

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 13, 2023
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.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Debra Brinton, President
Rodney Conn, Vice-President
Heather Lipkin, President Pro-Tempore
Alok Patnaik
Alex Karol

Staff Present:

Cathy Bonaskiewich, Township Manager
Sandy Nicolo, Assistant Township Manager/Code Enforcement Director/MS4 Coordinator
Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director
James Levernier, Director of Public Works
Donald Sabo, Chief of Police
Jack Gross, Esquire, representative of Gross McGinley, LLP, Township Solicitor
Stan Wojciechowski, representative of Barry Isett & Associates, 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 comment 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 LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Karol, to approve the list of Bills Payable for the period 3/18/23–4/7/23, broken down as follows:

\$188,713.00 = GENERAL
\$4,403.61 = FIRE
\$.91 = LIBRARY
\$63,770.30 = WATER
\$37,543.37 = SEWER
\$149,011.66 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$19,768.09 = HIGHWAY AID
\$215,070.83 = CAPITAL GENERAL
\$678,281.77 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays.

MINUTES

March 23, 2023

Commissioner Brinton declared the Minutes from March 23, 2023 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Swearing in Ceremony – New Police Detectives.

District Judge Michael Pochron performed the formal swearing-in ceremony for new Police Detectives, Diano Reavis and Thomas Sabulsky.

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Supporting Western Salisbury Volunteer Fire Company (WSVFC) Loan Application and Construction of New Station.

Mrs. Bonaskiewich stated that Embassy Bank has requested that the Township provide documentation showing the Township’s support of the loan and the project. She noted that this Resolution will hopefully facilitate the bank approving the loan for project.

Commissioner Karol inquired if this Resolution legally impacts the Township. Attorney Gross stated that it is drawn up in a manner that satisfies legal requirements.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to adopt Resolution No. 04-2023-1780, supporting Western Salisbury Volunteer Fire Company (WSVFC) loan application and construction of a new station.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Authorizing Entering into Additional Participation Agreements Regarding National Opioid Settlements.

Commissioner Brinton commented that the Township previously opted to participated in a National Opioid Settlement Agreement in January 2022, but additional defendants have been added so the Resolution should be updated.

Commissioner Patnaik inquired as to how this impacts the Township. Attorney Gross explained that this is a national proposed settlement with all companies regarding different aspects of opioid manufacture and sales. He commented that it does not matter if those companies have a presence in the Township or not. Attorney Gross stated that the settlement is run by the State and ultimately some money should flow to the State and hopefully some to the Township, but there is no guarantee.

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to adopt Resolution No. 04-2023-1781, authorizing entering into additional participation agreements regarding National Opioid Settlements.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Approving Disposition of Public Works Equipment.

Commissioner Brinton stated that the Public Works Department plans to list for sale the 2005 International 4x4 dump truck on the Municibid website.

Motion by Commissioner Karol, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to adopt Resolution No. 04-2023-1782, approving the disposition of Public Works Equipment.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

MOTIONS

Motion to Authorizing Executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Salisbury Township School District.

Commissioner Brinton commented that the MOU is an agreement that has been in place for many years between the Police Department and the School District, and it pertains to the physical security and safety of the schools in the district. Chief Sabo stated that no changes were made to the MOU.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to authorize executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Salisbury Township School District.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Motion Accepting Time Extension to August 30, 2023 for the Land Development at 1525 East Susquehanna Street.

Commissioner Brinton stated that the Board had previously accepted a time extension request to April 28, 2023, but the engineering company has now requested through August 30, 2023. She noted that the project would change the use of the building from a mechanic's garage with an apartment to a first-floor hair salon with a second-floor apartment.

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Karol, accepting the Time Extension to August 30, 2023 for the Land Development at 1525 East Susquehanna Street.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Brinton announced that the School District will be holding a 5k Fun Run on Saturday, April 22. Chief Sabo noted that the route is from the High School to Laubach Park and back again.

Commissioner Lipkin stated that the Environmental Advisory Council is hosting a cleanup event at Walking Purchase Park on Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 am.

Mr. Levernier stated that River Road Park is almost finished with the installation of new fencing happening shortly.

Ms. Bonaskiewich commented that the Township had settlement on the McAuliffe property on Thursday, April 6, and they now have four months to vacate the property.

Commissioner Brinton thanked Eastern Salisbury Fire Department for their efforts with the Egg My Yard fundraiser.

Commissioner Karol thanked both of the Salisbury Volunteer Fire Companies for their efforts with the recent increase in the number of fire calls.

Commissioner Patnaik brought forth a concern from residents on Buckingham Drive and Kingsbridge Lane regarding the removal and replacement of shade trees. He noted that for example, residents have removed three trees but have only replaced two. Mr. Levernier stated in some of areas, new trees cannot be replanted because of utilities or existing stumps, but he would need addresses to follow-up on the matter. Mr. Nicolo stated that he will follow-up as well.

Commissioner Patnaik brought forth a concern from a resident near Green Acres Park regarding the noise level of people playing pickle ball in the park. Ms. Bonaskiewich stated there are no options available at this time to deaden the noise from pickle ball.

Mr. Wojciechowski commented that the paving bids came back \$50,000 over budget so Mr. Levernier is going to meet with the only bidder, AMS, to see how the Township can move forward with the work.

Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the Police Training Facility project will be brought to the Planning Commission at their meeting in June.

Mr. Nicolo stated that his department is working on a Residential Resale Inspection Ordinance and hopes to bring it to the Board soon for a Workshop discussion. He also noted they are working on a Sewer Lateral Inspection Ordinance, which will go along with the Home Resale Inspection, and hopefully cut down on the groundwater entering into the system.

Mr. Ziegenfus stated that the Resolution for WSVFC includes an additional \$58,000 in interest this year for the construction loan. He noted that he will not have to do a budget amendment, but just a revision as he anticipates underspending in other areas. Mr. Ziegenfus commented that he will have more details on it in a future financial report memo.

A resident from the 400 block of East Federal Street expressed concerns regarding the increase in the utility and tax bills.

Mr. Jerry Royer of Western Salisbury Volunteer Fire Company read a message from Chief Josh Wells who stated that from April 2-8, there were three working fires in the Township. He commented that each had significant damage, but many things were salvageable and properties were saved. Chief Wells noted there was strong work by everyone involved and much support from the Police and the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Royer thanked the Board for their continuing support of the new Fire Station.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Conn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Karol seconded the motion. The time was 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Bonaskiewich
Township Secretary

These constitute the official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on April 13, 2023.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL