

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 14, 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 announced that an Executive Session will take place at the beginning of the meeting regarding a personnel matter.

Commissioner Brinton turned the proceedings over to Mr. Sandy Nicolo, Assistant 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 – EXCUSED
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
Genny Baillie, Recreation Director

NOTIFICATION

Mr. Nicolo 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. Mr. Nicolo 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.

*The Board convened into an Executive Session.

*The Board reconvened at approximately 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to approve the List of Bills Payable for periods 8/19/23-9/11/23, broken down as follows:

\$602,939.77 = GENERAL
\$3,836.21 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$255,831.11 = WATER
\$25,154.78 = SEWER
\$147,953.97 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$12,466.98 = HIGHWAY AID
\$542.00 = CAPITAL GENERAL
\$4,441.13 = CASH ALLOCATIONS
\$1,053.165.95 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays.

MINUTES

August 24, 2023

Commissioner Brinton declared the Minutes from August 24, 2023 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Karol, to amend the agenda to include action on a personnel matter that needs to be addressed prior to the next Regular meeting.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Karol, to approve disciplinary action for a police officer as recommended by the Police Chief.

The Board voted: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstention

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Approving Revision of Township's Official Sewage Facilities Plan for the GSEP Land Development Plan.

Mr. Nicolo stated that this is for the on-lot septic system for the Girl Scouts' project. He noted that the Board must act with a formal resolution to submit the revision to DEP for approval. Mr. Nicolo further explained that once the Girl Scouts get approval from the DEP, they can proceed onto the Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Karol, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to adopt Resolution No. 09-2023-1788, approving the revision of the Township's Official Sewage Facilities Plan for the GSEP Land Development Plan.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Approving City of Bethlehem's Act 537 Special Study.

Commissioner Brinton explained that the City of Bethlehem has conducted an Act 537 Special Study to evaluate alternatives for upgrading the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant in order to increase the organic design capacity necessary due to continually increasing organic loading concentration of sewage going to the plant.

Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the City of Bethlehem is under a moratorium because their plant is overloaded, so upgrades are needed in order to allow more sewage flow into the facility. The DEP required the City to officially say they are updating their Act 537, but it is not changing any of the allocations at this time.

Commissioner Patnaik inquired if there will be any cost impact on the residents in the future. Mr. Wojciechowski replied that the sewage rates may go up once the City determines exactly what they are doing. Mr. Levernier noted that the impact would be very minimal as there is only a very small section of the Township that goes to the City of Bethlehem's wastewater plant.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to adopt Resolution No. 09-2023-1789, approving the City of Bethlehem's Act 537 Special Study.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager and Assistant Manager to Execute Northampton/Lehigh County Local Share Assessment Grant Documents and Agreements for the Construction of New Salt Shed and Relocation of Fueling Equipment.

Commissioner Brinton explained that this Resolution is required for the submission of the Township's Northampton/Lehigh County Local Share Assessment (LSA) Grant Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority. She commented that the preliminary estimate of the work is around \$733,500, so the Township is seeking funding assistance under this grant opportunity.

Commissioner Karol inquired if the salt shed will create water run-off issues for residents in the area. Mr. Nicolo responded that they are addressing the run-off by looking at all the water flow at the top of the site and will then develop a plan to control it.

Mr. Wojciechowski explained that the salt will be contained within the shed that has a roof over it, and the area in which the shed will be placed is already paved. He noted that it is not a matter of increasing impervious surface; just changing it from a paved ground lot to having a building on it.

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Karol, to adopt Resolution No. 09-2023-1790, authorizing the Township Manager and Assistant Manager to execute Northampton/Lehigh County Local Share Assessment Grant Documents and Agreements for the construction of a new salt shed and relocation of fueling equipment.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager and Assistant Manager to execute Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Documents and Agreements for the Construction of New Salt Shed and Relocation of Fueling Equipment.

Mr. Wojciechowski stated that this application and all pertinent information are for the same project for which the Township is seeking Northampton/Lehigh County LSA grant funding. He explained that they are two separate pots of money, so the Township is hoping to gain a greater benefit by applying for both.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to adopt Resolution No. 09-2023-1791, authorizing the Township Manager and Assistant Manager to execute Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Documents and Agreements for the construction of new salt shed and relocation of fueling equipment.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Supporting Pennsylvania's America250 Campaign.

Commissioner Brinton stated that the PA State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) has asked that all local governments adopt a Resolution to become an official partner in the Commonwealth's America250 Campaign. Their mission is to reach and involve every Pennsylvanian in every County regarding their programs, projects and events around the 250th Anniversary.

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to adopt Resolution No. 09-2023-1792, supporting Pennsylvania's America250 Campaign.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

MOTIONS

Motion Approving Payment from Fire Fund Capital Reserves for Repair of WSFD's 2005 Ladder Truck #31-31 in the amount of \$29,484.87.

Commissioner Brinton stated that there was an unexpected and significant repair to the radiator of WSFD's ladder truck #31-31. The unit was basically inoperable, but the apparatus plan doesn't call for replacement until year 2031.

Commissioner Karol inquired if the repair is complete. Commissioner Patnaik confirmed that it has been repaired.

Commissioner Conn asked if it has an impact on the lifetime of the equipment. Commissioner Patnaik stated that it does not have an impact as a similar thing was done on truck #31-11 about ten years ago, and it is still in working order.

Motion by Commissioner Karol, seconded by Commissioner Patnaik, to approve payment from the Fire Fund Capital Reserves for repair of WSFD's 2005 Ladder Truck #31-31 in the amount of \$29,484.87.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Brinton noted that an Executive Session will be held after the Workshop to discuss a real estate matter.

Ms. Baillie stated that AM Radio concert was held on September 9, but was cut short due to the weather.

Commissioner Patnaik brought forth concerns from residents about large weeds at Bell Ave and Lehigh Parkway North. Mr. Nicolo stated that Code Enforcement will follow up on the matter.

Commissioner Patnaik inquired if 25mph speed limit signs can be posted or yellow double lines can be painted on Lehigh Parkway North. Mr. Levernier stated that double center lines do not typically slow people down. Mr. Levernier commented that they can install more speed limit signs, but he and Chief Sabo will follow up. Chief Sabo noted that parts of the Parkway are in the City of Allentown, but he can look at extra signage and also putting up a temporary speed board.

Commissioner Patnaik brought forth a concern from residents regarding noise from the pickle ball courts at Green Acres Park. A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Brinton brought forth a concern from a resident who was following up on more signage and speed limit changes on Park Ave. Chief Sabo commented that the street does not meet PennDOT's distance requirements to change the speed. He explained that signage can only be posted so many feet apart and the roadway is too short. Chief Sabo noted that in addition, the line of sight and the distance of lines needed to use robotics are not feasible. He stated Officer Losagio conducted a speed study and traffic study on Park Avenue and while some people are going over the speed limit, they are not going over the 10mph needed to enforce the speeding.

Commissioner Brinton brought forth a concern regarding a delay in trash collection. Commissioner Brinton noted that due to the extreme heat, the drivers were pulled off the road early, but the trash was collected the following day.

Commissioner Lipkin commented that PennDOT is continuing their work on Broadway and noted that the gaps in the street levels will be repaired.

Mr. Nicolo announced that the Western Salisbury Fire Department's station has been demolished, and they are planning to have a groundbreaking ceremony in the near future.

Chief Sabo stated that a bike race at Walking Purchase Park will take place over the weekend, and motorcycle officers will be present as well as Eastern Salisbury Fire Department.

Chief Sabo announced that the Department was awarded the Suburban Rural Tribal Grant for body-worn cameras and will receive \$21,000 for new body cameras. He noted that this amount is a match-grant, but the money is reserved in capital funds. Chief Sabo commented that this grant is in addition to the casino grant already received for body and car cameras, so the total now is almost \$200,000 worth of camera upgrades for officers and cars.

Chief Sabo noted that they are thankful for the new camera system on school buses because in 24 hours after school starting, the department issued 23 citations for cars passing school buses.

Chief Sabo commented that he briefly researched calls at Green Acres Park and historically speaking, the Police were on scene seven to ten times a week for complaints about parking and basketball courts. He stated that the calls for police service have dropped by a couple hundred percent over this summer.

Mr. Rick Zongora of 1625 Maple Avenue expressed concerns about the road conditions in his area. He also noted that the street signs are unreadable. Mr. Zongora also commented that storm drains on Lehigh Ave are clogged and there is an overgrown area in Laubach Park.

Mr. Levernier stated that the Township has replaced about 100 street signs this year, which is what the sign budget has permitted. He noted that the roads in Mr. Zongora's area were pushed back on the paving schedule because the City of Bethlehem had indicated they were going to install a waterline. Mr. Levernier commented that the Department of Public Works is focusing on paving complete areas at a time as opposed to hopping from one street to another across the Township, which was done in the past. He stated that the paving schedule can be accessed on the Township's website. Mr. Levernier also commented that with fuel prices, the blacktop budget has shrunk.

Mr. Nicolo stated that the overgrown area at Laubach Park is actually constructed wetlands and were designed to take storm water. He noted that in order to comply with DEP, the Township had to come up with a way to address pollutants getting into the streams, so basins were used to collect runoff and get the water back into the ground.

Ms. Karin Holliday of 2005 Church Road was present to inquire about hunting at Franko Park. Commissioner Brinton noted that the issue will be discussed at the Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Patnaik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lipkin seconded the motion. The time was 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Nicolo
Assistant Township Secretary

These constitute the official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on September 14, 2023.

Approved and certified on this date:

Sandy Nicolo

Date: _____

SEAL