

December 2nd, 2024
7:00 P.M.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
721 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA. 19348

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present:	Township Staff & Consultants:
Vice-Chair Sosangelis (acting chair)	Ryan Jennings, Township Solicitor
Supervisor Chance	Neil Lovekin, Township Manager
Supervisor Sarro	Mickey Bailey, Recording Secretary
Supervisor Elks	Jeff Simpson, Public Works Director
Supervisor Auger	Robert Clarke, Police Chief
	Peter Barsz, Treasurer

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Participation is Voluntary)

Acting Chair Sosangelis opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chair, Ellen Sosangelis, read the following announcements:

- a. An executive session was held on November 26, 2024, to discuss personnel matters (re: Board communications)
- b. An executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters (re: Regional Commission)
- c. Next public meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025.

4. REVIEW OF TREASURER'S REPORT & POSSIBLE AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- a. Township Treasurer Peter Barsz gave a quick overview of the township funds and finances. Resident Steve Hunt pointed out that there was a blank space on the 2025 budget in the Interest line item. Township Manager Neil Lovekin responded that the item was left blank because interest is a very fluid and unpredictable item to budget. Joe Chauwitz commented that there should never be a blank line in a budget, "just use your best guess."
- b. Supervisor Auger moved to approve the financial reports and pay the monthly bills. Supervisor Chance seconded; carried 5/0.

5. 751 FOLLY HILL ROAD – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF WAIVER REQUESTS FROM THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

- a. Acting Chair Sosangelis opened the subject then introduced Township Solicitor Jennings. Jennings then introduced Jim Fritsch from Register Engineering Associates who briefed the project at 751 Folly Hill Rd.
- b. The project consists of a proposed single-family residential detached dwelling (4,060 sq ft) located at the top of a hill. Due to the small nature of the project site being located at the top of a hill and to prevent disturbance to additional trees and specimen trees, a waiver is requested from the following section of the East Marlborough Township Stormwater Management Ordinance:

Section 308.A Requiring post-construction peak flow rates from any regulated activity not to exceed the pre-development peak flow rates for each of design storms specified in Table 308.1.

- c. Fritsch explained that in order to meet the ordinance requirements the house site would have to be moved further downhill which would require more trees to be removed causing more erosion.
- d. Lisa Donlan, VanDemark and Lynch, stated that the design meets all codes and the dry well should accommodate sufficiently.
- e. Supervisor Elks moved to approve the waiver, Supervisor Sarro seconded, carried 5/0.

6. PROPOSED FINAL 2025 BUDGET

- a. Discussion and possible approval of the Final 2025 Budget as was preliminary approved by the Board at its November 4th meeting, and as was fully advertised in the Wednesday, November 6th edition of the Daily Local.
- b. After introducing the subject matter, Acting Chair Sosangelis turned the floor over the Township Manager Neil Lovekin to brief. Neil explained that nothing had changed since he briefed the budget proposal at last month's meeting. Acting Chair Sosangelis then took the floor and told the audience that the Board had studied and debated this budget and what has been presented is what is necessary to meet requirements.
- c. Resident Christine Char asked if the board had found a way to cut the Library gift from the budget.
- d. Sosangelis replied that she wanted everyone to know that all comments have been considered
- e. There were several questions from the residents about who the biggest users of the Fire and EMS services were, then another question on what Kennett Borough was going to pay since they have left the Commission. Cuyler Walked said that the issue was expected to be resolved at the next meeting and the Borough was expected to pay 100% of their contribution. Supervisor Chance said we need to get a better understanding of how the Fire and EMS Commission operates.
- f. Gabby Ratliff from the Longwood Fire Company was explaining what Longwood Gardens contributes when/if someone becomes ill or injured while at Longwood Gardens. Longwood Gardens pays for an assessment of the ill or injured unless they are taken to the hospital.
- g. Joe DiCostanzo asked about how the finance numbers are affected by the Urgent care facilities in the area.

- h. Michael Wright asked what the projection will be for the next coming years. Do we expect to have to raise taxes again?
- i. Township Manager Neil Lovekin said we are looking at an EIT for the future. Lauren Mayne asked why we aren't looking at bonds. One resident explained that bonds are considered debt because they need to be paid back with interest and it's cheaper for the township to pay up front.
- j. Steve Peuquet said that bonds cost and the board should be commended. The Fire and EMS Commission has been under invested and raising taxes is the responsible thing to do.
- k. Chris Manning said we need creative thinking and more info from the Commission. People need to pay more attention to what the Fire and EMS Commission is doing. We need to look at capital spending to see what can be put off. Having a plan is better than not having one.
- l. Mary Paxton Boeni commented that we need better avenues of communication to residents. She'd like to see electronic notifications.

7. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-38: ADOPTION OF THE 2025 TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution No. 2024-38, to appropriate estimated expenditures from the fund equities, revenues, and other financing sources for specific purposes to be available for the year 2025.

- a. At this point Acting Chair Sosangelis brought the focus back to the resolution and asked for a vote; Supervisor Auger motioned to accept Resolution 2024-38 and adopt the 2025 budget. Supervisor Chance seconded, carried 5/0.

8. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-39: TAX RATES FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR

- a. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution No. 2024-39, to affirm the prevailing tax rates for the 2025 calendar year.
- b. Supervisor Auger moved to adopt Resolution 2024-39 and affirm the prevailing tax rates for the 2025 Calendar year. Supervisor Elks seconded, carried 5/0.

9. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-40: NO WINTER MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN TOWNSHIP ROADS

- a. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution No. 2024-40, to temporarily close certain roads in the Township that are owned, controlled, and maintained by the Township. Temporary Closures: 1) Wollaston Road from Route 926 South to the point at which it becomes a blacktop road, and 2) Byrd Road from Route 842 South to the Township Line with West Marlborough Township, are unfit or unsafe for travel during current winter conditions.
- b. Jeff Simpson, Director of Public Works, explained that we have been doing this for years. It's more of a liability in case someone uses the unpaved road and gets stuck.
- c. Supervisor Sarro moved to approve Resolution 2024-40, Supervisor Elks seconded, carried 5/0.

10. CONTINUING BUSINESS

No continuing business to discuss.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Acceptance of Gloria Michener's Resignation from the Environmental Advisory Council, Term Expiration of January 1, 2026.
 - i. Discussion and acceptance of the resignation of Gloria Michener from the E.A.C. Township Manager to advertise the vacancy in the local news publication, *The Daily Local* and on the Township's website. Supervisor Sarro moved to accept Ms. Michener's resignation, supervisor Chance seconded, carried 5/0
- b. Discussion and Approval to Sell Surplus Township Equipment
 - i. Discussion and possible authorization for the Public Works Director to advertise the sale of surplus equipment, commencing Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. until closing on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. via online auction at www.municibid.com.
 - ii. Jeff Simpson, Director of Public Works addressed the board with this request to advertise and sell surplus equipment on the MuniBid Auction website. He displayed a listing followed by pictures of all the equipment.
 - iii. Acting Chair Sosangelis moved to approve the request to sell the surplus equipment, supervisor Auger seconded, carried 5/0.
- c. Advertisement of Certified Auditors for 2024 Township Audit
 - i. Discussion and possible authorization to advertise the proposed appointment of Withum, certified auditors for the 2024 Township Audit in the amount of \$7,700.00, to be resolved on January 6, 2025.
 - ii. Township Manager Neil Lovekin opened this discussion for advertisement and Board approval. Supervisor Auger motioned to approve, supervisor Sarro seconded, carried, 5/0.
- d. Credit Card Processing Service Provider – Autoagent (i.e., MuniPAY)
 - i. Discussion and possible authorization for the Township Manager to execute an agreement with Autoagent to be the service provider for the purpose of processing credit card payments for township fees.
 - ii. Resident Nancy Gifford asked what the cost to the township will be for this service. Neil Lovekin replied that any costs are paid by the person making the charge. The township incurs no expense.
 - iii. Supervisor Chance moved to approve Autoagent as our credit card processing service provider, Acting Chair Sosangelis seconded, carried 5/0.
- e. Engagement of the Cohen Law Group to Perform Cable Franchise Renewal Services

16. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Elks moved to approve the November 4th meeting minutes. Supervisor Chance seconded. Carried 5/0.

18. ADJOURNMENT

*Respectfully submitted,
Mickey Bailey, Recording Secretary*