

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 22, 2024
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 pm.

Commissioner Brinton turned the proceedings over to Ms. 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 Twp Manager/Community Development Director/MS4 Coordinator
Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director
James Levernier, Director of Public Works
Donald Sabo, Chief of Police
Jason Ulrich, 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.

Chief Sabo recognized Lieutenant Casey for completing a 22-week course through Northwestern University's School of Police Staffing and Command and presented him with a plaque. Lieutenant Casey thanked the Board for their continued support.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Patnaik, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to approve the List of Bills Payable for the period 8/3/2024-8/16/2024, broken down as follows:

\$197,965.29 = GENERAL
\$1,824.39 = FIRE
\$68.15 = LIBRARY
\$41,717.64 = WATER
\$293,801.94 = SEWER
\$166,977.33 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$12,174.76 = HIGHWAY AID
\$39,624.64 = CAPITAL GENERAL
\$754,154.14 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays.

Commissioner Brinton announced that an Executive Session will take place after the meeting to discuss legal matters.

MINUTES

August 8, 2024

Commissioner Brinton declared the Minutes from August 8, 2024 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

MOTIONS

Motion Approving Block Party Request for the 900 Block of Belford Road.

Chief Sabo noted that the residents in this area have done a block party in the past, and the Police Department is pleased with their emergency operations plan.

Motion by Commissioner Karol, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to approve the Block Party Request for the 900 Block of Belford Road.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays.

Motion Considering Floodplain Ordinance Appeal at 3517 Regent Court.

Attorney Ulrich opened the hearing.

Mr. Frederick Victor stated that he received a zoning approval notice for the fence in 2022 but was unaware that a building permit was also required. He commented that a structural engineer assessed the fence and confirmed its fitness. Mr. Victor noted that the fence is currently 13 feet from the stream bank, and relocating it to meet the 50-foot setback would result in losing one-third of their backyard.

Ms. Rabold stated that the applicant was informed that a building permit was needed because of the fence's location in the floodplain.

Attorney Ulrich explained that the engineer's report confirms that the fence is structurally sound, which complies with FEMA regulations. However, the fence does not meet the 50-foot setback requirement, so the residents are seeking a variance from that 50-foot setback.

A discussion ensued regarding the type of fence that was installed.

Ms. Rabold stated that a permit cannot be issued without a hold harmless agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Karol, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to approve the variance regarding floodplain ordinance appeal at 3517 Regent Court, contingent on the execution of a hold harmless agreement and subject to paying all fees that would have been due to the Township in order to obtain the building permit.

The Board voted: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Patnaik thanked the Department of Public Works for their assistance with a flooding incident at a residence.

Commissioner Karol thanked the Department of Public Works for their paving efforts in the second ward.

Commissioner Karol expressed gratitude to the Police Department for their efforts with a recent drug bust.

Commissioner Brinton brought forth concerns from residents in regards to the Township's Tree Ordinance. Mr. Nicolo noted that the Ordinance is based on the requirements from the PA Attorney General. Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that she will provide the tree harvesting documents to the Board and noted that further discussions can take place at a workshop session, if necessary.

Commissioner Conn raised concerns from residents on Cherokee Street about dead Ash trees in the PPL right-of-way. Mr. Nicolo explained that PPL is responsible for the trees, but they will not act until the tree has fallen down. He stated that he will follow-up with the residents, if needed.

Commissioner Lipkin stated that the Environmental Advisory Committee has been meeting without a quorum for several months; therefore, they are looking for more volunteers to attend the meetings. She explained that Board members can be official EAC members because it is an advisory council with no voting authority. Commission Lipkin commented that she plans to join as an official member in order to achieve a quorum. She noted that the EAC meets the third Wednesday of every even month, and there is usually an educational speaker present.

Ms. Bonaskiewich stated that Valley Mountain Bikers are holding an event at Walking Purchase Park on Saturday, August 24.

Mr. Levernier provided the Board with an update on the condition of the Barrington Lane property.

Chief Sabo stated that AM Radio Tribue band will be playing a free concert at Franko Park on Saturday, September 14 from 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm.

Mr. Paul Willistein brought forth concerns about a lack of emergency management procedures at Waldheim Park during public concert events. Ms. Bonaskiewich explained that the Township cannot regulate anything there as it is private property. Attorney Ulrich noted that if the event is outside, it is not subject to building regulations. Chief Sabo commented that the Police Department can offer their guidance on an operations plan for any upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Patnaik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lipkin seconded the motion. The time was 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Bonaskiewich
Assistant Township Secretary

These constitute the official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on August 22, 2024.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL