

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
HELD ON February 5, 2020**

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 111 VALLEY PARK ROAD, PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Board of Supervisors

Martha Majewski – Chair, Fred Parry – Vice Chair, Bob Cooney - Member, Mark Donovan – Member, Susan Guerette - Member

Township Administration

William Brennan, Esq.-Township Solicitor, Madeline Harbison – Township Secretary, E.J. Mentry – Township Manager/Treasurer. The Township Engineer was excused from this meeting.

Other Township Representatives Present

Rick Beittel-President Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company, Curt English – Schuylkill Township Planning Commission, James Fetterman-Chief, Schuylkill Township Police Department, Bob Mauch – Chair Open Space Commission, Norman Vutz - Valley Forge Sewer Authority

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly public business meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was chaired by Supervisor Majewski.

Supervisor Majewski announced that executive sessions were held on January 16, 2020 and January 29, 2020 to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters, and again this evening, February 5, 2020, to discussion land acquisition and potential litigation matters.

OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. Mauch addressed the Board regarding a potential open space land acquisition. The Open Space Commission is seeking the Board’s approval and authorization to make a conditioned purchase offer on Parcel “O” under the terms discussed during this evening’s executive session.

Mr. Vutz, 630 Country Club Road, asked the Board if they could identify Parcel O. Supervisor Majewski responded that it was not possible at this point of the negotiations.

Mr. Peter Brown, 403 Valley Forge Road, questioned why the Township was spending money on land purchases and for what would the proposed acquisition be used. The Chair invited Mr. Mauch to respond. Mr. Mauch explained that residents of the Township have indicated they want to preserve open space; it slows growth and traffic congestion and is financially beneficial to the Township. The proposed parcel would be used overall for passive recreation, i.e., trails, and some areas eventually used for active recreation.

Upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Guerette, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township approved and authorized a conditioned offer of purchase for the property identified as Parcel “O”.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Resolved, upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township does hereby adopt and approve Resolution 2020-10 wherein the Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the residents of Schuylkill Township, recognizes and extends its appreciation to Morris Quigg for his time-honored legacy of dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding public service given to the Township of Schuylkill for the past nineteen years as a member of the Schuylkill Township Planning Commission. Supervisor Majewski read the full text of the Resolution into the record and it is incorporated herein by reference. Supervisor Parry extended his personal acknowledgement of Mr. Quigg's commitment, expertise and professionalism, and thanked him for sharing his strength and knowledge with the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval and acceptance of the Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Board of Supervisor Organization and Regular Meeting, the January 16, 2020 Work Session Meeting, the January 28, 2020 Special Meeting and the January 29, 2020 Special Meeting.
2. Acceptance of all departmental, committee, commission and council reports as posted and received by the Board of Supervisors for the month of January 2020.

Upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski seconded by Supervisor Parry, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township approved and accepted the Consent Agenda.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Donovan reported that West Pikeland Township will be inducted into the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee ("PRPC") in March or April of 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Mentry, Treasurer, reported to the Board that as of January 31, 2020, the Township's general fund shows a balance of \$2,698,004.83. Revenue year-to-date is at 1.77% of budget; expenditures are at 5.19%. All Township funds are within budget. Mr. Mentry informed the Board that the bills for January 2020 have been reviewed and he recommended payment of these bills.

Upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township approved and accepted the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2020 and authorized payment of Township bills for the period ending January 31, 2020.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

Township Newsletter

Mr. Mentry mentioned he wanted to bring this before the Board again, it having been discussed during the budget workshops with no firm decision being made. Mr. Mentry said that with the Township no longer using the services of InCommunity Magazines, he would like to engage

Hometown Press to produce a Schuylkill Township newsletter twice a year. The cost to the Township would about \$1,500.00 per issue for postage. Supervisor Guerette said that with the Township's website, Facebook page and other electronic media, she did not see the need to publish a paper newsletter.

Upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry and passed, with Supervisor Guerette dissenting, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township approved engaging Hometown Press for the publication of a Schuylkill Township newsletter twice yearly.

Update: Route 23 Sidewalk Project

Mr. Mentry advised the Board that the fully executed Multimodal Transportation Grant contract has been received. The engineered plans are complete and all PennDOT permit requirements have been met except for consent letters from a few affected property owners. Once these consents have been received, we should get the PennDOT permit and the project will be ready to bid.

Update: Valley Park Municipal Park

Mr. Mentry reported that the contractor has addressed everything on the punch list possible at this time; the last few maintenance items will be addressed in the spring. The Conservation District performed its Pre-NOT inspection; there are still a few site stabilizations to be addressed. The follow-up inspection will not be made until spring and a stretch of 72 contiguous hours without rain.

Update: MS4 / Pollution Reduction Plan ("PRP")

Mr. Mentry informed the Board that the Township's PRP was approved and our permit was renewed on December 12, 2019. The Township now has 5 years to design and construct best management practices ("BMPs") within the Valley Creek Watershed. These BMPs are required to reduce sediment in the watershed by 10%. Our first annual report, which covers the period through June 30, must show progress toward the BMPs. Additionally, there are several ordinances which will need to be adopted: an Animal Waste Ordinance, a High Tunnel exemption and a Simplified Stormwater Management Method ordinance.

Update: Trolley Rail Exhibit Project

Mr. Mentry reported that \$8,960 of the \$9,000 in pledges have been collected with \$390 pledges outstanding. Mr. Mentry noted that several donors contributed more than their original pledges. Supervisor Cooney asked if a search for artifacts with a metal detector could be done prior to construction starting on the exhibit. Supervisor Majewski advised that he should bring this up to the Historical Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to Open Space Commission

Upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township appointed Mr. Samuel Morris, resident of the Township, to fill the unexpired term of Robert Kahn on the Schuylkill Township Open Space Commission. This term expires December 31, 2020.

Upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township appointed Mr. Christopher Bullock, resident of the Township, to a three-year term as an Alternate member of the Schuylkill Township Open Space Commission. This term expires December 31, 2022.

Sedgley Farm Development Appeal

Upon motion by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township authorized the Township Solicitor to appeal the Chester County Court of Common Pleas decision in the matter of Reeves Family Real Estate, L.P., Select Sites, L.P., and Pohlig Buildings, LLC, v. Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township.

RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES

Resolution 2020-11: Authorization of Filing Chester County Municipal Grant Program Application

Resolved, upon **motion** by Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Donovan, and unanimously passed, the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township adopted Resolution 2020-11 approving the filing of an application for the Chester County Municipal Grant Program, and authorizing and directing the Township Manager to execute and file all appropriate forms and paperwork with the Chester County Department of Open Space Preservation.

SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT

Nothing to report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Medical Marijuana

Supervisor Parry asked the Chief of Police what procedure were followed by the Schuylkill Township patrol officers in the matter of drivers operating under the influence of prescribed medical marijuana. The Chief responded that the Township police force operated under the ordinance for traffic stops and state law. Discussion ensued regarding medical marijuana dispensaries and how the Township might limit the establishment of these dispensaries within its boundaries. Mr. Morrison, a resident, reminded the Board that under the PRPC, not every municipality must necessarily allow every kind of use.

Tentative Agendas – Board of Supervisors Work Sessions

- Thursday, February 20, 2020 ... Tree ordinance, Simplified Stormwater ordinance, Park, Rec, Open Space plan, 2020 projects/goals overview and Township insurance overview.
- Thursday, March 19, 2010 The Endeavor Property Group discussion, PSATS Conference Motions Review

No Littering Signs

Supervisor Guerette advised the Board that the “No Littering” signs project undertaken by the EAC has been completed. Signs have been erected along roadways in the Township.

Dog Bite Case

Mr. Mentry advised the Board that this has been rescheduled to February 11, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Court of Common Pleas has sustained the appeal of Pohlig Builders, LLC in the matter of the Sedgley Farm development. The Board of Supervisors will review the decision and discuss its response.
- The February 10, 2020 Schuylkill Township Zoning Hearing has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. It is rescheduled to Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Schuylkill Township Building.
- The Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company's Soup Sale will be Saturday February 15, 2020 Visit the fire company's website for more details.
- The Township offices will be closed on Monday February 17, 2020 in observance of Presidents Day
- The Historical Commission's February meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday February 24, 2020 in the Schuylkill Township Building.
- The annual Schuylkill Township Police Association Coat & Socks Drive continues until March 17, 2020. For information on any of the Association's programs, contact Officer Jim Hennessey at jhennessey@schuylkillpd.org
- Recycling is mandatory in Schuylkill Township, but did you know that every time you recycle you contribute money to running the Township and holding down taxes? Since 2001, through the Pennsylvania DEP's Recycling Performance Grants programs (Act 904), **the township has received a total of \$398,843!** These grants are based on the total tons of recycled materials collected and reported within the township. Every waste hauler in our township is required to collect your recyclables and report to the Township what and how much was collected, and these figures are reported to DEP annually. Also, there are cardboard recycling dumpsters available at the Township building for use by Township residents only. Residents are urged to break down/flatten cardboard before disposing of it in the dumpsters and not to deposit any other materials in the dumpsters.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is now recruiting for 2020 Census Takers. The 2020 Census data will be used to determine how more than \$675 billion from more than 100 government programs are distributed to states and localities, including communities like ours. The data influence choices made about which roads are fixed, where schools are built and businesses opened, what medical services are offered, and more. For more information, visit www.2020census.gov/jobs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Norman Vutz, Country Club Road, commented on the cardboard recycling at the Township building.

Mr. Peter Brown, 403 Valley Forge Road, commented on the cardboard recycling at the Township building. Mr. Brown asked about the Sedgley Farm development appeal. Mr. Brennan briefly summarized the nature of the appeal. Mr. Brown requested advice on how to get township ordinances enforced; the Board advised him to speak to the Township Manager and Zoning Officer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. upon **motion** of Supervisor Majewski, seconded by Supervisor Parry and unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 8:35 p.m. for discussion of personnel matters and potential litigation.

NEXT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

Board of Supervisors Work Session.....Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Supervisors Regular Business Meeting.....Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Harbison
Township Secretary