

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 21, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

The April 21, 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. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

Audience Attendance (Zoom Usernames): Clifford Funk, Carol Spiewak, Emason, Birgitta Wolfe, and Barbara Zietchick

Zoom recording device was then turned on.

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

A movement of Silence was observed for the more than 1,500 Pennsylvania residents and 112 Bucks County residents who have succumbed to COVID-19 thus far.

Mr. Baum Baicker made an announcement regarding the Township’s everyday operations and Committee/Board meetings updates while the Declaration of Emergency is active.

II. Approval of Bills Payable – March 26, 2020 and April 17, 2020

Res. 2020-65 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Francis, the list of Bills Payable dated March 26, 2020 and April 17, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2020 and March 17, 2020

Res. 2020-66 - Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the Minutes of the March 3, 2020 and March 17, 2020 Meeting were unanimously approved as written and posted.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

- Mr. Baum Baicker announced that the Bucks County Commissioners have approved the extension of the penalty accrual portion of the real estate tax deadline from June 30, 2020 to July 30, 2020. The early payment discount deadline of April 30, 2020 was not extended.
- Mr. Baum Baicker made an announcement regarding the unknown economy impact that COVID-19 will have on the Township’s revenues and expenses for 2020.
- Mr. Baum Baicker announced the postponement of the approved open space borrowing due to the stabilization of municipal rates and the unknown economic impact from COVID-19.

- Mr. Baum Baicker announced that the contractor for the Aquetong Spring Park stream restoration project was granted a work waiver allowing work to proceed.

V. Supervisors Comment

- Mr. McEwan commented on the 2020 Census. Mr. McEwan encouraged residents to complete the census online at: my2020census.gov.
- Mr. McEwan commented on the delay of the Township Audit. The first draft has been received.
- Mr. Morrissey made a comment regarding Solebury Township’s surplus.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on support for local businesses.
- Mr. Morrissey presented an update on New Hope Crushed Stone (NHCS). Highlights of this update include: the final lake elevation; natural flow vs mechanical flow; current water level; and NHCS’ bond requirement.

VI. Public Comment – No Public Comment

VII. New Business

Land Preservation Committee – Resolution for Approval of Acquisition of Conservation Easement on the Manoff Property (3157 Comfort Road, TMP No. 41-018-011)

The proposed resolution (copy of which is attached) of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township authorized the acquisition of a conservation easement on 35.72 acres comprising Tax Map Parcel No. 41-018-011 in Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Baum Baicker thanked the Land Preservation Committee.

Res. 2020-67 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Resolution for Approval of Acquisition of Conservation Easement on the Manoff Property (3157 Comfort Road, TMP No. 41-018-011)

Land Preservation Committee – D & H Holding, LLC a.k.a. Solomon Property (3216 Comfort Road, TMP No. 41-018-016-001) – Agreement of Sale for Conservation Easement

The property is a parcel consisting of 14.93 acres located on Comfort Road. D & H Holding, LLC has agreed to the conservation easement purchase price of \$155,172.

Res. 2020-68 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to authorize Mark Baum Baicker, Chair to sign the Agreement of Sale for Conservation Easement for the Property of D & H Holding, LLC a.k.a. Solomon Property (3216 Comfort Road, TMP No. 41-018-016-001).

Agricultural Security Area Application - James & Adrienne Mageras (TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136) – Authorization to Submit Application to the Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee, Solebury Township Planning Commission, and Bucks County Planning Commission

The Board acknowledged receipt of the application from James & Adrienne Mageras for inclusion of TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136 into the Solebury Township Agricultural Security Area at the March 17, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting. Receipt of the ASA application was posted on March 31, 2020 and advertised on April 1, 2020. The two-week comment period ended April 16, 2020.

Res. 2020-69 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to submit the Agricultural Security Area application from James and Adrienne Mageras for inclusion of TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135 and 41-036-136 into the Solebury Township Agricultural Security Area to the Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee, Solebury Township Planning Commission, and Bucks County Planning Commission for review.

Resolution to Delay the Penalty Accrual Deadline for Municipal Real Estate Tax for the Year 2020 to July 31, 2020

The proposed resolution (copy of which is attached) delays the penalty accrual date for Solebury Township municipal real estate taxes for 30 days from July 1 to July 31, 2020 with a penalty amount of ten percent (10%).

Res. 2020-70 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to approve the resolution to delay the penalty accrual date for Solebury Township municipal real estate taxes. The penalty accrual date will be delayed 30 days from July 1 to July 31, 2020 with a penalty amount of ten percent (10%).

Snow Plowing – Bid Award

Solebury Township received and reviewed the bids for snow plowing.

Res. 2020-71 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to award the snow plowing bid for 2020-2023 to Professional Landscape Services and Blooming Glen Contactors, Inc., based upon their bids as submitted.

VIII. Public Comment – No Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-67

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A
CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PARCEL NUMBER 41-018-011 COMPRISING 35.723
ACRES IN SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Second Class Township Boards of Supervisors are charged with the responsibility to ensure the sound health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the township (Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 65607);

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Second Class Township Boards of Supervisors are authorized to make and adopt ordinances, bylaws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with or restrained by the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth necessary for the proper management, care and control of the Township and its finances and the maintenance of peace, good government, health and welfare of the Township and its citizens (Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 66506);

WHEREAS, Section 1502(a) of the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. §66502(a), authorizes townships of the Second Class to purchase, acquire by gift or otherwise, hold, lease, let and convey, by sale or lease, any real and personal property it judges to be to the best interest of the Township.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township has determined that acquiring conservation easements on properties within the Township which possess significant agricultural, natural resources, and/or scenic value is in the best interest of the Township and its residents.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township has determined that the property identified as Parcel Number 41-018-011 located at 3157 Comfort Road in Solebury Township and totaling approximately 35.723 acres (the "Property") possesses agricultural, natural and scenic resources worthy of protection.

WHEREAS, the equitable owners of the Property are Gary Manoff and Amelia Manoff a/k/a Amy Manoff (collectively, "Owners"), which Owners desire to convey to the Township and to the Land Trust of Bucks County a conservation easement on the Property (the "Conservation Easement"), all as more fully set forth herein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township has determined that it is in the public interest of the residents of the Township to acquire the Conservation Easement.

WHEREAS, Owners have agreed to convey the Conservation Easement on the Property to the Township for the total sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) (the "Purchase Price") with the remaining value of the Conservation Easement being donated as a gift.

THIS RESOLUTION has been duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township at a public meeting held this 21st day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

Catherine Catabi

Date: April 21, 2020

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: [Signature]
Mark Baum Baicker, Chair

By: [Signature]
Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair

By: _____
Noel Barrett

By: [Signature]
Robert McEwan

By: [Signature]
John S. Francis

Exhibit B Agreement of Sale

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION 2020 - 70

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP TO DELAY THE PENALTY
ACCRUAL DEADLINE FOR MUNICIPAL REAL ESTATE
TAX FOR THE YEAR 2020 TO JULY 31, 2020**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020, and further issued a stay at home order on April 1, 2020, as a result of novel Coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors declared a disaster emergency for Solebury Township on March 17, 2020 as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Local Tax Collection Law, 72 Pa. C.S.A. § 5511.10(a), provides that property tax payments are due without penalty within four months of the date of the tax notice; and

WHEREAS, the Local Tax Collection Act authorizes the taxing authority to implement a penalty amount after four months of non-payment; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the declarations of the emergency and the stay at home order, the Bucks County Commissioners, in consultation with the Bucks County Association of Tax Collectors, on April 1, 2020 delayed the Buck County property tax accrual penalty deadline from July 1, to July 31 with a penalty amount of ten percent (10%), and recommended that municipalities take the same action; and

WHEREAS, Solebury Township desires to maintain consistency by having the penalty accrual deadline for municipal and county property taxes to remain the same date.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

1. The penalty accrual date for Solebury Township municipal real estate taxes will be delayed 30 days from July 1 to July 31, 2020 with a penalty amount of ten percent (10%).

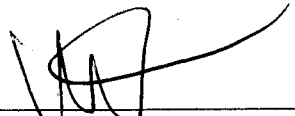
RESOLVED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED, on the 21st day of April, 2020, at a public meeting of the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors.

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP

ATTEST:


Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


Mark Baum Baicker, Chair