

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

September 5, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

**Solebury Township Hall**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: Kevin Morrissey, Chair, Helen Tai, Vice-chair, Noel Barrett, Mark Baum Baicker, Paul Cosdon, Michele K. Blood, Finance Director / Treasurer, and Catherine Cataldi, Administrative Assistant.  
Absent: Dennis H. Carney

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

**II. Approval of Bills Payable**

**Res. 2017-112 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, the list of Bills Payable dated August 31, 2017 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**III. Approval of Minutes – August 15, 2017 Regular Meeting – Mr. Cosdon and Ms. Tai requested minor revisions to the draft Minutes, all of which were agreed to by the Board.**

**Res. 2017-113 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, the Minutes of the August 15, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved with revisions.**

**IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments**

- The Board announced an executive session held on September 5, 2017, dealing with personnel, legal issues, and Zoning Hearing Board Applications were discussed.
- Mr. Morrissey made a slight change to the agenda moving “Audio Recording of BOS Meetings”, found under “New Business” to earlier in the meeting as the topic was pertinent to the current meeting.

**V. Supervisors Comment**

Ms. Tai recommended that the Board of Supervisors’ meetings be audio recorded and the unedited recording be posted to the Township website the following business day. This philosophy is in keeping with the spirit of open communication and open government. Additionally, the recordings will assist in preparing the meeting minutes. The New Hope-Solebury School District has allowed the Township to borrow their recording device to test it at the current meeting. Ms. Tai recommended the Township purchase a similar device if the recording proves successful. Discussion ensued among the board members regarding the pros and cons of recording the meetings. Mr. Cosdon cautioned against moving forward before all costs involved in the recording and posting of the audio recordings were known. Mr. Cosdon also cautioned that residents may be inhibited from commenting due to the recording of the meetings. Additionally, the Board agreed to a 6 year retention policy.

**Res. 2017-114 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, and agreed to by Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Barrett, an audio record of the Board of Supervisors’ meetings will be made and Administration is to retain the recording for 6 years. The recording is to be posted on the website for a reasonable length of time (determined by the Administration) conditioned upon the appropriate technology and costs.**

**Mr. Cosdon voted nay.**

Audio recording device was then turned on.

**VI. Public Comment**

Peter Gatto of Lumberville requested that speed limit signage be posted on North River Road as the speed limit changes from 40 mph to 30 mph without any warning / signage. The first 30 mph sign appears approximately 1,000 feet from entry into Lumberville. Mr. Gatto also noted that there is limited site distance on Greenhill Road from both directions.

Mr. Morrissey read the letter from J. D. Eckman Inc. announcing that the Sugan Road Bridge (at Sugan & Cuttalossa Roads) is to be closed from approximately September 25, 2017 – April 2018. This is an eight (8) month closure.

**VII. Presentation – Ralph O’Banion & Phil Johnson, Land Preservation Committee (LPC)**

Mr. Morrissey opened the session by thanking Mr. Baum Baicker for being the newly appointed Land Preservation Committee (LPC) liaison.

Mr. O’Banion and Mr. Johnson discussed some of the difficulties in preserving smaller acreage properties in the Township. They requested more flexibility in the LPC guidelines to look at smaller properties and perhaps pay more for the easement. They noted that the two primary issues with acquiring smaller properties to preserve are: 1) Compensation – under current LPC guidelines, smaller properties are not compensated at the same rate as larger properties therefore deterring potential easement; and 2) the possibility of combining several smaller adjacent properties into one easement. Conversation ensued regarding the current guidelines, possible updates to the guidelines and a request to investigate further the root cause of why property owners decide not to preserve their land. The Board requested that the LPC committee prepare proposal for preserving smaller acreage properties which will be considered at a future meeting.

**The Board agreed to authorize the Land Preservation Committee to review the policy issues for smaller acre preservation and present a policy proposal to the Board.**

**VIII. Old Business**

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Masters (3064 River Road, New Hope TMP# 41-18-45) – The applicant is proposing to demolish and reconstruct / expand a non-conforming accessory structure. The Board did not have additional input.

Mira Nakashima - Yarnall (1847 Aquetong Road, New Hope TMP#41-36-77-2) – The applicant is proposing an expansion to the North side of a non-conforming structure. The Board did not have additional input.

Ari Spectorman & Anthony Ortiz (2632 River Road, New Hope TMP#41-30-11) – The applicants are proposing the construction of a roof deck and roof extension. Some discussion ensued.

**Res. 2017-115 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, and seconded by Ms. Tai, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Solicitor to represent the Township interests in regard to the Zoning Hearing Board application of Spectorman/Ortiz.**

## **IX. New Business**

### **Authorization to Advertise – Recycling Grant Ordinance**

Mr. Morrissey reviewed the Recycling Grant Ordinance and the Bucks County Intergovernmental Agreement as the State is requiring the adoption of these documents by Townships and Boroughs.

**Res. 2017-116 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, and seconded by Mr. Cosdon, it was unanimously agreed to advertise the Recycling Grant Ordinance.**

### **Authorization to Sell – 2004 Ford Crown Victoria – VIN # 2FAFP71W84X179435**

The Administration requested the Board authorize the sale of the above mentioned 2004 Ford Crown Victoria, on Municibid.

**Res. 2017-117 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, and seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to post the 2004 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN # 2FAPW84X179435, for sale on Municibid.**

### **Authorization to Sell – Leeboy Paver Serial #484**

The Administration requested the Board authorize the sale of the above mentioned Leeboy Paver to Upper Makefield Township for \$3,000.

**Res. 2017-118 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, and seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to sell the Leeboy Paver, Serial #484, to Upper Makefield Township for \$3,000.**

## **2018 Budget Presentations**

### **Police Department – Chief Dominick Bellizzie**

Chief Bellizzie presented the 2018 Police Department Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting areas of increased budget, such as part-time salaries, overtime costs and traffic detail. Chief Bellizzie reiterated the 2017 Budget Amendment presented at the August meeting which detailed the increased salary costs due to the homicide investigation that occurred during the summer. The Chief noted the budgeted increase due to manpower needed for traffic details to address resident concerns in Carversville, Lumberville and Centre Bridge. Conversation ensued between the Chief and the Board. There are no major changes with the Police Department budget.

### **Parks & Recreation – Dudley Rice**

Mr. Rice addresses the Board with the preliminary Operational and Capital budgets for the Parks & Recreation Department for 2018. Mr. Rice informed the Board that the recycling in all the parks has been successful but it increased the solid waste lines item by approximately twenty-four percent (24%). Due to streamlining efforts made by Mr. Rice, the total increase to the Parks & Recreation operational budget was approximately \$750 or .04%. Mr. Rice then addressed the Park Capital budget discussing the field restoration and other maintenance projects at the parks. Other major projects, such as the Aquetong Spring Restoration and Aquetong Park Grants will be discussed at an upcoming budget meeting.

**X. Subdivisions/Land Developments/Conditional Uses**

No applications came before the Board.

**XI. Public Comment**

No additional public comments were offered.

**XII. Adjournment**

**Res. 2017-119 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Tai, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Cataldi  
Administrative Assistant