

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 1, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

Solebury Township Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Helen Tai, Chair, Mark Baum Baicker, Vice-Chair, Kevin Morrissey, Robert McEwan, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Jordan Yeager, Solicitor was also in attendance

Absent: Noel Barrett

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

Audio recording device was then turned on.

II. Approval of Bills Payable – April 13, 2018 and April 27, 2018

Res. 2018-56 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the list of Bills Payable dated April 13, 2018, and April 27, 2018, were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2018

Res. 2018-57 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, the Minutes of the April 3, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

- Executive Session
The Board announced an executive session held on May 1, 2018, prior to the meeting, dealing with Personnel.
- Ms. Tai announced the change of the Upper District Polling Location. The new polling place for voters registered in the Upper District is Trinity Episcopal Church.
- Ms. Tai announced the Resignation of Ron Moule from the Environmental Advisory Committee and Solebury Township Farm Committee.
- Appointment of Josh Perlsweig for Farm Committee Member

Res. 2018-58 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously approved to appoint Josh Perlsweig, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Solebury Township Farm Committee for term ending January 2020.

V. Supervisors Comment

- Ms. Tai commented about the PennState Master Gardener plant sale being held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

- Ms. Tai addressed the need for volunteers for Township Committees including:
 - Historical Architectural Review Board
 - Land Preservation Committee
 - Planning Commission

Residents with questions or an interest in giving back to the community by volunteering for one or more of Solebury Townships Committees is to contact Cathy at ccataldi@soleburytwp.org.

VI. Public Comment

- Polly Wood, Free Library of New Hope & Solebury representative, informed the Board and public that the Library is to host a Community Spelling Bee on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the New Hope Solebury High School. Groups are to be made up of three (3) team members and are asked to pay a \$150.00 entrance fee. The teams are encouraged to raise money for their team as this is a fundraiser. There will be a raffle and bake sale as well.

VII. Presentations - No Presentations

VIII. Public Hearing – No public hearing took place

IX. Old Business

Authorization to Advertise – Temporary Lodging Ordinance

The proposed Ordinance amends the Solebury Township Zoning Ordinance regarding temporary lodging facilities and event uses. The ordinance was reviewed by Solebury Township and Bucks County Planning Commissions and modified based from their suggestions.

Res. 2018-59 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the advertisement of the Temporary Lodging Ordinance.

New Hope Crushed Stone Update

Mr. Morrissey provided the following update:

Last September, New Hope Crushed Stone (NHCS) filed an appeal with the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court challenging the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Environmental Hearing Board’s authority to require NHCS to complete quarry reclamation by the middle of 2019. The hearing is scheduled for June 7, 2018 in Philadelphia. The results of this hearing will be shared with the community as soon as possible.

The DEP granted NHCS a temporary increase of water pumping in the quarry to two million (2,000,000) gallons from the current five hundred thousand (500,000) gallons maximum per day. This is to enable NHCS to move equipment involved in reclamation to another location to avoid being flooded.

The DEP has informed the Township that it will require approximately two to three months for the equipment move to be finished. At that time the five hundred thousand (500,000) gallons per day pumping requirement will be reinstated. The new location of the equipment will be situated so that it will not be required to move again.

New Hope-Solebury Shared Services Update

Mr. Baum Baicker made this statement on behalf of the Board:

We are disappointed at the apparent outcome of our attempts to sit down with the New Hope Borough Council to discuss the way we allocate costs for shared services. After our numerous attempts to get them to the table with us were rebuffed, members of the Council did meet with us once last Fall but cancelled the scheduled follow-up meeting, on the basis that they needed to do a new review and would get back to us early in 2018.

New Hope released a statement to the Herald last Tuesday for publication in Thursday's paper and we received it from them Friday. That same morning, Supervisor Mark Baum Baicker called Council President Allison Kingsley to try to set a date for the follow-up meeting we never had. Ms. Kingsley talked about each of the shared areas, explained why she felt Solebury was wrong about each one, and concluded that there "is nothing to talk about." So there apparently will not be another meeting.

We find this to be very unfortunate, since we still have a number of questions and concerns. In many ways we really are one community and having an ongoing dialog is always the best way to resolve differences. And the input we have received indicates that residents of both New Hope and Solebury would like the two governments to work together to reach a fair agreement.

One of the shared service areas involves the sports teams, and we noted in their press release that New Hope's council "feels that funding the cost of extra-curricular activities such as Park and Recreation is not appropriate." They indicated that they view participation on sports teams as equivalent to private piano lessons, which would never be paid for by a municipality. We definitely have a difference of approach there, since in Solebury we see funding Park & Rec programs as a primary mission.

Our offer to meet with the New Hope Council remains open and we hope that they rethink things and take us up on it in the days ahead.

Frank Lawson, resident, asked the Board to rescind the sports fees.

Kevin Campbell, resident, asked the Board to rescind the sports fees.

X. New Business

Land Preservation Committee – Resolution for Approval of Acquisition of Conservation Easement on Harry Duce Property (6327 Greenhill Road, TMP # 41-013-017-002)

The proposed resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township authorized the acquisition of a conservation easement on 16 acres comprising Tax Map Parcel No. 41-013-017-002 in Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Res. 2018-60 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Resolution for Approval of Acquisition of Conservation Easement on the Harry Duce property (6327 Greenhill Road, TMP # 41-013-017-002).

Request for Proposal – Development of Aquetong Spring Park Master Plan

The Board and Aquetong Spring Park Committee discussed the development of a Master Plan for Aquetong Spring Park. Some topics of discussion included: stream restoration; community involvement; a strategic plan; a master plan; and funding. The stream restoration was determined to be the main priority at this time.

Res. 2018-61 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker it was unanimously agreed to issue a Request for Proposal for Aquetong Spring Park’s stream restoration plan and for Robert McEwan to start the visionary process for Aquetong Spring Park. The visionary is to be used to develop a Request for Proposal for a planner and Aquetong Spring Park Committee to develop a Master Plan.

Audit Report – Acknowledgement of Submission

The Board’s financial liaison, Robert McEwan, recognized the 2017 Audit’s completion and submission to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, found Solebury Township’s financial statements presented fairly, financial position, major fund and the changes in the 2017 fiscal year. Mr. McEwan expressed gratitude to Michele Blood, Solebury Township’s Finance Director, for a detailed job well done on a consistent basis.

Financial Highlights:

- The Township’s revenue increase by 8.9% primary due to Earned Income Tax and Real Estate Tax.
- The Township issued a General Obligation Bond, Series A of 2017, in the amount of \$6,125,000 to refund the Township’s General Obligation Note Series 2014, at a lower interest rate averaging 1.5%. The refinancing saved the Township approximately \$215,000 over the remaining life of the debt.
- The Township incurred new debt of \$1,060,000 in 2017, to finance various capital improvement projects. These projects include the planning, construction, renovation and improvement of various Township building and facilities, including a salt storage building, a police facility and a multi-purpose recreational field.
- Moody’s reaffirmed the Township’s rating of Aa2 with a stable outlook. The rating reflects the consistent growth of the General Fund Balance over the last six years, the avoidance of an economic recession, and the Township’s financial discipline to control costs and maintain financial and capital reserves and appropriate liquidity levels.

The Board thanked the Township Manager, Dennis H. Carney, staff and the previous Board of Supervisors.

XI. Subdivisions/Land Developments

XII. Public Comment

- Ms. Tai addressed the Bucks County Herald Ad “Preserve Solebury”. The Township did not endorse this ad and has no affiliation with this ad.

XIII. Adjournment

Res. 2018-62 –The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary