

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 3, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

Solebury Township Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Kevin Morrissey, Chair, Helen Tai, Vice-Chair, Mark Baum Baicker, Paul Cosdon, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager/Secretary, Michele K. Blood, Finance Director / Treasurer, and Catherine Cataldi, Administrative Assistant. Jordan B. 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

Res. 2017-131 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, the list of Bills Payable dated September 28, 2017 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2017 Regular Meeting – Mr. Cosdon requested minor revisions to the draft Minutes, all of which were agreed to by the Board.

Res. 2017-132 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Ms. Tai, the Minutes of the September 19, 2017, meeting were unanimously approved with revisions.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments - None

V. Supervisors Comment

- Mr. Morrissey noted that tragedies of the last few weeks: the hurricanes and the Las Vegas shooting. Mr. Morrissey noted that as a local official there is not much he can do regarding this national issue, but he can work with our local Representatives to address the gun control issue.
- Mr. Morrissey addressed the need for volunteers for Township committees by reiterating the request posted on the Township website:

“One of the reasons Solebury is such a great place to live is because of our citizen volunteers. We are very fortunate to have more than forty (40) volunteers who serve the Township on permanent and ad hoc advisory boards as well as the Zoning Hearing Board. Among other things, these volunteers generously give their valuable time and expertise to:

- *Protect, conserve, manage, and promote our natural resources (Environmental Advisory Council)*
- *Make recommendations on how to make agriculture more sustainable in Solebury (Farm Committee)*
- *Foster the aesthetics values of the community and enhance the overall ambiance of the two historic districts (Historical Architectural Review Board)*
- *Promote Land Preservation (Land Preservation Committee)*
- *Plan, improve, and maintain Township Parks (Parks & Rec Board)*

- *Make recommendations on Land Development issues (Planning Commission)*
- *Render decisions on specific types of land use appeals and applications (Zoning Hearing Board)"*

Mr. Morrissey advised those with questions or interests in giving back to the community by volunteering for one or more of Solebury Township's Committees, to contact Catherine Cataldi at ccataldi@soleburytwp.org or 215-297-5656. Interviews will be conducted in December.

- Mr. Cosdon announced that the Board of Supervisor's annual public meeting with the Department of Environmental Protection is scheduled for October 4, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building. This is the sixth consecutive year this meeting will be held. The community is welcome to attend.

VI. Public Comment – No early public comment was offered.

VII. Presentation – No presentations were held.

VIII. Public Hearing

Intergovernmental Agreement on Recycling Grant Ordinance - Adoption

Mr. Morrissey noted that for many years Solebury Township joined with other Bucks County Municipalities to apply for the recycling grant. This year, the State required an ordinance and intergovernmental agreement be adopted by the participating Townships and Boroughs.

Ms. Tai recommended a minor change to the Ordinance, which was made and accepted by the Board.

Res. 2017-133 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Tai, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement on Recycling Grant Ordinance, with revision.

IX. Old Business

24 Hour Ambulance Service Referendum Mailer Discussion

On August 14, 2017, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to place the 24 Hour Ambulance Service Referendum on the November 7, 2017 ballot. The Board is requesting Solebury Township voters to vote "YES" to the ambulance referendum. Township Administration will be sending a Referendum mailer to Solebury Township residents within the next few weeks.

Ms. Tai requested that more details about the 24 Hour Ambulance Service be posted to the website.

Ms. Tai questioned if New Hope is sending a similar mailer, and if not, should Solebury Township request they do so. Mr. Morrissey will reach out to the New Hope Council President regarding this issue.

Res. 2017-134 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to approve the 24 Hour Ambulance Service Referendum mailer.

X. New Business

2018 Budget Presentations

Public Works – Dennis H. Carney

Mr. Carney presented the preliminary 2018 Public Works Operational and Capital Budgets, highlighting areas of increased spending: 1)the Road Maintenance Program and 2)Capital Equipment purchases.

Discussion ensued regarding the sale of an old trailer, provisions made to replace retiring employees, and roads scheduled for paving. There were no significant changes to the 2018 Public Works budget.

Administration – Dennis H. Carney & Michele Blood

Mr. Carney and Ms. Blood presented the Preliminary 2018 Administration Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting areas of interest: 1) digitalization of paper documents /records; 2) changes to part-time and full time salaries and employee benefits; 3) planned motorcycle enforcement on River Road; and 4) the Police Department building renovations.

E-Waste Discussion

Mr. Morrissey discussed the Administration's efforts to organize an E-Waste recycling event for the community. Numerous E-Waste recycling facilities have been contacted and costs discussed. Conversation regarding the pros and cons of a Township sponsored recycling event were discussed; not all Board members were in agreement that the Township should sponsor such an event. Township Solicitor Jordan Yeager mentioned that Staples accepts electronics for recycling free of charge. It was determined that Township Administration would conduct additional research to determine if local retail stores had recycling programs and to determine if their disposing regulations are environmental friendly. Administration will update the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Additional Contribution to Volunteer Firefighters

Mr. Morrissey opened the discussion by commenting the following:

“There were an estimated 300,000 volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania in the 1970s; currently there are about 72,000. Locally, there may not be as sharp a decline, but it is significant. Without these volunteers, local taxes could be significantly higher since volunteers would be replaced with full time paid employees.”

Mr. Morrissey stated that last year ACT 172 was signed into law and it would allow local governments to grant fire and emergency medical service volunteers a tax credit for local earned income taxes paid. Mr. Morrissey suggested that the Township implement ACT 172; it would show a level of appreciation to the volunteers.

Administration has proposed that the Board establish a yearly block grant contribution to the three local fire companies servicing the Township (New Hope Eagle, Midway and Point Pleasant) for any “active” volunteer firefighter who resides in Solebury Township and volunteers with the fire company.

Res. 2017-135 – Upon motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker it was unanimously agreed to authorize the annual block grant to three fire departments that serve Solebury Township (New Hope Eagle, Midway and Point Pleasant) who would distribute the funds to the active volunteer fire fighters and fire police who reside in Solebury Township. The contribution amount will be budgeted annually and reviewed / approved by the Board.

Res. 2017-136 - Upon motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, it was unanimously agreed that the contribution for 2018 will be budgeted at \$200 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).

2017 Budget Amendment

In accordance with the Second Class Township Code, Section 3202 (f), Township Administration recommended that the Board approve the proposed budget amendment as detailed below:

- An increase in the General Fund expenses of \$7,757 for Advertising and Township Mailings, thereby decreasing the General Fund Reserve Balance by the same amount. (See attachment)
- An Increase in Natural Resources expenses of \$5,000 for Stormwater MS-4 expenses, thereby decreasing the Natural Resources Reserve Balance by the same amount. (See attachment)

Res. 2017-136 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to approve the 2017 Budget Amendment as documented.

Authorization to Bid – Police Renovations

Mr. Carney presented the floor plan for the Police Department renovations, which converts the former Public Works building into a ready room, locker room, uniform closet, evidence area for the Police, and an Administrative document storage room. Additionally, drawings for the existing covered porch and entry vestibule to the basement area of the Police Department were presented. Administration recommends the Board provide authorization to bid the renovations in three separate bid packages: 1) conversion of the Public Works building to Police Department uses as noted above; 2) entry vestibule renovations; and 3) the window installation.

Res. 2017-137 Upon motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker it was unanimously agreed to authorize Administration to conduct bidding for the Police Department renovations, the entry vestibule renovations and window installation.

Shared Services Discussion

Mr. Morrissey opened the discussion by providing background regarding shared services between New Hope Borough and Solebury Township. The primary focal point has been the equitable sharing of the costs of these shared services. Following the last township meeting, New Hope Borough Council has agreed to meet with Solebury Township.

Mr. Baum Baicker stated the following:

"I agree with Mr. Morrissey's comments from our last meeting - that in many ways, New Hope and Solebury are a single community. We, of course, share a school district. And together we provide services such as the library, fire, ambulance, and parks & recreation. But the reality is that we have two separate governments, which means that we have two different sources of funding these services. And, each entity's contributions are currently determined differently for each of the shared services.

After giving a good deal of thought to the subject of equitable sharing, I have come to the conclusion that rather than different splits in each of the shared areas, we need to reach agreement on the conceptual basis of how we share expenses, and apply that same concept to all areas. Does it make sense to split the costs for the library based on usage and for ambulance/emergency services based on population numbers? I would submit that it does not.

To me, usage is the most obvious way to share expenses. This means that if a higher percentage of our kids participate in team sports, which should be reflected in how we share costs. If New Hope, though smaller in population, uses a disproportionate percentage of one of the services that should also be taken into account. The only issue is whether we can measure usage accurately, which I think we can do in each of these areas.

Though usage seems to me to be the most obvious approach, I remain open to other concepts if their fairness to both communities can be demonstrated. But in my opinion, different percentage splits in different areas does not make sense.

A review of the way expenses are now handled in all areas combined, plainly shows that by any measure, Solebury currently bears a disproportionate share of the expense. This is something that must be addressed. Representatives of our Board will be sitting down with representatives of New Hope's Council in the near future. I hope and fully expect that we can reach an agreement that is fair to both New Hope and to Solebury."

Additional discussion between the Board and the public ensued including the following:

- Concern over the question of shared services between New Hope Borough and Solebury Township has surfaced in the past in both communities.
- As times and needs have changed, it is important for the two government bodies to evaluate all shared services.
- A committee with two representatives and the manager from both New Hope Borough and Solebury Township will be formed to identify and evaluate areas of concern, collect data as it relates to shared services and identify any ancillary expenses.
- The findings will be evaluated and presented to the respective Boards along with recommendations.
- The first joint committee meeting will be held in early October.
- The goal of this committee is the development of a mutual agreement for the cost of the shared services in an equitable manner that can be incorporated into the 2018 Budgets.

Res. 2017-138 - Upon motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, it was unanimously agreed to form the Solebury Township committee to work with the New Hope Borough committee to review and evaluate shared services with the goal of coming to a mutual agreement and an equitable sharing of the costs of these services in time for their incorporation into the 2018 budgets.

Mr. Morrissey asked for representation for this committee. Mr. Baum Baicker and Ms. Tai volunteered to be the two Supervisors to represent Solebury Township.

Res. 2017-139 - Upon motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Ms. Tai it was unanimously agreed to select Helen Tai and Mark Baum Baicker as the two supervisors to represent Solebury Township.

XI. Subdivisions/Land Developments/Conditional Uses - None were discussed.

XII. Public Comment

Mr. Yeager provided an update that New Hope Crushed Stone filed an appeal regarding the Environmental Hearing Board's decision to Commonwealth Court challenging the Environmental Board's decision that upheld the reasonableness of the DEP's January 2016 Order concerning the timing and pace of reclamation. Mr. Yeager will continue to provide future updates.

Mr. Cosdon asked if New Hope Crushed Stone could continue to mine during the appeal process. Mr. Yeager replied that New Hope Crushed Stone must continue to abide by the January 2016 Order. The appeal does not stay that order.

XIII. Adjournment

Res. 2017-140 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Baum Baicker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Administrative Assistant

Solebury Township - 2017 Budget Amendment Request
Board of Supervisors Meeting
October 3, 2017

		Approved Budget	Proposed Amended Budget	+ / -	Comments
General Fund - 01					
Expenses					
01.400.401.341	Advertising	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	There were more advertisements in 2017 than originally anticipated: Vacant Positions: BOS Supervisors, PW Employees, Administrative Assistant in addition to meeting advertisements, ZHB hearings, the Athletic Field Construction, Ordinances, Mowing Bids, etc.
01.414.414.450	Township Mailings	\$ 6,243	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,757	This line items was not originally budgeted for 2017. In August, there was a budget amendment for the Bamboo & 911 Emergency Card mailings to residents. It is anticipated that there will be a mailing in October for the EMS Referendum Question that will be posed on the November ballot.
	Net Increase to GF Expenses			\$ 7,757	
Net Increase / (Decrease) to Fund Balance				\$ (7,757)	