

## SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 16, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

### VIRTUAL MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

The June 16, 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, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Zachary Zurbis, Zoning Officer, C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer, and Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor were also in attendance.

Zoom recording device was then turned on.

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

II. **Approval of Bills Payable – May 28, 2020 and June 11, 2020**

**Res. 2020-80 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the list of Bills Payable dated May 28, 2020 and June 11, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

III. **Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting**

**Res. 2020-81 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the Minutes of the May 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting were unanimously approved with the following requested changes made: 1) Under Presentations, Solebury Township Committees and Boards, the first line, commented changed to comment; 2) Under Public Hearing, HARB – Certificate of Appropriateness – Dennis J. Hansen, resident public comment, Susan Whiteman changed to Susan Whitman; and 3) Under Public Hearing, HARB – Certificate of Appropriateness – Dennis J. Hansen, resident public comment, Neil Whiteman changed to Neil Whitman.**

IV. **Announcements/Resignations/Appointments**

- Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session held on May 21, 2020 dealing with development.

- Resignation of Kevin MacDonald from the Historical Architectural Review Board

Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Kevin MacDonald from the Historical Architectural Review Board. The Board thanked Mr. MacDonald for his service.

**Res. 2020-82 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the resignation of Kevin MacDonald from the Historical Architectural Review Board was unanimously accepted.**

- Resignation of Joel Weiner from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee

Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Joel Weiner from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee. The Board thanked Mr. Weiner for his service.

**Res. 2020-83 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the resignation of Joel Weiner from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee was unanimously accepted.**

- Appointment of Elaine Crooks to the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee

**Res. 2020-84 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Elaine Crooks, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Joel Weiner for term ending December 31, 2020.**

#### **V. Supervisors Comment**

- Mr. Baum Baicker commented on restarting the process for the Borrowing.
- Mr. Francis read a Statement of the Board of Supervisors (copy of which is attached).  
Mr. Francis announced John Blevins, resident, for public comment as it pertained to the Statement of the Board of Supervisors.  
Mr. Blevins read his statement (copy of which is attached).  
Mr. Morrissey commented that the Supervisors already started the process.  
Helen Tai, resident, expressed support for Mr. Blevins' request and asked that it be addressed in a timely fashion.  
Mr. McEwan expressed support for Mr. Blevins' request.  
The Board is to take Mr. Blevins' request under advisory. This is to be done in a timely fashion.

#### **VI. Public Comment – No Public Comment**

#### **VII. Presentations**

##### Recorder of Deeds – Adopt a Book

Nicole Douglas, Transfer Tax & Communications Coordinator & Robin Robinson, Recorder of Deeds presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy of which is attached) to the Board. The presentation included: the finding and preserving of Bucks County deed and miscellaneous books dating back to 1684; some of the history that can be found throughout these books; how the preservation of the books is paid for, especially the Adopt-A-Book program; and the FREE Fraud Alert Program that has been put in place to help the residents of Bucks County.

The Board thanked Ms. Douglas and Ms. Robinson for their presentation. The Board is to discuss a donation amount.

Helen Tai, resident, thanked Ms. Robinson.

Barbara Zietchick, resident, commented the following: *Wonderful preservation and presentation. As a printmaker, I am in awe of the preservation you achieved.*

##### Heritage Senior Living Facility/New Cartwheel Partners (6554 Lower York Road) TMP Nos. 41-022-144, 41-022-144-001, 41-022-144-002, and 41-022-153

Edward F. Murphy, Greg Glitzer, Christopher B. Chandor, Christopher DelPato, And Michael McCormick were all in attendance. Mr. Glitzer and Mr. Murphy presented exhibits, plans, and a list of Zoning Variance to be requested for the Senior Living Facility and Urgent Care/Retail Buildings to the Board.



Conversation ensued between the Board and Heritage Senior Living Facility - New Cartwheel Partners. Highlights of the conversation included: the retail space; the use and access to the back parcel; signage; building aesthetics; building architecture; and PennDOT.

The Board agreed to send a copy of the meeting recording and presentation to the Planning Commission. The Board agreed to send the presentation and meeting recording as an email blast. The email blast is to include a request for community feedback to be received no later than June 26, 2020.

#### **VIII. Public Hearings**

##### Agricultural Security Area Application – James and Adrienne Mageras (TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136) – Recommendation for Agricultural Security Area

The proposal for addition was submitted by James S. and Adrienne W. Mageras of 6234 Pidcock Creek Road, New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938. The properties in question are Tax Map Parcel numbers 41-036-134, 41-036-135 and 41-036-136, which are located near the intersection of Pidcock Creek and Windy Bush Roads and contain approximately 13.84, 16.13 and 13.12 acres respectively.

Upon a Motion made by Peter Brussock, seconded by Dan Fest the Solebury Township Planning Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the application of James & Adrienne Mageras to include TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136 in the Agricultural Security Area.

Upon a Motion made by Kevin Morrissey, seconded by Tim Luccaro the Solebury Township Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to recommend the application of James & Adrienne Mageras to include TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136 in the Agricultural Security Area.

Mr. Freed opened the hearing. Mr. Freed discussed the background of the Agricultural Security Area; the benefits to the Agricultural Security Area; and the process taken up to this hearing.

Mr. Freed opened the floor for Board comments.

Mr. Morrissey expressed support for the addition to the Agricultural Security Area.

No other Supervisor comments.

Mr. Freed opened the floor for public comments.

No Public comment.

The hearing was closed.

**Res. 2020-85 Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to approve the addition of the James S. and Adrienne W. Mageras property (6234 Pidcock Creek Road, TMP Nos 41-036-134, 41-036-135 and 41-036-136) to the Solebury Township Agricultural Security Area.**

#### **IX. New Business**

##### Armitage Road Bridge Project – Bid Award

Solebury Township received numerous bids for the Armitage Road Bridge Project.

**Res. 2020-86 - Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett it was unanimously agreed to authorize the bid for the Armitage Road Bridge Project to Bertolet Construction Corporation.**

Laurel Park Paving – Bid Award

This topic was tabled from the May 19, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting.

**Res. 2020-87 - Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Francis it was unanimously agreed to authorize the total bid for the Laurel Park Paving Project to GoreCon, Inc.**

**X. Public Comment – No Public Comment**

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Cataldi  
Secretary

DRAFT



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## A Statement from the Board of Supervisors

We have watched the events of the past week with great anger, sadness, and frustration. We have seen the massive protests in Philadelphia, New York, and virtually every major city across the country which we recognize as an attempt by aggrieved communities to be heard in response to the continuing incidences of police brutality. We are angry, because the brutal killing of George Floyd is just the latest in a series of egregious assaults on black communities, and this continuum of racially motivated killing of innocent black men and women must stop. And our sadness and frustration derive from the seeming inability of our nation to come to grips with the structural problems that underlie all of this, despite repeated, painful reminders. While we condemn the protests that have resorted to violence, we will continue to lend our overwhelming support to the peaceful protests across the country.

As a nation we must find an answer to the ongoing cycle of racially-directed police behavior. We believe that the great majority of police officers in this country are dedicated to public safety and well-intentioned in their actions to protect it. However, the many abominable incidents that have occurred in recent years have long-since overrun the traditional idea that these are isolated events.

The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors recognizes that the underlying root cause of the cycle of violent police action and resultant street violence is structural and societal, and we join with many other Americans in calling for a re-examination of the criminal justice system in the United States and the role that state and local governments can play in helping police in its onerous and important task. Our police chief released a statement yesterday that expressed his personal outrage at the Floyd tragedy and outlined the training, experience and special recognition of the officers of our police department.

We as a Board intend to do what we can at our local level to undertake and press for action, and we continue to stand with all those who seek just and fair treatment for all.

**Source URL:** <https://www.soleburytp.org/home/news/statement-board-supervisors-0>



# John Blevins' Statement

## Solebury Public Safety Review Committee

On June 3rd, this Board of Supervisors issued a statement decrying long-standing structural problems underlying racially motivated killings at the hands of police, calling for "*a re-examination of the criminal justice system in the United States and the role that state and local governments can play*" and stating its intention to "*do what we can at our local level to undertake and press for action*".

I am here to call on this Board to initiate those actions here in our township by forming a citizens' committee to undertake a review of the role and funding of police in Solebury.

The scope of this committee would include a review of police training, use of force policies, weapons, and equipment. Its responsibilities would also encompass a broad view of public safety needs, priorities, and resourcing.

Let me be clear that I am not accusing the Solebury Township Police Department of any wrongdoing, but it is incumbent on us as citizens to evaluate whether the current structure and level of investment represent the best way to keep our community safe and healthy.

In my initial review of the 2020 township budget I find that the police department consumes about 25% of the operating budget of the township. The committee would consider questions such as:

- Are we over-relying on armed officers for public safety services that don't require a gun and a badge?
- Are we tasking armed police with social services, substance abuse prevention and diversion programs, mental health, housing, and animal control duties that would be more appropriately performed by non-uniformed, unarmed employees or contractors?
- Should we redirect funding toward other township priorities?

The committee would review union contracts, cost structure and size of the department, and the role of county and regional cooperation in public safety. It would formulate recommendations regarding engagement in policy forums at county, regional and state levels, and identify opportunities to join with other municipalities, civic organizations and advocacy groups to advocate for specific policies.

Most importantly, through our example, our community would be promoting the kind of self-examination and accountability that governing bodies at all levels should undertake to implement proper oversight of police and the structural reforms necessary to correct long-standing inequities in enforcement.