

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
December 15, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
Solebury Township Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Paul Cosdon, Chair, James Searing, Vice-chair, Robert Heath, Jr., Edward McGahan, Jr. and Helen Tai. Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Gretchen K. Rice, Assistant Manager, Michele Blood, Finance Director and Jonathan J. Reiss, Solicitor were also present.

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Bills Payable

Res. 2015-153 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. McGahan, the lists of Bills Payable dated November 30, 2015 and December 10, 2015 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

Approval of Minutes

The Secretary confirmed that a correction had already been made to the first page of the Minutes regarding information to be forwarded to prospective consultants.

Res. 2015-154 – Upon a motion by Mr. Searing, seconded by Mr. Heath, the Minutes of November 17, 2015 were unanimously approved as written and posted.

Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

- The Chair announced executive sessions held on December 8, December 14 and December 15 regarding personnel.

Public Comment

- Linda Hoffman and Jim Lemay on behalf of the Solebury Township Republican Committee recognized outgoing Supervisors Edward McGahan and Robert Heath for their service to the community.

Supervisor Comment

- Board members expressed their sorrow for the loss of Ian and Jane McNeil, noting their years of community involvement and service and what a privilege it was to know and work with them.
- The Chair thanked a number of long-time volunteers who are no longer going to be involved as committee members; Eric Stephens, Betsy Muzina, Moira McClintock, Bob Matthew and Malcolm Crooks.
- Outgoing Chairman, Paul Cosdon, addressed the audience providing "The Year in Review-2015", highlighting important events, initiatives and accomplishments. A copy of Mr. Cosdon's review is attached to these Minutes.

PRESENTATION – Robert Heath, Jr. and Edward McGahan, Jr.

Outgoing Supervisors Robert Heath, Jr. and Edward McGahan, Jr. were each presented with a plaque acknowledging their many years of service to the community. The Board members commented on the unique character and expertise that each brought to the Board over their tenure.

Both Mr. Heath and Mr. McGahan thanked their fellow members and the community as a whole for the privilege of serving.

OLD BUSINESS

2016 Budget Adoption – The proposed 2016 Budget has been posted on the Township website and advertised as required.

Res. 2015-155 – Upon a motion by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. McGahan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the 2016 Budget as advertised.

Resolution Setting 2016 Tax Levy

Res. 2015-156 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Heath, it was unanimously agreed to set the 2016 Tax Levy as follows: General Fund Tax 7.625 mils; Fire Tax Fund 1.75 mils; Library Fund Tax .375 mils; Debt Service Fund Tax 12.560 mils, for a total of 22.31 mils.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Chief Employment Contract Amendment

Res. 2015-157 – Upon a motion by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. McGahan, it was unanimously agreed to approve and authorize the appropriate Township Officials to execute the Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Police Chief, Dominic Bellizzi.

\$1.8 Million Drawdown Authorization for Public Works Facility - As of December 11, 2015, \$1,343,124 has been expended for the project. The Administration estimates an additional \$415,000 will be paid out by year-end, bringing the total 2015 expenses to approximately \$1,758,124. The Administration recommends that a draw on the loan (from First Savings Bank of Perkassie) in the amount of \$1.8 million take place before the end of 2015.

Res. 2015-158 – Upon a motion by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Mr. Heath, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Administration to take the necessary steps to draw \$1.8 million on the loan from First Savings Bank of Perkassie prior to the end of 2015.

Comfort Road Bridge Repair – Authorization to advertise bid – The downstream wall of the Comfort Road Bridge is failing and needs to be rebuilt. The Township Engineer and Manager have inspected both upstream and downstream walls and feel that it would be best to replace both walls in the spring. The Administration is requesting authorization to bid the project.

Res. 2015-159 – Upon a motion by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Ms. Tai, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Administration to advertise a bid for replacement of both walls on the Comfort Road Bridge.

202 Traffic Signal Bid – Authorization to advertise bid - The Administration has been working with PennDot on the ARLE grant for the Traffic Signal upgrades along Route 202.

Blair Park a division of PECO has been contracted to install the fiber optic interconnecting the three signals along Route 202 – (Sugan Road/202, Kitchens Land/202, and Shire Drive/Logan Square). The next phase is to bid the signal equipment upgrades in the controller boxes.

Res. 2015-160 – Upon a motion by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. McGahan, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Administration to advertise the bid for signal upgrades along Route 202 under the ARLE Grant.

Disposal of Personal Property Policy – The Board had previously directed the Solicitor to prepare a formal Policy on the disposition of personal property for the Board's consideration.

Res. 2015-161 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. McGahan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Resolution establishing a Policy for the Disposition of Township Personal Property as drafted.

SUBDIVISIONS/CONDITIONAL USES/LAND DEVELOPMENTS – No application were reviewed.

Public Comment

- Ronald and Judith Ewer of Solebury Township delivered a humorous original poem based on their observations while regularly attending meetings throughout the year.
- The Chair wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all in attendance.

Adjournment

Res. 2015-162 – Upon a motion by Mr. Heath, seconded by Mr. Searing, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Gretchen K. Rice
Assistant Manager
Secretary/Treasurer

The Year in Review- 2015

2015 is almost behind us and we will be saying goodbye to 2 Supervisors, one of whom has dedicated over 17 years of service to our community and the other who has promised to help keep track of us from the other side of this table.

In a little over 2 weeks we will be welcoming 2 new faces to the Board. Solebury residents can only hope that they will devote the time necessary to learn the workings of municipal government and be able to make decisions both popular and unpopular for all the residents of the township.

As we moved from 2014, a plan was in place to fund 3 major construction projects: Restoration of the Aquetong Spring Park, the 202 Trail, and the Public Works Building. The Board knew that eggs would be broken in 2015, and they were.

This year, the Trail was completed from Magill's Hill, past Canal Park and south on 202.

We celebrated Earth Day by restoring the proper name of Aquetong Spring to the park, and the subsequent breeching of the dam. The creeks are now seeking their own natural path for the first time in over 130 years. The dam project has now been completed and the park has been reopened. Thanks to the efforts of Dennis Carney, the project was brought in \$85,000 below budget.

The spring also brought estimates from our architects for the construction of the Public Works Building. They were higher than the Board anticipated, and the scope of the project was reduced in order to keep within our budgeted amount. This summer it was decided to move forward. With the cooperation of Mother Nature this fall, the anticipated completion date is in May.

This summer, we also held our first work session to address fracking in the township and received advice on how to move forward. Hopefully, this will occur in 2016.

NHCS continues to be a concern. Our annual meetings with the quarry and the DEP, took place, and information was obtained regarding their continued operation and concern over their reclamation plan and bond issues. This culminated in the drafting of a letter to the DEP asking when is enough enough, when it comes to a declared PUBLIC NUISSANCE.

The Board also dealt with the Rolling Green Farm issue, refinancing of bonds in order to save money, the Centre Bridge Inn and many other issues that kept us busy throughout the year.

Through the efforts of Dudley Rice and the Park and Rec Committee, the inaugural Solebury Day was held.

2015 will also see us saying good-bye to several long time volunteers to our boards with their resignation or by choosing not to have their terms extended.

These include:

Bob Mathieu, An initial member from the Township Youth Aid Panel who served for 23 years;

Eric Stephens of the ZHB;

Betsy Muzina and Moira McClintock of HARB;

And last but not least Malcolm Crooks a member of the LPC for 19 years.

On a more somber note, we also lost 2 members of the community, Ian and Jane McNeil. Ian was a former member and chair of the EAC. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family.

I would also like to thank the entire administration and our vendors, including Bob Wynn, Grim, Biehn and Thatcher, and Neil Morris for their assistance this year.

My year as chair has been exciting, and as I pass the torch on, my best wishes for a Happy Holiday season to all and good fortune for next year.