

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 6, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL BUDGET MEETING

AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

The October 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Solebury Township Board of Supervisors meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform. The meeting was held in this manner due to the current State and Federal regulations in place from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair, Noel Barrett, John S. Francis, Robert McEwan, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Manager, Dominick Bellizzie, Police Chief, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

Zoom recording device was turned on. **Due to technical issues the recording starts part way into the Chair going over the meeting information.

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

II. Approval of Bills Payable – October 1, 2020

Res. 2020-137 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Francis, the list of Bills Payable dated October 1, 2020 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Res. 2020-138 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

• Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session held on Thursday, September 22, 2020 dealing with Legal matters.

• Appointment of Nancy Stock-Allen to the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

Res. 2020-139 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Nancy Stock-Allen, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee.

• Appointment of Lars Crooks to the Farm Committee

Res. 2020-140 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Lars Crooks, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Solebury Township Farm Committee for term ending December 31, 2022.

• Appointment of Thomas Mancini as Associate Member to the Farm Committee

Res. 2020-141 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Thomas Mancini, Solebury resident, without compensation, as Associate Member to the Solebury Township Farm Committee for term ending December 31, 2020.

V. Supervisors Comment

- Mr. McEwan commented on the Budget, sustainability, and the contribution to the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on his September 22nd comment regarding the contribution to the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on sustainability.
- Mr. Francis commented on sustainability.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on the Farm Committee's continued work on the feasibility of the Landowner – New Farmer program.

Res.2020-142 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to authorize a representative from the Solebury Farm Committee communicate to Helen Tai, member of the Bucks County Transition Team Environment and Energy Subcommittee, that Solebury Township supports the implementation of a county wide Farm Committee with one of their focuses being a Landowner - New Farmer Match Program. If the county considers such a committee, Solebury Township would like the opportunity to discuss this effort with county representatives.

VI. Public Comment

- Lee Rush, representative from Bucks County NAAACP, read a letter sent to Chief Bellizzie regarding the new Re-imagining Public Safety committee.
- Helen Tai, resident, commented on information requested and received from Solebury Township Police Department. Ms. Tai commented on the NAACP's Re-imagining Public Safety Committee.

VII. Public Hearing

Authorization to Adopt – Historical Architectural Review Board Ordinance Amendment

The proposed ordinance (Copy of which is attached) of the Township of Solebury, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, amends the requirements for a Registered Architect and Building Inspector on the Solebury Township Board of Historical Architecture Review.

Res.2020-143 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Historical Architectural Review Board Ordinance Amendment.

VIII. Budget

Administration – Dennis H. Carney and Michele Blood

Mr. Carney and Ms. Blood presented the Preliminary 2021 Administration Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting that the Administration budgeted conservatively. Discussion ensued regarding the decreased earned income tax for 2021 due to economic uncertainties; budget for sustainability projects and other projects from 2021-2024; and tax increase of 1 mill specifically for debt service.

Discussion ensued regarding Public Works equipment purchases. Ms. Blood and Mr. Carney explained Liquid Fuels money.

Budget – Dominick Bellizzie – Chief of Police

Chief Bellizzie presented the 2021 Police Department Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting areas of change. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction of gas with the hybrid vehicles; the purchasing of body cameras; grants; Officer education and training; and ways to reconnect with the community once the pandemic is over.

Helen Tai, resident, questioned the policy regarding the body cameras. Chief Bellizzie advised that the policy is still being determined.

Ms. Tai questioned the retention policy for the camera recordings. Mr. Bellizzie commented that the retention policy is to be discussed and determined with the District Attorney.

The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury

Discussion ensued about additional contribution to The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.

Mr. Francis made a motion to add a five thousand dollar (\$5,000.00) contribution to the 2021 budget for The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury. Mr. Morrissey made a motion amendment.

Res.2020-144 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. McEwan it was agreed to amend the motion on the table to include that the money be a one-time contribution and for the money to be used for health care.

In Favor: Mr. Morrissey, Mr. McEwan, Mr. Francis, and Mr. Barrett

Opposed: Mr. Baum Baicker

Mr. Baum Baicker commented that due to the Township's financial uncertainty for 2021 due to Covid-19, he could not support any additional optional spending at this time but mentioned that this could be re-evaluated in mid-2021 depending upon the Township's actual financial position at that time.

Res. 2020-145 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was agreed to add a one-time contribution of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to the 2021 budget for The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury, contingent that the contribution be used towards healthcare.

In Favor: Mr. Morrissey, Mr. McEwan, and Mr. Francis

Opposed: Mr. Baum Baicker and Mr. Barrett

IX. New Business

Resolution – 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program

The resolution authorizes application to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program in the amount of \$5,473.10, with a Township match in the amount of \$5,473.10 for the Park Signage and Beautification project.

Res.2020-146 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to approve the resolution for the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program to carry out the Park Signage and Beautification Project.

Bid Award – Rock Salt

Bids for rock salt were received by the Bucks County Consortium and reviewed by Solebury Township Administration.

Res.2020-147 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to award the bid for Rock Salt to Morton Salt, Inc.

X. Subdivision/Conditional Use/Land Development

Release of Letter of Credit – New Hope Oral Surgery Center Land Development

Res.2020-148 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge and approve the letter of credit for New Hope Oral Surgery Center Land Development.

XI. Public Comment – No Public Comment

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary

DRAFT