

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Patrick M. Leonard, Vice Chairman
Dennis E. Benner
Brian J. Farrell
Philip W. Spaeth

Participating Via Speakerphone: Stephen Wagner, Chairman

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Leonard 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. Leonard asked all in attendance to stand and recite the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

NOTIFICATION

Mr. Leonard 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

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Leonard made the following announcements:

- There will be a Rain Barrel Workshop on Saturday, April 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Upper Saucon Township Community Park. Registration is required and more information can be found on the Township's website.
- There will be an Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Southern Lehigh Public Library. Additional information can be found on the Township's website.
- The Township Tax Collector's schedule for 2017 has been released and is available on the Township's website.
- The Spring-Summer-Fall hours for the Leaf and Yard Waste Drop-Off Center have been posted on the Township's website.
- The Environmental Advisory Council has scheduled more Backyard Natural Habitat programs in the coming weeks:
 - "Landscaping" on Monday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Southern Lehigh Public Library.
 - "Maintaining Your Garden" on Monday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Southern Lehigh Public Library.

PRESENTATION BY RANDY WRIGHT OF HANOVER ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES – CONCEPT PLAN FOR NEW PARK NEAR HOPEWELL SCHOOL

Mr. Wright reviewed plans to construct a new park on approximately 40 acres adjacent to the Hopewell Elementary School. The proposed park will feature four multi-purpose fields, one softball field, three basketball courts and two sand volleyball courts.

Paul Bernadino, 5201 Bowood Street – Mr. Bernadino was in attendance representing the Southern Lehigh Soccer Club. Mr. Bernadino asked about fencing between the multi-purpose fields. Mr. Wright said fencing is planned at both ends of the two northernmost multi-purpose fields.

Harry Johnston, 5615 Susan Road – Mr. Johnston was in attendance representing the Southern Lehigh Youth Lacrosse Club. He spoke in support of the new park and inquired about changing one of the grass multi-purpose fields to synthetic turf. Mr. Beil said it was decided to make all the fields grass due to the high cost of installing and maintaining synthetic turf. Mr. Johnston also inquired about lighting for the fields. Mr. Beil said no lights are proposed at this time.

Mr. Wright noted the estimated cost to construct the park is approximately \$4.1 million. The Board discussed reducing the initial cost of the park project by deferring the construction of some of the park features. Mr. Wright was of the opinion it would be more expensive to install park features after the park was built rather than installing them at the time of initial construction.

Mr. Wright reviewed the project timeline. He said it will take roughly forty weeks to complete the project.

Mr. Johnston asked what the link is between the Township, School District and Traditions of America in regards to the property where the proposed park is located. Mr. Beil explained that Traditions of America, the School District and the developer of the Curly Horse Subdivision donated land for the new park.

Mr. Bernadino said there is a real need for more playing fields in the Township.

Mr. Leonard said the Board would take up the issue of whether to move forward with the new park later in the meeting after deciding whether to apply for a grant for the new park.

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None

MINUTES

None

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2017-18 – Grant Application for New Park Near Hopewell School

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Benner to adopt Resolution No. 2017-18 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the purpose of obtaining funding to assist with the construction of a new park near the Hopewell Elementary School.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not to move forward with the new park.

Mr. Farrell asked why the new park is so expensive. Messrs. Unangst and Beil reviewed the various items that are driving up the cost of the project.

Doris Clegg, 4137 Bunker Hill Drive South – Ms. Clegg asked if the Township knows how many more fields are needed over the next 5 to 10 years. Mr. Beil said there is no magic formula for determining how many fields are needed. He said the sports leagues have expressed a huge demand for more fields and the new park alone will probably not meet that demand.

A discussion ensued concerning the cost of the new park and possible funding sources. Mr. Kassel reviewed potential funding sources which included grants, recreation fees paid by developers and funds from a recent borrowing.

Mr. Johnston asked the Board to consider making a synthetic turf field one of the bid options when the project goes out for bid. By doing this, the Board would know how much more it would cost to convert one of the grass fields to a synthetic turf field.

The Board was not in favor of pursuing a synthetic turf field at this time due to cost considerations.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Township Engineer should finalize the design of the new park and proceed with formally putting the new park project out for bid.

MOTIONS

Release of Funds – Traditions of America – Phase 1 - Certification No. 3

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Spaeth to authorize the release of construction security in the amount of \$210,172.60 for Phase 1 of the Traditions of America development in accordance with the Township Engineer's letter dated March 10, 2017.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Release of Funds – Traditions of America - Phase 3 – Certification No. 1

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Benner to authorize the release of construction security in the amount of \$1,353,784.15 for Phase 3 of the Traditions of America development in accordance with the Township Engineer's letter dated March 9, 2017.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Release of Funds – Liberty Village – Certification No. 6

Motion made by Mr. Benner and seconded by Mr. Farrell to authorize the release of construction security in the amount of \$316,182.50 for the Liberty Village Subdivision in accordance with The Pidcock Company recommendation made by letter dated March 17, 2017.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

None

DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review Agenda for Zoning Hearing Board meeting on April 3, 2017

Mr. Beil reviewed the only appeal on the docket for the April 3, 2017 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. It was determined this appeal involves a routine matter that can be handled by the Zoning Hearing Board without input from the Board of Supervisors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS

Motion made by Mr. Spaeth and seconded by Mr. Benner to authorize payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and Warrant List #03272017 dated 03/24/2017.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by a vote of to 5 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:47 p.m.

Secretary