

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
HELD ON 08/09/2023
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 111 VALLEY PARK ROAD,
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460**

Duly advertised in The Pottstown Mercury and posted on www.schuylkilltwp.org

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:23 PM on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 by Robert Cooney, Chairperson.

Supervisors Present:

Robert Cooney, Chairperson
Martha Majewski, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Donovan, Member
Susan Guerette, Member
Danielle Jouenne, Member

Absent:

None

Others in Attendance:

Laurie Getz, Township Manager
William Brennan, Esq., Township Solicitor
Paul Boettinger, PE, T&M Associates (Township Engineer)
John Frye, Chief of Police
Tina Stephens, Township Secretary

Announcement of Executive Session(s)

Supervisor Cooney announced executive sessions were held July 24, 2023, and this evening, August 9th to discuss personnel matters, potential land acquisition and legal matters.

PRESENTATIONS

Clean Energy Transition Plans – Chester County Vision Partnership Program

Jonathan Meyers, Secretary of the Township’s Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), thanked the Board for their interest and support for clean energy in the Township. He mentioned this process started five years ago when EAC began discussing clean energy. The Board of Supervisors later adopted a Clean Energy Resolution which provided participation in a Vision Partnership Program (VPP) grant for clean energy planning. The Township along with East Pikeland, West Pikeland and West Vincent Townships worked together for the past 18 months with a consultant, Practical Energy Solutions to create the plans for each of the participating Townships. These plans will serve as a long-term clean energy guide for the Township’s

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operations and residents. He introduced Marika Selzer Williams with Practical Energy Solutions who presented the municipal and community transition plans. The presentations are available on the Township website or at the Township office.

Supervisor Jouenne asked how the clean energy transition team is being created, is it a subset of our EAC or a standing committee. Ms. Williams said currently it is a subset of the EAC and partnership with the other townships.

Dennis Ray, East Pikeland Township mentioned that Mr. Meyers and other members from the various townships are planning a joint outreach session in September with PECO providing home energy assessments. Residents who attend will receive a home energy assessment at no cost. Additionally, there will be a subsequent outreach with PECO for businesses.

Mr. Meyers commented the EAC would be the team lead for the Township.

Supervisor Cooney asked what the next steps would be. Ms. Getz explained the acceptance of the plans presented tonight is to close out the grant and the last step in working with Practical Energy Solutions. Going forward the EAC will provide recommendations to the Board to consider adopting certain portions of the plan.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Consent Agenda

- Acceptance of the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors July 12, 2023 Business Meeting and July 24, 2023 Workshop Meeting.
 - All departmental, committee, commission, and council reports as posted and received by the Board of Supervisors for the month of July 2023.

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Majewski* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township approved and accepted the Consent Agenda.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

Consideration of Acceptance of Treasurer Reports for period ending July 31, 2023

Ms. Getz reviewed the Treasurer's report for July 31, 2023, saying General Fund Balance of \$5.2 million. We were at 75% revenue and 45% expenses.

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Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Jouenne* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the Treasurer Report for periods ending July 31, 2023.

Payment of Bills

Approval of Disbursements dated August 9, 2023

Ms. Getz commented that all bills have been reviewed and recommended for payment.

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Majewski* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the disbursements dated August 9, 2023.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Business

Discussion and Possible Motion to Award Architect Proposal to Alloy5 in the amount of \$8,800. for the Municipal Complex Renovation Feasibility Study

Ms. Getz mentioned at the July 24th Workshop Meeting that three architect firms gave presentations to the public on potential feasibility studies for future renovations of the municipal complex. The three firms are Alloy5, Kimmel Borgrette, and NORR. The Architects toured the complex and were provided goals for the future use of the Township building. The Architects submitted proposals for consideration.

Supervisor Cooney mentioned in review of the proposals he was most impressed by Alloy5. He wanted to confirm what would be awarded is for the study only and nothing further. Ms. Getz said yes. He mentioned Alloy5 presentation discussed all the key areas of the Township's interest. Supervisor Majewski agreed and she also liked their adaptive reuse of existing structures and ideas of energy efficiency.

Supervisor Jouenne asked Ms. Getz if she was comfortable with all three proposals submitted. Ms. Getz said yes and mentioned she had met with all three architects who were provided with the same information of our goals for future use of the building. Ms. Jouenne said all the proposals mentioned the limitations of this current building both for our police and staff along with safety concerns. Should we move forward with the project we need to look at the redesign of the building and grounds to be an asset for the community. She supports Alloy5.

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Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Majewski* seconded by *Supervisor Cooney* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED award of Architect Proposal to Alloy5 in the amount of \$8,800. for the Municipal Complex Renovation Feasibility Study.

New Business

Authorize Advertisement of Comcast Cable Franchise Ordinance

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Majewski* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED advertisement of Comcast Cable Franchise Ordinance.

Authorize Advertisement for Equipment Rental Bids for 2023-2024

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Majewski* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED advertisement for Equipment Rental Bids for 2023-2024.

Authorize Advertisement for Snow Removal Bids for 2023-2024

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Donovan* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED advertisement for Snow Removal Bids for 2023-2024.

Consider Approval of proposal from Vince McClatchy Stonework in the amount of \$9,800 to repair mortar cracks on both sides of the stone wall at Anderson Cemetery.

Supervisor Cooney met with the contractor at the cemetery to look at the repairs needed to the stone wall. Besides the cracks in the mortar, the Northeast and Southeast corners of the wall are starting to fall from the foundation. Recommendation is to build up the wall in these areas with ground to help support the wall and repair the mortar.

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Majewski* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED proposal from Vince McClatchy Stonework in the amount of \$9,800. to repair mortar cracks on both sides of the stone wall at Anderson Cemetery.

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Discussion on Valley Forge Sewer Authority 10 and 20 year sewer reserve capacity analysis.

Ms. Getz provided an update on the Township's sewer reserve capacity which is basically how many EDU's we may need in the future assuming the Township would be completely built out over the next 10 and 20 years. The Township had completed an analysis in 2021 and since then the numbers have slightly decreased. What prompted this review was a request from the Sewer Authority as one of the partner municipalities has offered to sell some of their reserve capacity to the Sewer Authority.

Discussion on Light the Night for Hope & Healing event to be held October 10, 2023.

Supervisor Majewski mentioned the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County planted a tree a few years ago next to the old Township building. Each year a ceremony is held in honor of a resident who unfortunately passed away due to domestic violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year the event will be held on October 10th at 6:45 pm.

Resolutions/Ordinances

Consider Adoption of Resolution #2023-14 Acceptance of the Municipal and Community Clean Energy Transition Plans

Upon **MOTION** by *Supervisor Cooney* seconded by *Supervisor Majewski* the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED adoption of Resolution #2023-14 Acceptance of the Municipal and Community Clean Energy Transition Plans.

Two-Minute Reports

Supervisor Jouenne mentioned she was not at the VPP Committee meeting in July, but you can see the results of the work the committee has done. She thanked Jonathan for his leadership for our Township. There was no Regional Planning Commission meeting in July.

Supervisor Guerette mentioned the EAC Facebook page has really good content.

Supervisor Donovan mentioned Mr. Pohlig was at the Planning Commission meeting last month to discuss the Reeves property. Discussions to continue at the September Planning Commission meeting.

Supervisor Majewski mentioned the Historical Commission continues to discuss creating historic districts and will have a presentation to the Board in the next couple months.

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Supervisor Cooney mentioned the Valley Forge Fire Department strategic planning is going very well. They will have a presentation to the Board in the future. Things are going well in the Police Department.

Tom Fortman - Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company reviewed the Fire Department monthly report. Upcoming events October 9th Fire Prevention Open House from 6-8 pm. October 14th Lasagna Sale.

Township Manager, Ms. Getz mentioned the Road Department paving project has started. Roads to be paved are Saint John's Circle, Melvin Road and Pennypacker Avenue. The Administration is working on the General Code recodification project. We do expect updates will be needed to a few Township Ordinances. She provided an update on the PLGIT account investments.

John Frye, Chief of Police. Asked the Board if they had any questions on the monthly police activity report. Provided an update on the recent grant award in the amount of \$138,000 for new body cameras, in-car cameras, and license plate reader.

Paul Boettinger, Township Engineer provided an update on Paul Lemen Drive project. Last week engineer, inspector and contractor were onsite to review the punch list items. Upon completion of these items T&M will submit recommendations for final payment to Doli Construction.

Additional Business

Discussion on Agenda items for upcoming Workshop Meeting(s)

Supervisor Cooney mentioned inviting Valley Forge Sewer Authority to a future meeting. Supervisor Jouenne would like to discuss a plastic bag ordinance at a future workshop.

Ms. Getz said there are no items planned for the August workshop unless the Board has anything. The September workshop there will be presentations by the Fire Department and the consultant working on the departments strategic plan. October workshop will be budget discussions. There are no workshops in November and December. After discussion by the Board there will be no August workshop meeting.

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Announcements

Ms. Getz announced the August workshop meeting is cancelled but the Board will have an executive session that evening. On August 23, 2023 at 6 pm is the continued Conditional Use Hearing for Provco Pinegood Phoenixville, LLC (Wawa).

The Township office will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day.

Public Comment

Andrew Wagner commented as to the stormwater management of the residential development at 70 South Spring Lane that is adjacent to his property. He mentioned the concerns he expressed at the June Board Meeting were not addressed and with the recent rainfall flooding occurred to neighboring property.

Alexander Leventhal commented with concerns to the stormwater management at 70 South Spring Lane and how the rainfall on July 25th impacted his property at 84 South Spring Lane.

Ashley Flick commented to the stormwater management concerns at 70 South Spring Lane which impacted their property at 84 South Spring Lane.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM. Upon **motion** by Supervisor Cooney, seconded by Supervisor Majewski and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Stephens
Township Secretary