

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 3, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.

Solebury Township Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, John S. Francis, Vice-Chair, Robert McEwan, Kevin Morrissey, Noel Barrett, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Solicitor was also in attendance.

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 – August 29, 2019

Res. 2019-102 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the list of Bills Payable dated August 29, 2019 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Res. 2019-103 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the Minutes of the August 20, 2019 regular meeting were unanimously approved as written and posted.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

• Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session held on September 3, 2019, prior to the meeting, dealing with Land Preservation.

V. Supervisors Comment

- Mr. Baum Baicker announced the second Community Consensus on 202 Concepts Meeting is to be held September 24, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The location is to be announced once confirmed. Mr. Baum Baicker thanked the community for attending the first meeting and for the input received so far.
- Mr. Baum Baicker announced that the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors submitted an entry to the Free Library of New Hope Solebury Community Spelling Bee. The second annual Spelling Bee is to be held Thursday, October 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the High School Auditorium. The entry fee is \$150.00 per team. Mr. Baum Baicker encouraged all residents to form their own 3-person team, sponsor a team or come out and support the Library.
- Mr. Morrissey announced the rededication of the Malcom Crooks Bridge scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 11:30 am. Mr. Morrissey thanked Mr. Carney for getting the new bridge sign.
- Mr. Morrissey announced the Farm Committee Forum on Cultivating a Sustainable Community: Agriculture's Role in Achieving Solebury Townships Community Goals. The forum will be held at the Township Building on Thursday, October 3, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

VI. Public Comment – No Public Comment

VII. Budget

Mrs. Blood presented a perspective of the budget.

Budget – Dudley Rice – Parks & Recreation

Mr. Rice presented the 2020 Park & Recreation Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting no change in park maintenance and a minimum change to the overall budget.

Mr. Baum Baicker asked what is to happen once the maintenance contract ends. Mr. Rice advised that the maintenance would need to be rebid. The Township does have the option to extend the existing contract an additional year at cost.

The Board thanked Mr. Rice.

Budget – Dominick Bellizzie – Chief of Police

Chief Bellizzie presented the 2020 Police Department Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting areas of change, which are, contractual. Funding for part time employees, training and education, and vehicle maintenance were lowered. Funding for the K-9 was added. An increase for vehicles was notated in the Capital Budget. The vehicles are to be hybrids which are more expensive to purchase but lower fuel costs.

Mr. Francis questioned the cost for the K-9. Mr. Bellizzie stated that donations only paid for the purchase of the dog and initial training.

Mr. McEwan asked if there is a charge to other communities for use of Solebury's K-9. Mr. Bellizzie commented that there is no charge. The local communities all work together.

Mr. Morrissey asked if the police force was up to full staff. Mr. Bellizzie answered yes.

Mr. Francis inquired about other community's experience using Hybrid vehicles. Mr. Bellizzie advised the Board that New York has experienced no issues with the use of Ford Fusion Hybrids over the last five years.

Mr. Barrett asked how long the vehicles last. Mr. Bellizzie commented the vehicles last four to five years or 100,000 to 120,000 miles.

The Board thanked Mr. Bellizzie.

VIII. New Business

Minimum Municipal Obligation Acknowledgement

The Administration informed the Board of the pension plans anticipated financial obligations for 2020. This notification must be provided to the Board no later than the end of September.

Res. 2019-104 - Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge receipt of Solebury Township's 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Township Pension Plans as follows:

Uniform MMO:	\$283,739
Non-Uniform – Defined Benefit:	\$21,182
Non-Uniform – Cash Balance:	\$27,676

2019 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:

1. Increase in General Fund revenues by \$117,121 and increase expenses by \$142,806; the net result is a \$25,685 decrease in the General Fund Reserve Balance.
2. The balance of the budget amendments are either decreases to a fund balance, or no net change, just changes to certain line items that create a wash. Funds are listed below:

- o Natural Resources – 05 (\$67,500)
- o Capital Reserve – 21 (\$100,000)
- o Park Capital – 24 (\$5,000)

Res. 2019-105 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Barrett, it was unanimously agreed to approve the 2019 Budget Amendment as documented.

Resolution to Authorize the Land Preservation Funding Referendum

The Board reviewed the proposed resolution (copy of which is attached).

Barbara Zietchick, resident, inquired about the possibility for the funds to be used for perusing commercial properties and purchasing properties out right. The Board advised that all possibilities are being researched.

Christopher Caputo, resident, applauded the Board for the resolution. Mr. Caputo suggested community education regarding the benefits of land preservation.

Res. 2019-106 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed resolution to call election for purpose of obtaining the assent of the electors to make an increase in the debt of Solebury Township.

IX. Public Comment – No Public Comment

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-106

**RESOLUTION TO CALL ELECTION FOR PURPOSE
OF OBTAINING THE ASSENT OF THE ELECTORS
TO MAKE AN INCREASE IN THE DEBT OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the preservation and maintenance of environmentally sensitive areas, open space, agricultural and conservation easements, and the access to adequate active and passive recreational facilities and cultural facilities, are important aspects of the health, welfare and quality of life of present and future residents in the Solebury Township; and

WHEREAS, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors has determined that it is advisable to make an increase in the debt of Solebury Township in the sum of Twelve Million Dollars (\$12,000,000) for the purpose of financing the acquisition of interests in or improvements to real property for open space, including but not limited to the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and open space for agricultural and conservation easements, active and passive recreation, and cultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors desires to obtain the assent of the electors of Solebury Township to make such increase in the debt of Solebury Township; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Unit Debt Act, Act 177 of 1996, P.L. 1158, as amended (the "Act"), requires that a governing body of a local government unit adopt a resolution signifying such determination calling an election for the purpose of obtaining such assent, and approving the content and substantial form of the notice of election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 8041 of the Act, the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township hereby determines that it is advisable to increase the debt of the Township incurred with the consent of the electors and does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, for the purpose of obtaining the consent of the electors of the Township to the following question:

Shall debt be authorized to be incurred as debt approved by the electors in the sum of Twelve Million Dollars (\$12,000,000) for the purpose of financing the acquisition of interests in or improvements to real property for open space, including but not limited to the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and open space for agricultural and conservation easements, active and passive recreation, and cultural purposes?

Yes _____

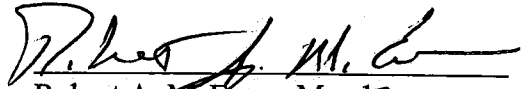
No _____

2. Notice of the election called hereby shall be given by public notice as required by Section 8042 of the Act substantially in the form of the following notice:

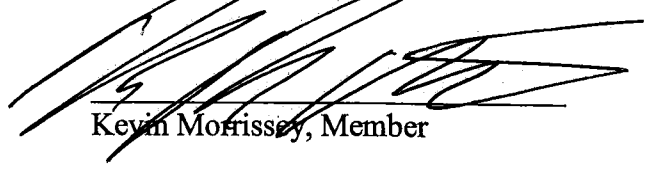
NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP, BUCKS
COUNTY:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Resolution of the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors, approved September 3, 2019, Solebury Township will hold an election (referendum) on November 5, 2019, on the question of whether or not to incur debt in the sum of Twelve Million Dollars (\$12,000,000) for the purpose of financing the acquisition of interests in or improvements to real property for open space, including but not limited to the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and open space for agricultural and conservation easements, active and passive recreation, and cultural purposes. The cost of each individual project cannot be determined at this time, but the

Noel Barrett, Member



Robert A. McEwan, Member



Kevin Morrissey, Member