

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 10, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Dennis E. Benner, Chairman
Brian J. Farrell, Vice Chairman
Kimberly Stehlik

Participating Via
Speakerphone: Stephen Wagner

Members Absent: Philip W. Spaeth

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager
Joseph Geib, Assistant Township Manager
Jeffrey Dimmich, Township Solicitor
Charles Unangst, P.E., Township Engineer
Patrick Leonard, Special Projects Coordinator
Thomas J. Nicoletti, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Benner called the meeting to order at 6:31 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. Benner asked all in attendance to stand and recite the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

NOTIFICATION

Mr. Benner 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

Nathan Brown, Lehigh County Commissioner, presented two possible sources of income that are being discussed by the County Executive and Administration for possible adoption in 2019 – a \$5.00 vehicle registration fee and a small tax increase.

He explained that a new \$5.00 per vehicle yearly registration fee would be collected by the County and would generate \$1.5 million in revenue annually, as well as \$2 million from the State. He said the first year's revenue would go entirely to the County but beginning in the second year, half of the revenue would be distributed to municipalities to use exclusively for road and bridge repairs. The revenue would be distributed based on grants.

Mr. Benner asked if there were any drawbacks to the \$5.00 registration fee. Mr. Brown said there are a few cons to the program noting that Pennsylvania already has the highest fuel tax in the nation and car registration fees were just raised by PennDOT. Mr. Brown said municipalities with no bridges could end up paying for repairs to bridges in other municipalities.

Mr. Beil had a concern about the program being grant-driven because there is a possibility that the City of Allentown may get most of the money. Mr. Beil asked if the money could be distributed based on population. Mr. Brown said it is a possibility, as the concept is still in draft form and not presented as legislation just yet.

Mr. Farrell stated two concerns about the program – that the \$5.00 registration fee would be in perpetuity without a sunset provision, and the possibility that the fee could be raised to \$10.00 and beyond. Mr. Brown would also be in favor of a sunset provision on the fee, as well as a cap on the fee. Mr. Farrell also suggested that the County look deeper in their budget to see if additional funds were available there.

Mr. Wagner asked if the program would subsidize public transit, just like the fuel tax. Mr. Brown said that per County Executive Armstrong, it would go towards infrastructure.

Ms. Stehlik asked when the County Commissioners would be voting on this matter. Mr. Brown said it might be late October. Mr. Brown said he would notify the Township when the date is decided.

Mr. Brown explained the second potential source of income would be to raise County real estate taxes. He said the millage rate was 3.79 mills and was reduced to 3.64 a number of years ago. It has been proposed to raise it back to 3.79 mills.

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 25, 2018

Motion made by Ms. Stehlik and seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 25, 2018.

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

Regular Meeting of July 23, 2018

Motion made by Ms. Stehlik and seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 23, 2018.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 163 - VACATING PORTION OF SHORT ROAD

Chairman Benner announced the public hearing on proposed ordinance No. 163 has been canceled at the request of the Petitioner, Provco Pineville Acquisitions, LLC.

ORDINANCES - None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2018-31 – Accepting Deed of Dedication For Additional Right-Of-Way Along Applebutter Hill Road

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to adopt Resolution No. 2018-31 accepting the Deed of Dedication for additional right-of-way along Applebutter Hill Road in connection with the Thom/Schweitzer Lot Line Adjustment Plan.

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

Resolution No. 2018-32 – Accepting Off-site Waterlines & Appurtenances – HMB Hotel Project

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to adopt Resolution No. 2018-32 accepting the Bill of Sale for off-site waterlines and appurtenances for the HMB Hotel Project.

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

MOTIONS

Request For Payment – Preston Lane Drainage & Roadway Improvements – Certification No. 1

Motion made by Ms. Stehlik and seconded by Mr. Farrell to authorize payment in the amount of \$197,401.19 to Horst Excavating for work completed on the Preston Lane Drainage & Roadway Improvements Project.

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

Request For Payment – Oakhurst Storm Sewer Improvements– Certification No. 3

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to authorize payment in the amount of \$80,958.38 to H&K Group, Inc., for work completed on the Oakhurst Storm Sewer Improvement Project.

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

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

Memo dated September 10, 2018 from Thomas Young, Director of Finance – 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation For Township Pension Plans and Firefighters Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP)

Mr. Beil reviewed the memo dated September 10, 2018 from Thomas Young, Director of Finance, concerning the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Township Pension Plans and the Firefighters Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP). Mr. Beil said the memo is for the Board's information only and no action is required at this time.

DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Concept Plan For Township Building Lobby Renovations/Security Improvements

Mr. Leonard reviewed proposed renovations to the lobby of the Township Building. He said the goal was to improve security, and possibly slow down any visitor that may have bad intentions. Phase 1 of the improvements includes constructing a wall with secure access across the hallway in the lobby and relocating the reception area to be behind that wall. He said a level 3 bullet resistant wall will block access to the reception area, and the service window will also be bullet resistant. Another Phase 1 enhancement is the conversion of the existing receptionist area to a new conference room which could be used for short meetings with residents. As a result, the copier area will be relocated to share half of the current lunch room. Phase 2 of the project is planned for 2019 and would include additional improvements to the relocated copy room.

Chief Nicoletti said he is in favor of the security improvements because it would give employees time to run, hide or fight if an active shooter situation ever occurred.

Mr. Beil said he would like to move forward with constructing Phase 1 of the project. He said the work will be done by Lehigh Valley Interior Construction, and they are highly recommended. The Township received three quotes on the project, and Lehigh Valley Interior Construction had the lowest quote.

It was the consensus of the Board that Township staff move forward with Phase 1 of the project.

Cancellation of Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for September 24, 2018 due to lack of agenda items

It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the meeting originally scheduled for September 24, 2018.

BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Farrell to authorize payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and Warrant List dated 9/7/2018.

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

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:17 p.m.

Secretary