

## MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 27, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.  
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Dennis E. Benner, Chairman  
Brian J. Farrell, Vice Chairman  
Philip W. Spaeth  
Kimberly Stehlik  
Stephen Wagner

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager  
Joseph Geib, Assistant Township Manager  
Jeffrey Dimmich, Township Solicitor  
Charles Unangst, P.E., Township Engineer  
Karl E. Schreiter Jr. P.E., Township Sewer Engineer

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Benner called the meeting to order at 6:34 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**

Chairman Benner made a brief statement concerning the Township owned property at 7486 Passer Road, commonly referred to as the former Haring property. He thanked the public for attending the meeting and their interest in the former Haring property. He said he would be seeking the approval of his colleagues to refer the issue of what to do with the former Haring property to the Parks and Recreation Committee for further study. He said the Board is not ready to make any decisions with respect to this property and he believes the issues involved need to be examined in greater detail. He assured those in attendance that they would be

notified of any future meetings concerning the former Haring property and he welcomed their input as the decision-making process moves forward.

Joelle Hower, 2552 Forest Drive, said it would be wrong for the Township to sell the former Haring property for development and asked the Board to do what is right.

Ed Hepner, 2974 Forest Drive, spoke in opposition to selling the former Haring property for development. He said selling the property to the highest bidder should be removed from the list of options being considered.

Linda Anderson, 2910 Forest Drive, said it is clear the public does not want the Board to sell the former Haring property for development. She supported preserving the property as a farm.

Steve Kutoloski, 3211 Jacoby Road, spoke in support of preserving more farmland. In addition, he is concerned about the loss of recreation space in the Township, including local golf courses. He said the Township should not be in the business of selling land and competing with farmers who are trying to sell their land. He suggested the former Haring property might be a good location for a community college campus or a light industrial use. He commended Mr. Bixel for preserving his farm. He said the use of the former Haring site for recreation presents a scenic venue unique in the Township.

Saralyn Foley, 7510 Pheasant Drive, noted the meeting minutes are not up to date on the Township website. She read a letter from Sally Saveri questioning the need to sell the former Haring property for development.

Tim Foley, 7510 Pheasant Drive, asked the Board for transparency in the decision-making process involving the former Haring property.

Trish Husted, 6208 Old Hickory, said she lives on a private drive at the end of Ackerman's Lane. She expressed concerns with the conditions in her neighborhood due to the ongoing sewer and road work. She said there is a lot of dust and dirt related to the construction and wanted to know when the project will end. She questioned the competency of the contractor doing the work and said residents are being unnecessarily inconvenienced. Mr. Unangst gave an update on the project and the anticipated completion date.

Steve Fosbenner, 7071 Suter Road, is concerned about traffic if a development is built on the former Haring property and where the entrance would be built along Passer Road, as traffic volume and speed has increased in recent years.

The Board directed the Parks and Recreation Committee to evaluate possible uses for the former Haring property and to make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Benner said the public will be notified of future meetings when this issue is on the agenda.

## **SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Nicholas C. and Carol A. Antich (3939 West Drive) – Revised Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan - Resolution No. 2018-30**

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Spaeth to adopt Resolution No. 2018-30 conditionally approving the revised Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for Nicholas C. and Carol A. Antich to construct an addition to an existing office building together with additional site amenities at 3939 West Drive.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0 with 1 abstention. Mr. Benner abstained from voting because he has a prior business relationship with Mr. Antich.

## **MINUTES**

None

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Proposed Ordinance No. 42-S – Fees and Regulations for Connecting to Public Sewer System**

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 42-S establishing fees and regulations for connecting to the public sewer system.

Chairman Benner asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on the proposed ordinance. There was no response.

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

### **Proposed Ordinance No. 165 – Sidewalks & Curbs**

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 165 establishing certain regulations and requirements for the construction, reconstruction and repair of sidewalks, footpaths and curbs.

Chairman Benner asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on the proposed ordinance.

Tim Foley, 7510 Pheasant Drive, wanted to know if the Township would still be responsible for any damage to the bituminous curb along the front of his property caused by the snowplow. Mr. Beil confirmed the Township will be responsible for making the repairs.

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

## **RESOLUTIONS**

None

## MOTIONS

### Release of Funds – Weyhill Estates, Phase 1 – Certification No. 6

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to authorize the release of construction security in the amount of \$84,429.77 for Phase 1 of the Weyhill Estates subdivision in accordance with the Community Development Director's memo dated August 3, 2018.

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

### Release of Funds – Posh Properties – 2615 Saucon Valley Road – Certification No. 3

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Farrell to authorize the release of construction security in the amount of \$385,287.93 for the Posh Properties project in accordance with the Township Engineer's recommendation made by letter dated August 16, 2018.

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

### Request For Payment – Oakhurst Storm Sewer Improvements– Certification No. 2

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Spaeth to authorize payment in the amount of \$172,972.52 to H&K Group, Inc., for work completed on the Oakhurst Storm Sewer Improvement Project.

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

### Request For Payment – Saucon Country Estates and Sunset Park Sanitary Sewer Project – Certification No. 4

Motion made by Ms. Stehlik and seconded by Mr. Wagner to authorize payment in the amount of \$136,530.00 to RGC Development LP for work completed on the Saucon Country Estates and Sunset Park Sanitary Sewer Project.

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

### Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Upper Saucon Township and the Upper Saucon Township Police Officers Association for the contract term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022.

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 September 5, 2018

Mr. Beil reviewed the two appeals on the docket for the September 5, 2018 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. It was determined both appeals involve routine matters that can be handled by the Zoning Hearing Board without input from the Board of Supervisors.

### Request for PennDOT to prohibit truck traffic on Vera Cruz Road

Mr. Beil indicated several residents have contacted him to request the Township's assistance in getting PennDOT to prohibit truck traffic on Vera Cruz Road. He said PennDOT has jurisdiction over Vera Cruz Road which means the Township can make a recommendation but PennDOT will ultimately decide the issue. Previous attempts to get PennDOT to prohibit trucks on Vera Cruz Road have been unsuccessful.

An unidentified woman in the audience stated that the increase in truck traffic along Vera Cruz Road does not help the water line, which is prone to main breaks. Mr. Beil said the Township is looking into replacing the water line.

Craig Porter, 5653 Vera Cruz Road, spoke in support of prohibiting truck traffic on Vera Cruz Road. He said any letter to PennDOT should address both safety and quality of life issues. He mentioned a sinkhole was repaired on Vera Cruz Road in the 1980s which is further justification to ban trucks on this road. He said truck drivers typically use Vera Cruz Road as a shortcut to Route 100, especially when Interstate 78 westbound is closed due to an accident.

Allen Cassaday, 5447 Vera Cruz Road, spoke in support of prohibiting truck traffic on Vera Cruz Road. He said 30 mph is the posted speed limit on Vera Cruz Road but most drivers exceed the speed limit. Additionally, the roadway is narrow, which makes it especially difficult for trucks to navigate the sharp curves on the section of Vera Cruz Road between Lanark Road and Chestnut Hill Road.

The Board authorized the Township Manager to send a letter to PennDOT requesting a traffic study to determine if trucks should be prohibited on Vera Cruz Road.

### Request for PennDOT to establish an all way stop at the intersection of Lanark Road and Blue Church Road

Mr. Beil said several residents have contacted him to request an all-way stop at the intersection of Lanark Road and Blue Church Road. Currently, Blue Church Road is the stop-controlled approach and Lanark Road is free flowing. The residents believe the installation of an all-way stop will improve both the safety and operation of the intersection. Mr. Beil noted both Lanark Road and Blue Church Road fall under PennDOT's jurisdiction which means PennDOT will ultimately decide the issue.

The Board authorized the Township Manager to send a letter to PennDOT requesting that they investigate the intersection of Lanark Road and Blue Church Road for potential safety improvements, including an all-way stop installation.

Ms. Stehlik inquired about the status of proposed traffic improvements at the intersection of Route 309 and Center Valley Parkway. Mr. Beil said he met with PennDOT officials a few weeks ago and they said 2020 is the earliest PennDOT will begin engineering the project. Ms. Stehlik would like to get local businesses involved with the hope of persuading PennDOT to expedite the project.

**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 8/24/2018.

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. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Stehlik to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:54 p.m.

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Secretary