

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

September 1, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

**VIRTUAL BUDGET MEETING**

**AMENDED MEETING MINUTES**

The September 1, 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, Dudley Rice, Parks & Recreation Director, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was 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 – August 27, 2020**

**Res. 2020-115 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the list of Bills Payable dated August 27, 2020 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**III. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments**

- Resignation of Ralph O'Banion from the Land Preservation Committee  
Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Ralph O'Banion from the Land Preservation Committee. The Board thanked Mr. O'Banion for his service. Mr. Baum Baicker cited Mr. O'Banion's thirty plus years of service to Solebury Township in land preservation.

Mr. Morrissey commented on the vacancy on the Farm Committee. Those interested can send their Letter of Interest and Resume to Catherine Cataldi at the Township building. Send by email to [ccataldi@soleburytp.org](mailto:ccataldi@soleburytp.org) or by mail to Solebury Township, Attn: Catherine Cataldi, 3092 Sugas Road, P.O. Box 139, Solebury, PA 18963.

**Res. 2020-116 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the resignation of Ralph O'Banion from the Land Preservation Committee was unanimously accepted.**

**IV. Supervisors Comment**

- Mr. McEwan reminded everyone to complete the census online at [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) by the September 30, 2020 deadline.

**V. Public Comment – No Public Comment**

**VI. Budget**

Mr. Baum Baicker and Ms. Blood commented on how the overall economic situation has impacted the Township's Tax receipts. Ms. Blood indicated that through August 31, 2020, Real Estate tax receipts are on target and have not been an issue. Earned Income Taxes are approximately sixty two thousand dollars (\$62,000) below collections this time last year. While we are catching up on Earned Income Tax collections, we anticipate we will feel the revenue shortfall next year (due to the impacts of COVID-19) and have budgeted with that in mind.

Parks & Recreation – Dudley Rice

Mr. Rice presented the 2021 Park & Recreation Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting the extension of the Maintenance Lawn Care contract resulting in no change in lawn maintenance and a minimum change to the overall budget. Summer Camp and the cancelation of Winterfest were discussed. Capital budget highlights include the removal of dead or dying trees and replacement of the Pavilion Roof.

Discussion ensued regarding the desire to reduce grass mowing and to adopt a policy to purchase electric maintenance equipment as soon as practical in the interests of furthering Climate Change Mitigation efforts.

The Board expressed gratitude to Mr. Rice for his management of the Parks & Recreation budget.

Mr. Francis recognized Dudley's success in maintaining a successful Parks and Recreation budget especially in light of the effects of the COVID 19 crisis.

Public Works – Dennis H. Carney

Mr. Carney presented the 2021 Public Works Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting that there were no significant changes to the 2020 Public Works budget. Discussion ensued regarding the roads scheduled for paving and the purchase of equipment, including a replacement Mower and Leaf Vac attachment.

Discussion ensued regarding the deferment of the Public Works Storage building. With uncertain economic times, the Administration is deferring the construction of this project. The building design and the Bid Document assembly are to be completed in 2021 with the possibility of construction in 2022.

The Board announced that the 2021 Solebury Township Police Department budget will be presented at the October 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm Board of Supervisors meeting.

**VII. New Business**

Minimum Municipal Obligation Acknowledgment for 2021

The Administration informed the Board of the pension plans anticipated financial obligations for 2021. This notification must be provided to the Board no later than the end of September.

**Res. 2020-117 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge receipt of Solebury Township's 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Township Pension Plans as follows:**

<b>Uniform MMO:</b>	<b>\$296,140</b>
<b>Non-Uniform – Defined Benefit:</b>	<b>\$ 42,586</b>
<b>Non-Uniform – Cash Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 35,883</b>

Annual Block Grant to The Fire Companies – Contribution for 2021

The Board discussed the Block Grant contribution for 2021.

**Res. 2020-118 – Upon motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed that the contribution for 2021 will be budgeted at \$500 per active firefighter and active fire police who reside in Solebury Township and volunteers with any of the three fire companies that serve Solebury Township (New Hope Eagle, Midway and Point Pleasant).**

**VIII. Subdivision/Conditional Uses/Land Developments**

Giuliano Subdivision Escrow Release No. 12

The Township Engineer has confirmed that certain expenses in connection with this land development have been incurred by the Township and that Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars and Twenty-Two Cents (\$9,558.22) can be released from the letter of credit held by the Bank to Solebury Township to reimburse for legal, engineering and administrative fees.

**Res. 2020-119 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Escrow Release Request No. 12 as recommended by the Township Engineer for the release of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars and Twenty-Two Cents (\$9,558.22) from the Giuliano Subdivision Letter of Credit with National Penn (3<sup>rd</sup> Fed Bank).**

**IX. Public Comment**

- Mr. Francis announced the Board of Supervisors' Budget Work Session to be held Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 9:30 am.

Public Comment – Zoom Chat Feature:

- Susan Olinger: I do have a question as to why we do not have Verizon FIOS.

Mr. Carney commented on the efforts the Board of Supervisors and Township have taken to try to get Verizon Fios in Solebury Township. Verizon has declined for many reasons

- Susan Olinger: Also, you published a statement about the number of arrests in the township compared to the number of minority arrests. Why? It would have been more useful if you told us how many complaints and how many from minorities.
- Susan Olinger: Perhaps you should wait until you have all the information
- Susan Olinger: Please be careful not to be inflammatory

Mr. Baum Baicker noted that the Township and Board of Supervisors are trying to be transparent and will be releasing additional information.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Cataldi  
Secretary