

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

October 6, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

**VIRTUAL BUDGET MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The October 6, 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, Dominick Bellizzie, Police Chief, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

Zoom recording device was turned on. \*\*Due to technical issues the recording starts part way into the Chair going over the meeting information.

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

**II. Approval of Bills Payable – October 1, 2020**

**Res. 2020-137 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Francis, the list of Bills Payable dated October 1, 2020 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**III. Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting**

**Res. 2020-138 – Upon a motion by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Virtual Meeting were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

**IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments**

- Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session held on Thursday, September 22, 2020 dealing with Legal matters.

- Appointment of Nancy Stock-Allen to the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

**Res. 2020-139 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Nancy Stock-Allen, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee.**

- Appointment of Lars Crooks to the Farm Committee

**Res. 2020-140 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Lars Crooks, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Solebury Township Farm Committee for term ending December 31, 2022.**

- Appointment of Thomas Mancini as Associate Member to the Farm Committee

**Res. 2020-141 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Thomas Mancini, Solebury resident, without compensation, as Associate Member to the Solebury Township Farm Committee for term ending December 31, 2020.**

## **V. Supervisors Comment**

- Mr. McEwan commented on the Budget, sustainability, and the contribution to the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on his September 22<sup>nd</sup> comment regarding the contribution to the Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on sustainability.
- Mr. Francis commented on sustainability.
- Mr. Morrissey commented on the Farm Committee's continued work on the feasibility of the Landowner – New Farmer program.

**Res.2020-142 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to authorize a representative from the Solebury Farm Committee communicate to Helen Tai, member of the Bucks County Transition Team Environment and Energy Subcommittee, that Solebury Township supports the implementation of a county wide Farm Committee with one of their focuses being a Landowner - New Farmer Match Program. If the county considers such a committee, Solebury Township would like the opportunity to discuss this effort with county representatives.**

## **VI. Public Comment**

- Lee Rush, representative from Bucks County NAAACP, read a letter sent to Chief Bellizzie regarding the new Re-imagining Public Safety committee.
- Helen Tai, resident, commented on information requested and received from Solebury Township Police Department. Ms. Tai commented on the NAACP's Re-imagining Public Safety Committee.

## **VII. Public Hearing**

### Authorization to Adopt – Historical Architectural Review Board Ordinance Amendment

The proposed ordinance (Copy of which is attached) of the Township of Solebury, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, amends the requirements for a Registered Architect and Building Inspector on the Solebury Township Board of Historical Architecture Review.

**Res.2020-143 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Historical Architectural Review Board Ordinance Amendment.**

## **VIII. Budget**

### Administration – Dennis H. Carney and Michele Blood

Mr. Carney and Ms. Blood presented the Preliminary 2021 Administration Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting that the Administration budgeted conservatively. Discussion ensued regarding the decreased earned income tax for 2021 due to economic uncertainties; budget for sustainability projects and other projects from 2021-2024; and tax increase of 1 mill specifically for debt service.

Discussion ensued regarding Public Works equipment purchases. Ms. Blood and Mr. Carney explained Liquid Fuels money.

Budget – Dominick Bellizzie – Chief of Police

Chief Bellizzie presented the 2021 Police Department Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting areas of change. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction of gas with the hybrid vehicles; the purchasing of body cameras; grants; Officer education and training; and ways to reconnect with the community once the pandemic is over.

Helen Tai, resident, questioned the policy regarding the body cameras. Chief Bellizzie advised that the policy is still being determined.

Ms. Tai questioned the retention policy for the camera recordings. Mr. Bellizzie commented that the retention policy is to be discussed and determined with the District Attorney.

The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury

Discussion ensued about additional contribution to The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury.

Mr. Francis made a motion to add a five thousand dollar (\$5,000.00) contribution to the 2021 budget for The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury. Mr. Morrissey made a motion amendment.

**Res.2020-144 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. McEwan it was agreed to amend the motion on the table to include that the money be a one-time contribution and for the money to be used for health care.**

**In Favor: Mr. Morrissey, Mr. McEwan, Mr. Francis, and Mr. Barrett**

**Opposed: Mr. Baum Baicker**

Mr. Baum Baicker commented that due to the Township's financial uncertainty for 2021 due to Covid-19, he could not support any additional optional spending at this time but mentioned that this could be re-evaluated in mid-2021 depending upon the Township's actual financial position at that time.

**Res. 2020-145 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was agreed to add a one-time contribution of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to the 2021 budget for The Free Library of New Hope and Solebury, contingent that the contribution be used towards healthcare.**

**In Favor: Mr. Morrissey, Mr. McEwan, and Mr. Francis**

**Opposed: Mr. Baum Baicker and Mr. Barrett**

**IX. New Business**

Resolution – 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program

The resolution (copy of which is attached) authorizes application to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program in the amount of \$5,473.10, with a Township match in the amount of \$5,473.10 for the Park Signage and Beautification project.

**Res.2020-146 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to approve the resolution for the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program to carry out the Park Signage and Beautification Project.**

Bid Award – Rock Salt

Bids for rock salt were received by the Bucks County Consortium and reviewed by Solebury Township Administration.

**Res.2020-147 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to award the bid for Rock Salt to Morton Salt, Inc.**

**X. Subdivision/Conditional Use/Land Development**

Release of Letter of Credit – New Hope Oral Surgery Center Land Development

**Res.2020-148 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge and approve the letter of credit for New Hope Oral Surgery Center Land Development.**

**XI. Public Comment – No Public Comment**

**XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Cataldi  
Secretary

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-004**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOLEBURY,  
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR A REGISTERED ARCHITECT AND  
BUILDING INSPECTOR ON THE SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW**

**WHEREAS**, Section 3 of the Historical Districts Act (HDA), 53 P.S. § 8003, authorizes the Township to appoint a Board of Historical Architectural Review (HARB or Board) upon receipt of the certifying resolution of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The Board shall be composed of not less than five members. One member of the Board shall be a registered architect, one member shall be a licensed real estate broker, one member shall be a building inspector, and the remaining members shall be persons with knowledge of and interest in the preservation of historic districts;

**WHEREAS**, the HDA imposes no residency requirements on the members of a HARB;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the HDA, Solebury Township established a HARB. See Solebury Township Code of Ordinances Section 11-101, et seq.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 11-104.1 of the Solebury Township Code of Ordinances, the Solebury Township HARB is to be composed of Solebury Township residents, all of whom shall have demonstrated interest in and knowledge of historic preservation. The requirements for the members of the HARB shall consist of at least five persons appointed by the Township Supervisors who shall have their principal residence in Solebury Township. The membership of the HARB shall consist of a registered architect, a licensed real estate broker, the Building Inspector of Solebury Township, a qualified individual from each historic district, appointed as each district is placed under this Part, and such other qualified individuals as the Board of Supervisors wishes to appoint;

**WHEREAS**, Solebury Township has found it difficult to find a qualified resident registered architect willing to be a member of the Solebury Township HARB;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1601 of the Second Class Township Code provides that the Board of Supervisors may adopt Ordinances in which general or specific powers of the Township may be exercised, and, by the enactment of subsequent Ordinances, the Board of Supervisors may amend, repeal, or revise existing Ordinances (53 P.S. Section 66601);

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors to enact regulations as may be necessary for the health, safety, and general welfare of the Township and its residents (53 P.S. Section 66506);

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors finds it to be in the best interests of the health, safety and general welfare of the Township to remove the residency requirements for registered architect members of the Solebury Township HARB;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors also finds that the Township Code of Ordinances should be amended to clarify the HARB requirement for the building inspector and make other clerical changes;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments have been advertised, considered, and reviewed in accordance with Section 1601 of the Second Class Township Code

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing, be it **ENACTED** and **ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

**I. Chapter 11** of the Solebury Township Code of Ordinances is hereby **AMENDED** as follows:

**A. AMEND** Section 11-104 as follows:

**1. AMEND** Section 11-104.1 to **STRIKE** the existing language of introductory paragraph only and **REPLACE** it with the following:

A Board of Historical Architectural Review is hereby established, to be composed of individuals who shall have demonstrated interest in and knowledge of historic preservation. The Board shall consist of at least five persons appointed by the Township Supervisors. The membership of the Board shall consist of a licensed real estate broker, a building inspector, a qualified individual from each historic district, appointed as each district is placed under this Part, and such other qualified individuals as the Board of Supervisors wishes to appoint, who shall have their principal residence in Solebury Township. The membership of the Board shall also consist of a registered architect, who need not have a principal residence in Solebury Township.

**2. AMEND** Section 11-104.1.D to **STRIKE** the existing language and **REPLACE** it with the following:

The position of any member of the Board, other than a member of the Board appointed thereto as a registered architect, residing within Solebury Township at the time of his/her appointment who thereafter moves his/her residence from the Township shall automatically become vacant. Likewise, any member of the Board appointed thereto as resident of a historic district who thereafter moves his/her residence from the historic district. If the person appointed to the board as a building inspector is an employee or contracted Building Inspector of Solebury Township, he/she shall cease to be a member of the Board upon ceasing to be an employee or contracted Building Inspector to Solebury Township. An appointment to fill a vacancy shall be only for the unexpired portion of that term.

3. **AMEND** Section 11-106 to ADD “of Solebury Township” after the words “Building Inspector” **such that the last sentence reads as follows:** the existing reference to “ and **REPLACE** it with the following:

A certificate of appropriateness shall not be required for interior changes. Applications for certificates of appropriateness shall be made to the Building Inspector of Solebury Township, who will forward them to the Board of Historical Architectural Review in accordance with the terms of this Part.

4. **AMEND** Section 11-107 to **STRIKE** the existing language and **REPLACE** it with the following:

In those situations where a building permit is required, the Building Inspector of Solebury Township shall not issue a permit in an historic district for any erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition or razing of a building or structure or for any other alteration of the property which requires a building permit until the Supervisors of the Township of Solebury have issued a certificate of appropriateness.

5. **AMEND** Section 11-108 to **STRIKE** the existing language and **REPLACE** it with the following:

Upon receipt of an application for a certificate of appropriateness, the Building Inspector of Solebury Township shall, within five days of receipt, forward a copy of the application, together with a copy of all material filed by the applicant, to the Board of Historical Architectural Review. The Building Inspector of Solebury Township shall maintain in his/her office a record of all applications together with their final disposition, which shall be in addition to and appropriately cross-referenced to his/her other records.

6. **AMEND** Section 11-115 to ADD “of Solebury Township” after the words “Building Inspector” **STRIKE** the existing language and **REPLACE** it with the following:

The Building Inspector of Solebury Township, with the approval of the Board of Supervisors, shall have the power to institute any proceedings at law or in equity necessary for the enforcement of this Part or the Act of June 13, 1961, 53 P.S. § 8001 et seq., in the same manner as in his/her enforcement of other building, zoning, or planning ordinances.

## **II. Partial Repealer**

All other provisions of the Ordinances of Solebury Township, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect. All other Ordinances or provisions of the Ordinance inconsistent

herewith or in conflict with any of the terms hereof are, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, hereby specifically repealed.

**III. Severability**

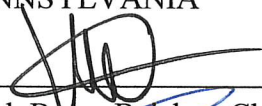
The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any section, clause, sentence, part or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts or provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Supervisors that this Ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, clause, sentence or part of a provision had not been included herein.

**IV. Effective Date**

All provisions of this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days after the approval and adoption.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED** this 6th day of October, 2020.

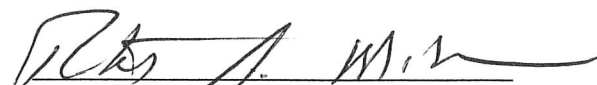
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SOLEBURY  
TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Baum Baicker, Chair


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Noel Barrett, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Francis, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. McEwan, Member

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary



RESOLUTION NO. 2020-146

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE 2020 PECO GREEN REGION OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FOR THE PARK SIGNAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Solebury (“Township”) desires to undertake the Park Signage and Beautification project; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township desires to apply to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program for a grant for the purpose of carrying out this project; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township has received and understands the 2020 PECO Green Region Open Space Program Guidelines.


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township Board of Supervisors hereby approves this project and authorizes application to the PECO Green Region Open Space Program in the amount of \$5,473.10; and,


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT**, if the application is granted, the Township commits to the expenditure of matching funds in the amount of \$5,473.10 necessary for the project’s success.

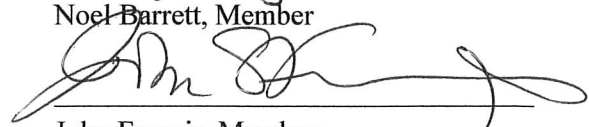
**SO RESOLVED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Baum Baicker, Chair


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Noel Barrett, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Francis, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. McEwan, Member

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary