

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

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

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager
Joseph Geib, Assistant Township Manager
Thomas Dinkelacker, Township Solicitor
Charles Unangst, P.E., Township Engineer
Patrick Leonard, Director of General Services
Patricia Lang, Director of Community Development

CALL TO ORDER

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

NOTIFICATION

Chairman Inglis 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

Kenneth Klotz of 3136 Taylor Drive complained about his property being negatively impacted by runoff water from the Estates at Saucon Valley Subdivision. He said he talked to Patrick Leonard before the meeting and learned there’s been some progress in getting his concerns addressed.

Mr. Beil said the developer of the Estates at Saucon Valley Subdivision agreed to address Mr. Klotz's stormwater concerns by re-establishing an existing swale, but this work probably would not occur until June or July.

Don West, Jr., of 5457 Route 378 expressed displeasure that the sand volleyball courts at Hopewell Park were removed by the Township. He said the courts were heavily used and he asked the Township to consider creating new sand volleyball courts at another location.

Mr. Beil explained sand from the volleyball courts was constantly clogging drainage pipes and filling in swales at Hopewell Park. He said the problem was so bad that the State Department of Environmental Protection threatened enforcement action against the Township. He indicated the only way to fix the problem was to remove the sand and replace it with grass. He said the Township would explore the possibility of building a new sand volleyball court at a more suitable location.

Chairman Inglis indicated there are plans to expand the Community Park in the near future and he spoke in support of building new sand volleyball courts as part of that expansion project.

Mr. West made several suggestions on ways to better contain the sand on the volleyball court and prevent it from getting into the stormwater system.

Wayne Doyle of 3156 Taylor Drive said stormwater runoff from the Estates at Saucon Valley Subdivision is causing drainage problems on his property. He indicated the problems started when a swale was filled in during construction activities at the Subdivision. He was glad the Township was trying to address this problem.

Aryen Mostek of 3078 Taylor Drive reiterated the same drainage concerns expressed by Messrs. Klotz and Doyle regarding the Estates at Saucon Valley Subdivision. She also inquired about the trees the developer promised to plant. Mr. Beil said he would remind the developer of their commitment to plant more trees.

Jim Dickey of 3475 Courtney Drive was concerned about excessive trash at the Pitt Ohio Trucking facility. He indicated the trash is blocking a drainage grate and could cause stormwater to overflow on East Valley Road during heavy rains. He said Pitt Ohio should have enough resources to clean up their trash. He asked the Township to get after Pitt Ohio about the trash problem at their facility.

Mr. Dickey asked for an update on possible changes to the current lighting regulations. Mr. Beil said this matter has been referred to the Planning and Zoning Committee for further review and Mr. Dickey would be invited to attend those Committee meetings when this issue is on the agenda.

Mr. Dickey was concerned the proposed Kay Lehigh warehouse project, once constructed, would amplify the trash problem in his neighborhood, emphasizing he does not want trash going into the creek.

Mr. Dickey thanked the Board for being flexible and allowing speakers to exceed the three minute time limit on occasion.

PRESENTATION BY BRIAN JETER, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS FOR COMCAST

Brian Jeter, Senior Director of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs for COMCAST, provided an update on COMCAST's ongoing network expansion project in the Township. He responded to questions from both the Board of Supervisors and members of the public.

PRESENTATION BY PHIL ARMSTRONG, LEHIGH COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Mr. Armstrong provided an update on County projects and programs. He introduced Adrianna Calderon, who functions as the County's community liaison person, and encouraged Township officials to contact Ms. Calderon with questions or concerns. He asked if the Board members had any questions about the County.

Chairman Inglis thanked Mr. Armstrong for addressing his concerns about the Township Building being a congested polling place.

Mr. Armstrong described some of the issues and challenges with polling places and voting. He also described his efforts to secure transportation funding for Lehigh County.

MINUTES

None

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

MOTIONS

Request for Payment – West Hopewell Road School Zone Flashing Warning Sign Relocation Project

Motion made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Wagner to authorize payment in the amount of \$45,671.40 to T. Schiefer Contractors for work completed on the West Hopewell Road School Zone Flashing Warning Sign Relocation Project.

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

Award Bid – Water Meter Reading Tower at Applebutter Hill Tank

Motion made by Farrell and seconded by Mr. Foley to award the bid for the Water Meter Reading Tower Project to Michael Symbula Electrical for a total bid price of \$46,500.00.

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

Release of Funds – Goddard School Land Development– Security Release Request 2 (Final)

Motion made by Mr. Spaeth and seconded by Mr. Wagner to authorize the final release of construction security in the amount of \$39,187.08 for the Goddard School land development project in accordance with the Township Engineer’s recommendation made by letter dated March 19, 2024.

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

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Spaeth inquired about the status of the left turning lane under construction at the intersection of Center Valley Parkway and Saucon Valley Road. Mr. Beil said the project is at a standstill until the weather improves. A brief discussion ensued concerning the remaining work that needs to be completed at this intersection.

DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Cancellation of Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for April 8, 2024 due to lack of agenda items

It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the meeting originally scheduled for April 8, 2024.

BILLS, PAYROLL AND COMMISSIONS

Prepaid Invoice List Dated March 22, 2024 for Check Issue Dates: 2/27/2024 – 3/22/2024 and Warrant Detail Invoice List dated March 22, 2024 for Report Date: 3/25/2024

Motion made by Mr. Spaeth and seconded by Mr. Farrell to authorize payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and Warrant Detail Invoice List both dated March 22, 2024.

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

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chairman Inglis informed the other Board members that he was recently appointed to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. He noted the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Commission mentioned to him the “flyover” project was fully funded and work would probably begin sometime in the next few years.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Jim Dickey of 3475 Courtney Drive had various questions concerning the services offered by COMCAST. Mr. Jeter responded to his questions.

Mr. Dickey complimented the Township crews for repairing the turf along the edge of the road damaged during snow plowing operations. He had various suggestions on how Pitt Ohio and possibly Kay Lehigh could work with the Township to address the litter problem along East Valley Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 7:27 p.m., the Board met in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation involving a proposed Aldi grocery store at 4373 Route 378.

At approximately 8:28 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:28 p.m.



Secretary