

## MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 8, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.  
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Brian J. Farrell, Chairman  
Philip W. Spaeth, Vice Chairman  
Stephen Wagner  
John G. Inglis, III

Members Absent: Dennis Benner

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager  
Joseph Geib, Assistant Township Manager  
Rocco Beltrami, Township Solicitor  
Benjamin Sheppard, Township Solicitor  
Charles Unangst, P.E., Township Engineer

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell 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

Chairman Farrell asked all in attendance to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance."

### NOTIFICATION

Chairman Farrell 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 Farrell requested speakers limit their comments to three minutes or less and try to avoid making repetitive statements. If a speaker agrees with the comments of a prior speaker, they can simply state this and avoid repeating the prior speakers comments. He said public comment would also be accepted immediately after the presentation on the Tumblebrook Golf Campus and prior to the vote on the library appointments.

John Sumoski of Upper Saucon Township expressed concerns about the negative effects of development on the health and viability of springs and streams, highlighting the need to be good stewards of the watershed.

**PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF TUMBLEBROOK GOLF CAMPUS, LLC – PROPOSED GOLF CAMPUS CONSISTING OF A GOLF COURSE, DRIVING RANGE, GOLF LEARNING CENTER AND OTHER GOLF RELATED USES ON APPROXIMATELY 161 ACRES AT 7486 PASSER ROAD, 3511 JACOBY ROAD, 3571 JACOBY ROAD AND 3584 JACOBY ROAD**

Josh Woodward and Vaughn Halyard of Tumblebrook Golf Campus, LLC, reviewed their plans to improve the existing Tumblebrook Golf Course and construct a driving range, golf learning center and another golf course on lands located immediately north of the Tumblebrook Golf Course. Mr. Woodward noted that Jim Mazeika, engineer for the project, and Ron Prichard, golf architect for the project, were also in attendance.

Mr. Prichard described his qualifications and prior experience designing golf courses.

Mr. Mazeika said they were aware of the environmental features of the site and they will create a design that recognizes and protects those features. He mentioned water and sewer will be public supplied.

Mr. Woodward noted the proposed project would be located on lands that Tumblebrook Golf Campus, LLC intends to lease from the Township.

Messrs. Woodward, Halyard and Beil responded to questions from the audience.

**SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS**

**Pitt Ohio Terminal Expansion – Resolution No. 2023-11**

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 2023-11 conditionally approving the Revised Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan of Terminal Leasing, Inc. to expand the existing trucking terminal at 4723 Route 309.

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

**Lehigh Valley Health Network South Mountain Area Medevac – Resolution No. 2023-12**

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Wagner to adopt Resolution No. 2023-12 conditionally approving the Preliminary / Final Land Development Plan of Lehigh Valley Health Network to construct an addition to the South Mountain Area Medevac facility at 3950 Oakhurst Drive.

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

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of March 13, 2023

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Wagner to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 13, 2023.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 in favor, none against and 1 abstention. Mr. Spaeth abstained from voting because he was not present at the meeting on March 13, 2023.

## ORDINANCES

None

## RESOLUTIONS

None

## MOTIONS

### Letter of Intent – Tumblebrook Golf Campus

Motion made by Mr. Spaeth and seconded by Mr. Inglis to approve the Letter of Intent between the Township and Tumblebrook Golf Campus, LLC, outlining the preliminary terms under which Tumblebrook Golf Campus, LLC, will lease approximately 161 acres of Township-owned land at 7486 Passer Road, 3511 Jacoby Road, 3571 Jacoby Road and 3584 Jacoby Road; and to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the Township.

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

### Lease Agreement - Rose Garden at Hopewell Park

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Wagner to approve the Lease Agreement with the Lehigh Valley Rose Society, Inc. whereby the Township will lease land at Hopewell Park to the Lehigh Valley Rose Society, Inc. for the purpose of operating and maintaining a rose garden; and to authorize the Township Manager to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Township.

Supervisor Inglis said the rose garden is a real jewel for the community. Also, he mentioned his landscaping company contributed about \$8,000 of in-kind services to help make the project a reality.

Mr. Beil briefly summarized the terms of the Lease Agreement.

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

Release of Funds – Old Saucon, Phase 2 – Security Release Request 4

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Wagner to authorize the release of construction security in the amount of \$317,639.82 for Phase 2 of the Old Saucon Subdivision in accordance with the Township Engineer's recommendation made by letter dated April 26, 2023.

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

Appointment to Library Board of Directors

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Inglis to appoint Patrick Leonard to the Southern Lehigh Library Board of Directors for a three year term expiring on December 31, 2025. Mr. Leonard is being appointed to fill the position most recently held by Candi Kruse whose term expired on December 31, 2022.

Chairman Farrell invited the public to comment on this issue.

Kathy Pichel-McGovern of Lower Saucon Township said the Library Board needs someone who will provide leadership, noting that Candi Kruse demonstrated strong leadership qualities as a member of the Library Board. She explained how libraries are funded. She noted that Lower Saucon Township is litigious and cannot be trusted, and she spoke against allowing Lower Saucon Township to join the Southern Lehigh Public Library. She said everyone deserves a library.

Victoria Opthof-Cordaro of Lower Saucon Township said she attended a number of Library Board meetings and has been impressed with the Library Board's current members. She spoke against adding Lower Saucon Township to the Southern Lehigh Public Library's service area. She asked the Supervisors to carefully consider their appointments to the Library Board, stressing the Library needs to maintain its independence.

Jane Shinko of Lower Saucon Township cautioned the Supervisors on the possible consequences of appointing Township employees to the Library Board, noting that by doing so the Library might be subject to the Right-To-Know Law. In addition, she stressed the Supervisors may not be able to unilaterally appoint a fifth representative to the Library Board. Solicitor Beltrami said the two appointments being contemplated at tonight's meeting are consistent with both the Library's by-laws and the State Library Law.

Mark Ozimek of Lower Saucon Township said there was never a plan to separate Hellertown Area Library from Lower Saucon Township to begin with. He said it would be wise for the Supervisors to keep the "girl" on the Library Board who has been doing a good job. Also, he said people should leave their greedy, grubby little hands off of Lower Saucon tax money. He noted Southern Lehigh Library has four contributors, but Hellertown Library only has one right now. He said the Lower Saucon Council is good for getting into lawsuits and destroying things. He warned the Supervisors not to destroy the Southern Lehigh Library by trying to add Lower Saucon Township.

Laura Ray of Lower Saucon Township said the appointment of Township employees to the Library Board seemed unethical. She opined the two employees being appointed to the Library Board would likely be in a biased position, thus increasing the likelihood of decisions being made that are not necessarily in the best interest of the Southern Lehigh Library. She was not in favor of allowing Lower Saucon Township to join the Southern Lehigh Public Library, citing budgetary and financial considerations. Solicitor Beltrami said there is nothing in the State Library Law nor the Library by-laws that would prevent an employee of the Township from serving on the Library Board.

Rachel Pfeiffer of Upper Saucon Township said Candi Kruse has done a phenomenal job on the Library Board. In her opinion, it is unethical to appoint a Township employee to the Library Board. She said it broke her heart to learn that Candi wasn't personally informed she wasn't being reappointed and that two Township employees were being appointed to the Library Board. She questioned whether Messrs. Beil and Leonard can make the necessary time commitment to being a Library Board member like Candi did. She asked the Supervisors to really think about these appointments and what it will do to the Library because it's not right.

A discussion ensued regarding the terms of Library Board members.

Kat Moyer of Coopersburg Borough spoke very highly of Candi Kruse and her service to the Library. She implored the Supervisors to reappoint Ms. Kruse to the Library Board. She said being a Library Board member is a lot of work and the Supervisors should appoint someone, preferably Ms. Kruse, who can handle that kind of workload on top of their regular duties. She said the Supervisors need to appoint people who can put in the time and effort to serve the Library, not just certain interests.

Kathleen Parsons of Upper Saucon Township questioned whether it was proper to appoint Mr. Beil to the Library Board because he is not a resident of Upper Saucon Township. She said Candi Kruse did a phenomenal job on the Library Board and urged the Supervisors to reappoint her. Ms. Parsons concluded by saying she is disappointed in the Supervisors.

John Schubert of Upper Saucon Township said he is in agreement with the comments so far regarding Candi Kruse. He urged the Supervisors to table these appointments, noting the appointments do not make the Supervisors look good. He warned the Supervisors are demotivating Library Board members and other volunteers that do the hard work and fundraising for the Library. He said Candi put a lot of work into the Lower Saucon issue and tried to get to "yes" with Lower Saucon in a way that was financially responsible.

Eileen Courtney of Upper Saucon Township echoed many of the prior speakers' sentiments about what a good Library Board member Candi Kruse has been. Ms. Courtney spoke against appointing Township employees to the Library Board and warned of possible unintended consequences, including legal consequences. She suggested the Supervisors were making these appointments as a way of suppressing civic engagement.

Tim Foley of Upper Saucon Township wanted to know the process for evaluating applicants and making appointments to the Library Board. He inquired about the qualifications of the two people currently being considered for appointment to the Library Board. He said if the Supervisors interview applicants for possible appointment to a board and they do not get the position, then the Township should inform them that they are not getting the position.

Chairman Farrell explained the process for making appointments to the Library Board. He also briefly described the qualifications of the two people currently being considered for appointment to the Library Board.

Meghan Lomangino of Lower Saucon Township thanked the Supervisors for listening to everyone's comments. She spoke highly of Candi Kruse and her past work on the Library Board. She said the Supervisors should be careful not to discourage civic involvement and civic volunteering. She questioned the timing of the Library Board appointments which she viewed as suspicious.

Monica Willard of Lower Saucon Township said this is a lose / lose proposition. She was opposed to Lower Saucon Township joining the Southern Lehigh Public Library, indicating it would be bad for both Lower Saucon residents and Upper Saucon residents. She urged the Supervisors to table the motion to put employees on the Library Board. She said the Supervisors should consider gender equity in making appointments to the Library Board.

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Supervisor Inglis	Yes
Supervisor Wagner	Yes
Supervisor Spaeth	Yes
Supervisor Farrell	Yes

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against.

#### Appointment to Library Board of Directors

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Spaeth to appoint Thomas Beil to the Southern Lehigh Library Board of Directors for a partial term expiring on December 31, 2023. This appointment is being made pursuant to Article II of the Library's by-laws.

Chairman Farrell invited the public to comment on this issue.

Kathleen Parsons of Upper Saucon Township wanted to know if Mr. Leonard reports to Mr. Beil. It was confirmed that Mr. Beil is Mr. Leonard's direct supervisor as far as Mr. Leonard's employment with the Township is concerned. Ms. Parsons was concerned that a conflict of interest might exist and Mr. Leonard's independence on the Library Board would be compromised.

Kathy Pichel-McGovern of Lower Saucon Township asked Supervisor John Inglis if he was related to Mark Inglis who currently serves on Lower Saucon Township Council. John Inglis



acknowledged that Mark Inglis is his brother. She asked various questions related to the composition of the Library Board to which Chairman Farrell, Solicitor Beltrami and Mr. Beil responded. She said it is very concerning that the Supervisors are making this decision and it is very concerning that there is another Mr. Inglis.

Rachel Pfeiffer of Upper Saucon Township read from the guidelines for appointing Library Board members noting that the primary responsibility of the Library Board is to carry out the vision and mission of the Library and to ensure its benefit to the community and maintaining that responsibility for the public tax money used to support it. She wanted to make sure the newly appointed Library Board members keep these guidelines in mind while making decisions related to the Library and its finances.

Kat Moyer of Coopersburg Borough had questions about the terms of Library Board members. Mr. Beil responded to her questions. She said they needed someone on the Library Board who can commit to at least three years and wanted to know if Mr. Beil would be willing to serve an additional three year term on the Library Board after completing his initial partial term at the end of 2023. Mr. Beil said no one knows what the future holds and it would be premature to discuss additional terms given that he has yet to be appointed to his initial term. She asked Mr. Beil if he can commit to the workload of the Library on top of the workload of his current position with the Township. Mr. Beil indicated if he were appointed to the Library Board he would serve the residents of Upper Saucon Township and the Southern Lehigh School District to the best of his ability.

John Sumoski of Upper Saucon Township said the Supervisors are making a mistake and there is a stain on these proceedings. He said he felt the Township was run pretty well but the Supervisors are trying to hit above their weight on this issue. He asked the Supervisors to reconsider all this. He reminded the Supervisors that they are all elected and no one is backing them.

Monica Willard of Lower Saucon Township said she is so saddened by the Library Board appointments. She said it does not make sense and it does not build communities. She said the Supervisors have a winning community and they need to bring new leaders in, especially more women. She mentioned it's not fair to the Library Board which caters so much to children. She said this is a lose /lose proposition and the Supervisors must reconsider these appointments. She noted white men are being considered for these appointments and we need better representation for our communities. She encouraged the Supervisors to table this issue and find someone more qualified and diverse. She observed that no one from Upper Saucon is speaking in support of these appointments and she questioned to what extent Upper Saucon residents know what is happening.

Anthony Murphy of Upper Saucon Township said he has a good amount of experience in politics and very rarely has he seen this kind of thing happen. He said at one time in his career he tutored law students and some of them tried to cite the direct letter of the law to which he cautioned them on the lesson of Shakespear's Merchant of Venice. He went on to explain the lesson is best encapsulated by a line from the play: "As thou urges justice, rest assured you shall receive it more than thou desires."

A roll call vote was ordered, and the vote was as follows:

Supervisor Inglis	Yes
Supervisor Wagner	Yes
Supervisor Spaeth	Yes
Supervisor Farrell	Yes

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against.

### **CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

### **DIRECTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Southern Lehigh Public Library's rejection of Lower Saucon Township's million-dollar proposal for library services

Mr. Beil reviewed this matter with the Supervisors. He said the Southern Lehigh Library Board failed to either approve or reject Lower Saucon Township's million-dollar proposal for library services which resulted in the proposal expiring as of May 4, 2023. He said the Township staff prepared a draft letter, which was included with the Supervisors' meeting packet, expressing the Supervisors' disappointment with the Library Board's inability to effectively govern the Southern Lehigh Public Library and announcing the appointment of two new members to the Library Board.

It was the consensus of the Board of Supervisors that the draft letter should be issued in its current form without modification.

Chairman Farrell allowed public comment.

Bruce Eames of Upper Saucon Township claimed the Library's most recent budget shows an almost \$26,000 deficit without accepting Lower Saucon, but by accepting Lower Saucon that deficit grows to almost \$62,000. He said the Library would probably have to ask for more money from the Township if Lower Saucon were added to the Library's service area. He said if you are trying to do a money grab with this Lower Saucon thing, it's going to blow up in your face. He mentioned Upper Saucon's contribution to the Library is currently \$11.87 per capita, Coopersburg is at \$9.58, Lower Milford is at \$5.26 and Lower Saucon would only be contributing \$8.59 per capita if their proposal goes through. He pointed out that Upper Saucon residents may not be happy with Lower Saucon residents paying \$3.00 a head less for library services. He concluded by saying the Lower Saucon proposal doesn't make sense.

Kat Moyer of Coopersburg Borough said the Library Board did not outright reject the Lower Saucon proposal but ultimately decided to get all the funding partners together and figure out a path forward that is both legally defensible and financially responsible. She said she hoped the Supervisors can trust the Library Board, Library staff and professional consultants who have been working on this issue for hundreds of hours and have done their due diligence



in projecting the costs and requirements that accepting Lower Saucon into the Library service area would require. She questioned whether it made sense for Lower Saucon to join the Southern Lehigh Public Library, citing negative financial impacts, the need to overcome huge hurdles with various governmental agencies and the inability of Lower Saucon to pay its fair share on a per capita basis. She mentioned Lower Saucon asked to join the Southern Lehigh Library in 2009 and was told "no" at that time because it was not possible under State guidelines. She questioned why the Supervisors needed to rush into a decision and where the compassion was for the Lower Saucon residents who want to stay with Hellertown Library. She provided the Supervisors with printouts of all the projected numbers related to the Lower Saucon proposal and explained the significance of the projections. She expounded on the various obstacles and challenges to having Lower Saucon join the Southern Lehigh Public Library. She claimed Coopersburg has zero interest in joining up with Lower Saucon. She said the Library Board is not flippantly ignoring \$1,000,000, but there are serious financial implications if Lower Saucon is accepted into the service area.

Mark Ozimek of Lower Saucon Township wanted to know if it was true that Lincoln Treadwell, Lower Saucon Township Solicitor, was not interested in meeting to get a plan together for library services. Kat Moyer responded by saying the Library's Attorney tried to reach out to Attorney Treadwell to make arrangements to discuss the proposals and Attorney Treadwell put him off and would not talk to him. Mr. Ozimek said the Supervisors should take into consideration the kind of people you will be dealing with from Lower Saucon.

Andrea Wittchen of Lower Saucon Township said she is not obligated to provide her address and there is a court ruling to this effect. She said there are over 11,000 people who read Saucon Shenanigans in the last year since they started covering the library situation, noting that 11,000 people is not a small number. She said she really doesn't care how the Supervisors run their Township, but she does care about how her Township gets screwed in the process by the people who run her Township. She described Lower Saucon's efforts to join the Southern Lehigh Public Library as embarrassing, ridiculous and a scam. She acknowledged Kat covered many of the details she was going to cover and there was no need to go through them again. She was critical of Lower Saucon's most recent proposal to join the Southern Lehigh Library, noting the proposal lacked an inflation adjustment clause. She said Lower Saucon joining the Southern Lehigh Library makes no geographical sense. She mentioned the local library was a critical part of her upbringing and the sense of community it creates is a very important thing. She said that if the Supervisors go forward with trying to force this together, they will destroy not one, but two libraries, yours as well as ours. She said the numbers do not make sense under any situation. She said she regularly attends Southern Lehigh Library Board meetings and noticed there's the definite sense that Upper Saucon wants to be the elephant in the room as far as where this issue goes. She said in acknowledgement of good stewardship of your money for your residents and of the communities that we both live in, by all means, be the elephant in the room, just don't be "Dumbo."

Victoria Opthof-Cordaro of Lower Saucon Township said the title of the agenda item is misleading. She said the Supervisors already heard the deal is not a \$1,000,000 offer with wonderful rainbows and sunshine, instead it's a 10-year contract with another municipality

which has taken upon itself to tear communities apart. She opined Upper Saucon Township is not the Saucon Valley community that Lower Saucon Township knows and loves and has been a part of for the past 100 to 200 years. She observed that Upper Saucon and Lower Saucon have different school districts, different pools, different compost centers, separate trick-or-treats and different community celebrations. She said if you accept a deal with Lower Saucon Township, you will divide a community that's been together for 100s of years and destroy a community library next to a school, with the result being the destruction of Lower Saucon's community, the destruction of Hellertown's community and the creation of a big Pandora's Box for the Southern Lehigh Library. She implored the Supervisors to think about the deals they are trying to enter into with Lower Saucon Township. She said the vast majority of Lower Saucon Township residents do not live close to Upper Saucon Township making it inconvenient for them to use the Southern Lehigh Library. She noted there is strong support among Lower Saucon Township residents to stay with the Hellertown Area Library. She concluded by saying that if the Supervisors put themselves in the shoes of Lower Saucon, they probably would not view this as a good deal.

Kathy Fenstermacher of Lower Saucon Township said she has no interest in continuing a conversation to partner with Upper Saucon Township for library services. She said she is sure Upper Saucon has a wonderful Library and the Township is fine, but it's not her community. She wanted to go on record that she does not approve of Lower Saucon's COVID money going to another Township and she does not want her tax dollars going to another Township.

Kat Moyer of Coopersburg Borough clarified that Lower Saucon Township offered the Southern Lehigh Library \$250,000 from their American Rescue Plan money which is also referred to as their COVID money. She said this money was supposed to go to Lower Saucon Township residents and instead they are proposing to send it across a district line to the Southern Lehigh Library.

A discussion ensued as to whether Lower Saucon Township's proposal for library services is still in effect.

Diane Hallowell of Lower Saucon Township said she is very impressed with how the Supervisors conduct their meetings. She said at Lower Saucon Council meetings the Council President spends ten minutes reading four pages of procedures on how to address Council during public comment, and when you finally get to speak they show no respect. She was thankful that Chairman Farrell only used his gavel one time, noting that if she had a dollar for every time President Banonis banged his gavel she would be eating at Melt Restaurant every Friday night. She said a library is more than books -- it builds communities and that's just what Hellertown Area Library does. She said the Hellertown / Lower Saucon community has shared a school district, athletic fields, a pool, a compost center and a library, then a new Council comes in and first we lose a library, then we lose a compost center and now we're going to expand a landfill. She said the Lower Saucon Council does not care what their constituents want and Council is ruining the community and tearing it apart. She said her daughter lives within walking distance of the Hellertown Area Library and she wants her granddaughter to interact with her Saucon Valley classmates at any Library events. She

mentioned the distance issue saying it's crazy how far away the Southern Lehigh Library is for most residents of Lower Saucon. She asked the Supervisors to think about what they're doing and how it's tearing us apart.

Robin Socha of Lower Saucon Township said she didn't want Lower Saucon money going to another Township. She asked why Lower Saucon Council wanted to go with the Southern Lehigh Library instead of staying with the Hellertown Area Library. Mr. Beil said he can't speak for Lower Saucon Council and she should direct this question to them. She said she posed the question to Council on multiple occasions and they never give an answer. She said she lives in Wassergass and it took her nearly 20 minutes to get to Upper Saucon's municipal building, noting that Hellertown Library is located in the center of town near the pool, the playground and the school. She said the Southern Lehigh Library is totally off the beaten path for most residents of Lower Saucon. She did not understand why Lower Saucon would want to join the Southern Lehigh Library and she urged the Supervisors to turn down this deal.

Solicitor Beltrami reminded everyone in attendance that there is no deal on the table at this time.

Pricilla DeLeon, Councilwoman of Lower Saucon Township, said she wanted to go on the record as being the "no vote" for the library deal with Upper Saucon. She said she has the utmost respect for the Southern Lehigh Library Board members, noting they are good, hardworking people just like the Hellertown Area Library Board members. She mentioned the Southern Lehigh Library is not convenient to get to for many residents of Lower Saucon. She said the Hellertown Area Library is the Saucon Valley hub and we need to protect and preserve that.

Laura Ray of Lower Saucon Township said this agenda item seems purposefully worded to make the Library look bad for turning down a \$1,000,000 proposal. She said the "arm twisting" that's been going on since the very beginning is clear. She said it makes no financial sense for Lower Saucon to join the Southern Lehigh Library. She claimed a few elected officials want to do this but the general public is not in favor of any of this. She said it's unethical and immoral to push for these long-term agreements that make no financial sense.

David Willard of Lower Saucon Township said he agrees with all the comments that have been made. He thanked and commended the Supervisors for taking public comment from interested parties who are not residents of Upper Saucon Township, pointing out that Lower Saucon Township Council does not offer that opportunity. He noted the Supervisors demonstrated respect and an interest in making sure people are understood. He said he hoped the Supervisors would listen to the comments of their residents regarding the library issues.

John Schubert of Upper Saucon Township spoke in opposition to adding Lower Saucon Township to Southern Lehigh Library's service area, noting the numbers don't work. He also questioned the motives of certain Lower Saucon Township Council members for wanting to switch libraries. He claimed certain Lower Saucon Council members are using

the library to get back at Hellertown Borough for a zoning change that did not get approved in the Borough. He said he was disappointed the Supervisors gave a nanosecond to the thought of being an agent of this political disfunction. He said he received 72 letters from Lower Saucon residents all in opposition to switching libraries and no one is saying they want any part of this. He spoke in favor of a proposal by Candi Kruse which would allow Lower Saucon Township residents to use the Southern Lehigh Library within the confines of the library law and without jeopardizing the finances of the Library. He said Upper Saucon has an excellent Library and community benefits provided by the Library are being jeopardized by the Lower Saucon issue.

Rachel Pfeiffer of Upper Saucon Township said the wording of this topic, as listed on the meeting agenda, was very insulting to all the work the Library Board has been doing. She pointed out that last summer she was unable to register her children for the summer library programs because the programs were beyond full. She displayed photos of some of the recent library programs which showed how well attended the programs were. She questioned the wisdom of adding the residents of Lower Saucon to the Southern Lehigh Library when many of the library programs are already at maximum capacity. She went on to explain why the Library cannot easily add more capacity to these programs, citing space constraints and program instructor availability limitations. She expressed concerns with bringing more people into the Library programming when we don't have space right now for the people who need to use the Library, noting the Library belongs to the residents who are currently using it. She claimed Lower Saucon residents want to be at Hellertown Library and there's space for them there. She said when the Supervisors are looking at what's best for the Library and what's best for Upper Saucon they need to make sure Upper Saucon residents have access to the programs that are offered at the Library. She mentioned the Southern Lehigh Library is known for its children's programs and that's why the programs are packed. She reiterated that the Supervisors can't possibly think of adding more people into the mix when we don't have enough programming space now. She said there's no such thing as a "free lunch" stressing the various negative implications of adding Lower Saucon Township to the Library's service area. She said if you add more people into the children's programming and more residents are locked out, then the moms' groups will be showing up at Supervisors' meetings to complain.

Cancellation of Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for May 22, 2023 due to lack of agenda items

It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the meeting originally scheduled for May 22, 2023.

Review agenda for Zoning Hearing Board meeting on June 5, 2023

Mr. Beil reviewed the lone appeal on the docket for the June 5, 2023 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. The appeal involves a request by Stack Storage to build a self-storage facility at 5928 Old Bethlehem Pike. Mr. Beil said there have been discussions between representatives of the Township and Stack Storage concerning possible architectural and design enhancements to the proposed self-storage building but those discussions have yet to produce a satisfactory resolution of the issues.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not the Supervisors should oppose the zoning appeal.

It was the consensus of the Board of Supervisors to pursue the following course of action with respect to the Stack Storage zoning appeal:

1. Authorize the Township Solicitor to attend the June 5, 2023 Zoning Hearing Board meeting to oppose the appeal of Stack Storage pertaining to the property at 5928 Old Bethlehem Pike. The Supervisors' opposition can be withdrawn at a later time if the parties resolve the architectural / design issues.
2. Refer this matter to the Planning and Zoning Committee to work out architectural / design elements for the proposed self-storage building with the expectation the Committee will come back to the full Board of Supervisors with recommendations for resolving both the zoning appeal issues and the building architectural / design issues.

#### **BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS**

Motion made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Inglis to authorize payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and Warrant Detail Invoice List both dated May 5, 2023.

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

#### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

None

#### **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Chairman Farrell thanked the public for coming out and expressing their opinions.

Kat Moyer of Coopersburg Borough thanked the Supervisors for taking the time to listen to everyone.

An unidentified man had questions about the Lower Saucon proposal for library services to which Kat Moyer, Mr. Beil and Solicitor Beltrami responded. The same unidentified man questioned whether the Southern Lehigh Library could accommodate the influx of Lower Saucon residents. He also questioned where the funding would come from if the influx of Lower Saucon residents resulted in the need to expand the existing Library building. He said as a taxpayer of Upper Saucon Township he doesn't think this is right and there are "a lot of red flags here." He said it's not a good fit and the Supervisors should squash this.

Jaime Hecker of Lower Saucon Township provided a brief history of the Hellertown Area Library and its founding. She said Lower Saucon is operating in bad faith and their proposal is full of holes because it's an act of vindictiveness. She claimed the majority of Lower Saucon residents do not want to use the Southern Lehigh Library. She stated her allegiance is to Lower Saucon Township, Hellertown and the Saucon Valley School District. She said



the Hellertown Library is our community hub and that's where we want to be. She said the Supervisors are being put in a bad position and their legacy will rest on how they decide this issue. She questioned what would motivate the Supervisors to go through with allowing this to happen and what positives would come out of it.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 9:29 p.m., the Board met in Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Personnel Matters
- Purchasing real property or acquiring an interest in real property

At approximately 10:17 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Inglis and seconded by Mr. Wagner to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:17 p.m.

  
Secretary

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