in filling the seat. She noted that he has an engineering background and has been serving on the Township's Environmental Advisory Council.

Commissioner Brinton nominated Mr. John Barbaz to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to appoint Mr. John Barbaz to the Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term through 01/01/2024.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

Motion to Accept the Resignation of Mr. John Barbaz from the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

Commissioner Brinton noted that Mr. Barbaz's resignation is effective September 1, 2021, and the vacancy will be posted on the Township's website.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to accept the resignation of Mr. John Barbaz from the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

Motion to Approve Change Order #1, Granting a Time Extension to the Contractor for the 2021 Roadway Crack Seal, Chip Seal, Mastic and Fog Seal Project.

Commissioner Brinton stated that the contractor had an original completion date of September 30, 2021, but they are requesting an extension to October 31, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Seagreaves, to approve Change Order #1, granting a time extension to the contractor for the 2021 roadway crack seal, chip seal, mastic and fog seal project.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

Motion to Ratify Declaration of Emergency for Tropical Storm Ida.

Commissioner Brinton explained that in case there are any lingering effects from Tropical Storm Ida, the Declaration of Emergency needs to be ratified in order to assist residents.

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to ratify the Declaration of Emergency for Tropical Storm Ida.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

Motion to Certify the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Township Pension Plans.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to certify the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Township Pension Plans.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed by 5-0.

Discussion Regarding Republic Services Service Issues.

Mr. Paul Temby, Operations Manager for Republic Services, was present to address the Board. He noted that the company is dealing with the after effects of Covid, such as turnover at the division and a labor shortage. Mr. Temby noted that they are trying to get new employees and hopes the situation will be resolved in 60-90 days. He also commented that drivers are only allowed to work 12 hours a day and no more than 60 hours a week.

Al Albrecht of 923 E Federal Street inquired about the Township levying liquid damages onto Republic Services. He also inquired about switching to once-a-week collection in order to save money and to help Republic collect everything in a timely manner. Ms. Bonaskiewich noted that assessing liquid damages is not out of the question. She also stated that when the contract went out to bid, it was with multiple options, and there was not a considerable difference in the price of the bill to go to once-a-week collection. Ms. Bonaskiewich also commented that the new schedule of Monday-Friday collections (instead of Monday-Saturday) has compounded the manpower issue as it is now a double route with less people.

Mr. Bryan Smith of 320 Chestnut Hill Road inquired about breaking the contract with Republic and allowing residents to choose their own hauler. Ms. Bonaskiewich explained that First Class Townships are mandated by the State to manage the garbage service within the municipality. Commissioner Seagreaves commented that even if the Township broke the contract with Republic, we might end up with worse service at a higher price.

Commissioner Patnaik inquired about splitting up some of the Monday-Thursday collection into other days. Mr. Temby noted that it is still a problem with manpower. He reiterated that Republic Services is trying diligently to bring in new employees.

Mr. John Gregory of 1302 Garden Ave inquired if employees know what to pick up and not to pick up. A discussion ensued regarding the amount of garbage that residents can place curbside.

Mr. Chad Clouser of 310 Chestnut Hill Road commented that he is frustrated with the increase in the bill.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of automated garbage trucks.

Mr. Smith inquired as to the difference between the trash and recycling drivers because he does not have a problem with his trash collection, only recycling. Mr. Temby commented that the trash workers are the same people who have been with the company for years; however, the recycling drivers left so there were new drivers learning the route.

Commissioner Patnaik brought forth concerns from residents about not receiving return calls for electronic/household hazardous waste collections. Mr. Temby explained that a third party picks up the electronics and are having the same manpower issues. A discussion ensued regarding the electronics/HHW collection. Mr. Temby noted that he will try to address the communication and pickup concerns.

Mr. Temby provided his contact information to the Board and encouraged residents to reach out to him directly.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Lipkin inquired about spray painting on Weil and Summit. Mr. Levernier stated that UGI did the spray painting and he believes it indicates that they will be back to fix some areas in the road.

Commissioner Patnaik brought forth a question from resident regarding how to obtain a speed bump on a street. Mr. Levernier commented that the Township does not install speed bumps. If there is a speeding issue, residents should contact the Police Department for enforcement.

Ms. Holly Weiss of 1250 Voortman Ave expressed concerns regarding the property of 1325 Garden Avenue. She alleged that the owners have been bringing junk onto the property and believes there to be illegal drug dealings. Chief Soberick noted that he is well aware of the situation in that home and cannot comment on ongoing investigations. He stated that information is always helpful to the police and encouraged residents to call the non-emergency number.

Ms. Weiss also stated that she and other neighbors have been experiencing sewer backups since a nearby house was constructed two years ago. She noted that it mostly comes up through her washing machine and not necessarily when there is a rain storm. Ms. Weiss commented that she met with Mr. Nicolo and Mr. Levernier who advised her to install a check valve, but she requested that the Township find the problem and fix the issue. Mr. Levernier stated that contractors only added 70-feet of sewer pipe to connect the new house and it would not be anything that would cause the problem. He noted they are still awaiting the video from the camera in the lines. Ms. Weiss stated that she believes there to be a grading problem with the line and a camera would not show if a sewer line was not graded properly.

Mr. Tettemer reiterated that the Township required the contractors to extend the sewer 70 feet and also extend the water to the front of the property. He stated that it only services the one property so there is virtually no way that could be creating enough water to get into the line and flood out that manhole to the degree of which Ms. Weiss is describing. Mr. Tettemer agreed that there are problems in the area and the Township is going to search for them, but the new house is not causing the problem. He commented that Tropical Storm Ida was horrendous on sanitary sewer systems as manhole tops were blown off all over the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Tettemer noted that the problem could be something as simple as the system getting plugged from time to time, but there has to be a huge amount of water coming into the system to cause what is happening on your property.

Mr. Tettemer explained that the Township has spent millions of dollars to stop water coming into the system just in Ms. Weiss's section of the Township alone. He noted that it will take time to find the issue and fix it and again recommended installing a backflow preventer because problems can arise when hooked to a public system. Mr. Tettemer stated that the Township is actively searching for issues and has sent cameras through thousands of feet of sewer lines looking for a break or a block. HE commented that he is concerned about that area of the Township and they will be talking about different alternatives to relieve some pressure on the system.

A resident expressed concerns regarding the street condition on Voortman Avenue. Mr. Levernier noted that they are looking to pave the whole neighborhood next year and to keep an eye on the Township website for the paving schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lipkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Patnaik. The time was 8:56 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 23, 2021.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL