

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Joaquim "Jack" DeMatos, Vice Chairman
Dennis E. Benner
Patrick M. Leonard
Philip W. Spaeth

Members Absent: Stephen Wagner, Chairman

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager
Robert E. Kassel, Jr., Assistant Township Manager
Jeffrey Dimmich, Township Solicitor
Kevin Chimics, P.E., Township Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman DeMatos called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Public Meeting Room of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Building, 5500 Camp Meeting Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, PA.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. DeMatos asked all in attendance to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance."

NOTIFICATION

Mr. DeMatos announced that all public sessions of the Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors are electronically recorded. The recordings are maintained as part of the record of the meeting until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Eckhart, 526 Wood Street, Bethlehem - Ms. Eckhart, President of the Friends of the Southern Lehigh Public Library, congratulated the Board for being chosen by the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries to receive the Local Public Officials Award. She said the Friends of the Southern Lehigh Public Library nominated the Board for this award.

Mr. DeMatos thanked the Friends of the Southern Lehigh Public Library for nominating the Board for the award.

Attorney Chris Spadoni – Attorney Spadoni represents Roy Laubach who owns the property at 6009 Old Bethlehem Pike which adjoins the Township Park. Attorney Spadoni said Mr. Laubach is getting up in age and would like to sell the property. Mr. Laubach is having difficulties selling the property due to access concerns. He went on to explain that the property can only be accessed by crossing a rickety bridge or by using the Park driveway on Township property. It was mentioned there are two other nearby property owners who use the Park driveway to access their properties because the rickety bridge is unsafe. Attorney Spadoni would like to work with the Township to resolve the access issue as it relates to the Laubach property.

Solicitor Dimmich mentioned there is a subdivision plan from 1986 that created the Laubach property as well as the other two properties currently using the Park driveway for access. The subdivision plan shows legal access to the three properties via the rickety bridge, unfortunately, the plan does not identify who is responsible for maintaining the bridge. He noted the Township could gate the Park driveway, forcing Mr. Laubach and the other two property owners to fix the rickety bridge.

A discussion ensued regarding the condition of the rickety bridge. Mr. Laubach said the rickety bridge is very narrow but can support the weight of a vehicle.

Attorney Spadoni said Mr. Laubach would be willing to sell his property to the Township so it can be added to the adjacent Township Park.

Mr. Laubach said his property would be a great addition to the Township Park.

The Board directed Solicitor Dimmich to contact the other two property owners to determine their level of interest in resolving the access issue. It is the Board's desire to find a global solution to the access issue.

John Munsch, 6065 Chestnut Hill Road, Coopersburg - Mr. Munsch said a drainage pipe under Chestnut Hill Road drains into a ditch on his property. Debris from the road exits the pipe and accumulates in the ditch. He has been shoveling debris out of the ditch for years but now wants the Township to now take over maintenance responsibility of the ditch.

Mr. Beil explained the ditch is on Mr. Munsch's property and the Township does not maintain ditches on private property.

Mr. Munsch maintained it should not be his responsibility to maintain the ditch because the stormwater is coming from a pipe under the Township's road.

Mr. Beil said there are many instances where swales and drainage ditches are located on private property. In those instances, the responsibility for maintenance falls on the property owner.

Mr. Beil said the Township is planning a major drainage project to address stormwater problems along Chestnut Hill Road, and perhaps Mr. Munsch's concerns can be addressed as part of that project.

Mr. Beil and Solicitor Dimmich will look into the matter further.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DeMatos made the following announcements:

- There is one remaining concert in the Summer Concert Series at the Township Park: Christine Havrilla on August 27 at 6:30 p.m.
- There are two 5K races scheduled for the rail trail: Officer Petzold 5K Run/Walk on September 20 and the Southern Lehigh Public Library's "Book It" on October 4.
- On September 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Upper Saucon Police Department will hold a prescription drug take back at the police station.
- On October 3 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., the Upper Saucon Township Fire Department will hold an Open House.

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None

MINUTES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

MOTIONS

Designate Used Township Vehicles as Surplus Property for Eventual Disposal

Motion made by Mr. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Benner to designate the following seven (7) Township-owned vehicles as surplus property to be disposed of through an electronic auction consistent with the procedures set forth in the Second Class Township Code.

- 2000 Ford F-450 15,000 GVW Dump Truck with approx. 65,729 miles, equipped with a snow plow and Monroe v-box spreader (VIN#1FDXF47F9YED70887)
- 2007 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor with approx. 94,089 miles (VIN#2FAHP71W27X148694)

- 2007 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor with approx. 116,933 miles (VIN#2FAHP71W47X148695)
- 1999 Sterling Jet Vac Truck with approx. 16,062 miles (VIN#2FZHRJBB9XAA73384)
- 2002 Ford F-450 15,000 GVW Dump Truck with approx. 60,680 miles, equipped with a snow plow and tailgate spreader (VIN#1FDXF47F41ED63562)
- 2007 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor with approx. 106,001 miles (VIN#2FAHP71W17X104461)
- 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor with approx. 82,545 miles (VIN#2FABP7BV8BX109161)

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Replace Concrete Sidewalks at Municipal Building

Motion made by Mr. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Benner to accept the proposal submitted by Gary Hillegass Contracting in the amount of \$14,395.00 to replace concrete sidewalks at the Municipal Building.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

None

DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS 1743

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Finance Committee Meeting of July 28, 2015 – Supervisor DeMatos

Mr. DeMatos said the Committee held preliminary discussions on the 2016 Township budget. The Committee decided to use the same methodology for developing the budget as was used in past years. He said the goal is to formulate a budget without a tax or fee increase. The Committee plans to hold additional meetings in October to discuss budget related matters. The Committee will present its budget recommendations to the full Board in November.

BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Leonard to authorize payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and Warrant List #08242015 dated August 21, 2015.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 p.m., the Board met in executive session to discuss the possible acquisition of property by the Township.

The Board returned from executive session at approximately 7:59 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Leonard to authorize the Solicitor, Thomas H. Dinkelacker, or the Township Manager, Thomas F. Beil, to attend the Tax Upset Sale scheduled for September 16, 2015, for the purpose of bidding and purchasing, on behalf of Upper Saucon Township, certain property identified as 6050 Lori Court, Upper Saucon Township, Pennsylvania (PIN 641319127531 1). This authorization shall extend to the performance of all acts necessary to acquire the said property by and on behalf of Upper Saucon Township.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Leonard to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.

Secretary