

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

**JANUARY 3, 2023**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** John J. Merhottein, President  
John K. Gallagher, Vice President  
Jan Beatty, Commissioner  
Dale A. Sourbeck, Commissioner  
Luke A. Verdes, Commissioner
- OTHERS PRESENT** James Broughal, Township Solicitor  
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
- CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Merhottein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** Solicitor Broughal announced that on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, the Board of Commissioners met in executive session at approximately 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
- COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**
- RODMAN LAW  
4210 ANTHONY DR.** Mr. Law asked the board to consider reappointing Dave Chismar to the Zoning Hearing Board as he has been a dedicated and knowledgeable member.
- BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth said the corner of Freemansburg Avenue and Farmersville Road needs to be signalized.
- DAVE BUCHERER  
4220 NICHOLAS ST.** Mr. Bucherer believes that residents are not afforded the opportunity to express their feelings at the Zoning Hearing Board meetings. Mr. Merhottein said the Zoning Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial board. Solicitor Broughal said the members of the Zoning Hearing Board are only appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Zoning Hearing Board members determine how agendas are conducted. Mr. Bucherer said someone needs to be accountable for granting waivers and/or deferrals.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Gallagher-Sourbeck), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 regular public meeting as amended.
- PRESENTATION** **PUBLIC WORKS MASTER PLAN – MKSD ARCHITECTS**
- Ryan Kennedy, Senior Project Manager presented three feasible plans:
- Masterplan Concept #1 – Falmer Drive Renovations & New Construction – Estimated cost \$10,100,000
  - Masterplan Concept #2 – Falmer Drive Site Redesign – Estimated cost \$13,100,000
  - Masterplan Concept #3 – Hope Road Site Design – Estimated cost \$18,100,000 – Sale of Falmer Drive lots \$2,855,000 = \$15,245,000.

The third concept is the most expensive, but provides for all the needs with room to expand. This plan can be done in phases and would be eligible for grants. Mr. Merhottein asked what is the average amount of awarded grants. Mr. Kennedy said it was hard to determine and would need to speak to Representative Boscola. Mr. Gallagher noted that the compost bins were left out of all three plans. Mr. Kennedy said they are on the site plan and will remain in their current location. Ms. Beatty asked how much salt is the shed able to store. Mr. Kennedy said up to 1,200 tons.

Mr. Sourbeck said that the roads should be fixed first.

**TOM KEEFER  
3808 CARTER RD.**

Mr. Keefer said all three options were good, but his big concern is still traffic. He said it took him 23 minutes from Farmersville Road to Emrick Boulevard.

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth said the recycling center was paid for with money from the Department of Environmental Project and doesn't know how the township will be permitted to build on it. He said the Hope Road property was purchased from Northampton County and was intended to be used as a park. His third concern was that the pipeline may come back again. Mr. Roth asked the board to consider his concerns.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE  
BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

**COMMENT**

Mr. Sourbeck said he would like to know more about the people who desire to be reappointed/appointed to a particular board, not by resume alone. Ms. Beatty said emails included both resumes and letters of interest. Mr. Merhottein said he had ample time to interview those interested. Ms. Beatty said most on the board have done their due diligence and are now ready to appoint. Mr. Verdes said in December he requested resumes for all those interested in serving. He suggested that perhaps the board could create an application and do community outreach to get people involved.

**RESOLUTION R001-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Sourbeck nominated Mary Grube. Mr. Merhottein nominated Mark Grandinetti. Mr. Gallagher nominated Anna Thomas. Ms. Beatty nominated Sergio Rivas.

The Board of Commissioners voted by roll call vote to approve Resolution R001-23 appointing Anna Thomas to the Planning Commission. Ms. Beatty, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Verdes voted for Anna Thomas. Mr. Sourbeck nominated Mary Grube. Mr. Merhottein voted for Mark Grandinetti.

**RESOLUTION R002-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Sourbeck nominated Mary Grube. Mr. Merhottein nominated Don Wright. Mr. Verdes nominated Sergio Rivas. Mr. Gallagher nominated Don Wright. Ms. Beatty nominated Mary Grube.

The Board of Commissioners voted by roll call vote to approve Resolution R002-23 appointing Mary Grube to the Planning Commission. Mr. Sourbeck, Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Beatty and Mr. Verdes voted for Mary Grube. Mr. Merhottein voted for Don Wright.

**RESOLUTION R003-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Gallagher nominated Christopher Wyatt.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R003-23 appointing Christopher Wyatt to the Recreation Commission.

**RESOLUTION R004-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Ms. Beatty Nominated Zachary Chromiak. Mr. Merhottein nominated Dave Chismar.

The Board of Commissioners voted by roll call vote to approve Resolution R004-23 appointing Zachary Chromiak to the Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. Beatty, Mr. Sourbeck, Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Verdes voted for Zachary Chromiak. Mr. Merhottein voted for Dave Chismar.

**RESOLUTION R005-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE VACANCY BOARD**

Mr. Gallagher nominated Frank Pologruto.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R005-23 appointing Frank Pologruto to the Vacancy Board.

**RESOLUTION R006-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

Mr. Gallagher nominated Allen Billiard.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R006-23 appointing Allen Billiard III to the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority.

**RESOLUTION R007-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Mr. Gallagher nominated Michael Dewey.**

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R007-23 reappointing Michael Dewey to the Environmental Advisory Council.

**RESOLUTION R008-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Merhottein nominated John Gallagher.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R008-23 reappointing John K. Gallagher to the Environmental Advisory Council.

**RESOLUTION R009-23**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Mr. Merhottein nominated Douglass Kopp.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R009-23 appointing Douglas Kopp, ARRO Consulting to Sewage Enforcement Officer and Richard Kanaskie as alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer.

**RESOLUTION R010-23**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF DEDICATION OF MADISON BOULEVARD, RILEY ROAD, DEALTREY DRIVE, COOK DRIVE, EMMANUEL COURT, RAFI ROAD, AND RAYA WAY (MADISON FARM SUBDIVISION PHASES 1 THROUGH 5)**

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Resolution R010-23 accepting the offer of dedication of Madison Boulevard, Riley Road, Dealtrey Drive, Cook Drive, Emmanuel Court, Rafi Road, and Raya Way (Madison Farm Subdivision Phases 1 through 5).

**MOTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR TOWNSHIP ENGINEER THE PIDCOCK COMPANY PER CORRESPONDENCE DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2022**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Sourbeck), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion approving a revised fee schedule for township engineer The Pidcock Company per correspondence dated November 29, 2022

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP ENGINEER ARRO CONSULTING PER CORRESPONDENCE DATED DECEMBER 9, 2022**

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion approving a revised fee schedule for assistant township engineer ARRO Consulting per correspondence dated December 9, 2022.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR BROUGHAL & DEVITO PER CORRESPONDENCE DATED DECEMBER 16, 2022**

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion approving a revised fee schedule for township solicitor Broughal & DeVito per correspondence dated December 16, 2022

**MOTION**

**A MOTION APPROVING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR TOWNSHIP ASSISTANT SOLICITOR DAVID BACKENSTOE PER CORRESPONDENCE DATED DECEMBER 16, 2022**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Beatty), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve a motion approving a revised fee schedule for township assistant solicitor David Backenstoe per correspondence dated December 16, 2022.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS**

**PO 20222836 – SIGNAL SERVICE – PPIS – \$4,815.00**  
**PO 20222863 – BROWN-DAUB DODGE – PPIS – \$8,686.33**  
**PO 20230002 – HARRIS COMP. SYSTEMS – FINANCE – \$16,751.61**

Upon motion (Sourbeck-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice to approve Purchase Orders 20222836, 20222863 and 20230002 as presented.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**DONATION OF VEHICLE TO BETHLEHEM AREA VO-TECH**

Mr. Sourbeck requested donating a vehicle to the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School. Sergio Rivas, Video & Media Arts Instructor, said he is thrilled and thanked the board. Solicitor Broughal asked if they would be using the vehicle for training or for stripping down. Solicitor Broughal said they would have to agree on a vehicle and then draw up an agreement holding the township harmless. Once the vehicle is chosen and the agreement is prepared, it will go before the board at their February 6, 2023 public meeting.

No formal action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sourbeck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Zapata  
Recording Secretary