

**TOWNSHIP OF SALISBURY
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 28, 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 p.m.

Commissioner Brinton turned the proceedings over to Mr. Nicolo, Assistant Township Manager.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Cathy Bonaskiewich, Township Manager – EXCUSED
Sandy Nicolo, Assistant Township Manager/Community Development Director/MS4 Coordinator
Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director
James Levernier, Director of Public Works – EXCUSED
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

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.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS PAYABLE

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to approve the List of Bills Payable for the period 3/9/24-3/22/24, broken down as follows:

\$188,274.34 = GENERAL
\$1,073.41 = FIRE
\$0 = LIBRARY
\$14,973.93 = WATER
\$17,314.57 = SEWER
\$1,295.64 = REFUSE & RECYCLING
\$1,557.67 = HIGHWAY AID
\$3,231.90 = CAPITAL GENERAL
\$933.00 = CASH ALLOCATIONS
\$239,654.46 = GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays.

MINUTES

March 14, 2024

Commissioner Brinton declared the Minutes from March 14, 2024 accepted as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Authorizing Demolition of Home at 1316 E. Emmaus Ave.

Mr. Nicolo stated that there is a contractor lined up for this work. He noted that the owner should be able to vacate the property within two weeks, at which point the contractor will demolish the house.

Commissioner Brinton inquired about how the Township will be reimbursed for the cost of demolition. Attorney Ulrich stated that because it is a safety emergency, the Township can proceed by way of a Resolution rather than putting the work out to bid. He commented that the Township can place a municipal lien on the property in order to collect the monies.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to adopt Resolution No. 03-2024-1813, authorizing the demolition of the home at 1316 E. Emmaus Ave.

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Approving Disposition of Public Works Equipment.

Commissioner Brinton stated that this is for a 2015 Scag72 zero-turn mower to be listed for sale on the Municibid website.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to adopt Resolution No. 03-2024-1814, approving the disposition of Public Works Equipment.

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays

Resolution Approving South Whitehall Township’s Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update.

Mr. Wojciechowski explained that South Whitehall Township recently did away with their authority and they are further updating their Act 537 Plan. He noted that this has absolutely no change to any facilities in the Township, so it is just a matter of South Whitehall needing the Township to sign-off on the Plan so they can submit it to DEP.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to adopt Resolution No. 03-2024-1815, approving South Whitehall Township’s Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update.

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays

MOTIONS

Motion Accepting a Time Extension to August 1, 2024 for the Land Development Plan at 1350 E. Susquehanna Street.

Mr. Wojciechowski stated that he is in favor of this extension so he can meet with the developers of the Walnut Grove Apartments to discuss stormwater concerns.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to accept a Time Extension to August 1, 2024 for the Land Development Plan at 1350 E. Susquehanna Street.

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays

Motion Authorizing Entering into Donation Agreement with Ravenwood Manor, LLC and Authorizing Township Manager to Execute all Documents related to their Donation of the Property at 3015 Barrington Lane.

Attorney Ulrich stated that this generous donation has been discussed previously, and he believes it will be favorable for the Township. He commented that the donation agreement has been completed and he is in receipt of the final draft from the opposing counsel.

Motion by Commissioner Conn, seconded by Commissioner Lipkin, to authorizing entering into a donation agreement with Ravenwood Manor, LLC and authorizing the Township Manager to execute all documents related to their donation of the property at 3015 Barrington Lane.

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays

Motion Authorizing Entering into Settlement Agreement with Joe and Linda Thorpe at 333 E. Emmaus Ave.

Motion by Commissioner Lipkin, seconded by Commissioner Conn, to enter into a settlement agreement with Joe and Linda Thorpe at 333 E. Emmaus Ave.

The Board voted: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the Department of Public Works has been working on the retaining wall at the Police Training Facility, and the grading work continues there as well.

Commissioner Lipkin asked for volunteers on April 13th and 14th to plant bare root trees at Lindberg, Franko and Devonshire Parks with the Environmental Advisory Council.

Chief Sabo commented that since K-9 Miklo passed away in October and was sick for a time before that, the Police Department has been without the K-9 program for almost a year. He announced that the Department has secured multiple donations and full funding for two dogs. Chief Sabo stated that there should be a Resolution before the Board for discussion at the next regular meeting. He also noted that there is a new vendor that will allow the Police Department to pick its own dogs and commented that surrounding municipalities have had great success with this vendor.

Ms. Mary Elizabeth O'Connor of 745 S. Glenwood Street commended the Planning Commission on their conduct at the previous night's Planning Commission meeting, despite the contention at the meeting. She also expressed concerns about speeding on S. Glenwood Street. Chief Sabo noted that he will follow-up with the traffic enforcement officer.

Ms. Karin Holliday at 2005 Church Road thanked the Board for no longer permitting hunting at Franko Park. She also expressed concerns about not receiving a public notice for the Planning Commission meeting that entertained the approval of the Police Department's Training Facility. Mr. Nicolo stated that notices went out to residents within 300 feet of the facility.

Ms. Holliday inquired if there will be procedures for the facility. Attorney Ulrich stated that the Police Departments will have procedures in place.

Mr. Bruce Burchard of 2025 Church Road inquired if the School District will be notified when weapons will be in use at the Training Facility. Chief Sabo stated that yes, they will be notified.

Mr. Burchard also inquired about policies and procedures for the use of the facility. Attorney Ulrich clarified that the conditions of approval were agreed upon by the police and can therefore be enforced. Mr. Burchard inquired if the residents can obtain a copy of the policy. Attorney Ulrich stated that it is not a written policy; it was what they agree to as their hours of operation and the usage of the facility. Chief Sabo stated that he can post them on the website.

Mr. Burchard inquired if there is going to be an addition to the Police Department's annual budget to maintain the facility. Chief Sabo stated that there was money in the Capital improvement budget to build the facility but public works will maintain it. Mr. Ziegenfuss further explained that \$50,000 was in this year's budget to build the facility, but any maintenance and ongoing work will be built into the 2025 budget.

Mr. Jerry Royer of Western Salisbury Volunteer Fire Company provided the Board with an update about the progress of the new fire station.

A discussion ensued regarding interest in purchasing the Eisenhower station.

Commissioner Brinton inquired about squatter's law in Pennsylvania, and a discussion ensued regarding squatters in other parts of the country. Chief Sabo noted that the laws in Pennsylvania are better than the west coast when it comes to dealing with those situations.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lipkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Conn seconded the motion. The time was 7: 46 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 March, 28 2024.

Approved and certified on this date:

Cathy Bonaskiewich

Date: _____

SEAL