

Schuylkill Township
Board of Supervisors Public Work Session
Thursday June 18, 2020 6:30 p.m.

*The June monthly meeting was duly advertised and held electronically
through the GoTo Webinar application via telephone and the internet*

The Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors held their virtual public work session on Thursday June 18, 2020 via GoToWebinar . This is an informal meeting to discuss township related business with the public without making any motions or voting on any discussed items. The work session was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board Chair Martha Majewski.

In attendance were Supervisors Martha Majewski, Fred Parry, Susan Guerette, Mark Donovan, and Bob Cooney. Also attending were Township Manager, E.J. Mentry and Township Secretary, Madeline Harbison. The meeting was chaired by Supervisor Majewski.

Mr. Mentry gave a brief overview of the virtual meeting protocols and reminded attendees that question and comments could be submitted at any time during the meeting via the question submittal box on the webinar dashboard. The submittals would be read aloud at the appropriate time in the meeting.

Township Engineer Transition Plan – Mr. Mentry informed the Board that the items to be transitioned are those reflected on the Township Engineer’s monthly report. He said that he has had several meetings with Gilmore and T&M to discuss the transition. The transition will take place over several months as Gilmore closes out certain projects and brings T&M Associates up to speed on others. Mr. Mentry then reviewed the transition spreadsheet prepared with input from Gilmore and T&M. Discussion ensued regarding the work underway at 1422 Tullamore Lane. The Board instructed the Township Manager to request clarification from LTL’s building inspector on the decision that building permits were not required for the work being done on the property.

Mr. Norman Vutz, a resident, commented that 160 Diamond Rock Road building project stormwater issues should be addressed during the Township Engineer transition. The Board requested that the Township Manager follow up on this item.

Pet Waste Ordinance – The ordinance was revised to delete the word “urinate” from the violation section of the ordinance. The revised ordinance will be on the July 1 agenda for advertisement approval.

Real Estate Tax Overpayment/Refund Policy – Mr. Mentry advised the Board that his outreach to other municipalities provided a wide range of responses as to how they handle this matter. It was the concurrence of the Board that they would defer to E.J.’s judgement for a policy on this topic. Discussion ensued regarding limits for refunds. The Board instructed the Township Manager to draft a policy and requested it be on the July 1st meeting agenda for discussion.

Transportation Impact Fee Advisory Committee (“TIFAC”) Update - Mr. Mentry advised the Board there is no new information on the TIFAC; he is waiting to hear back from a potential member to fill out the required membership for the TIFAC

Public Art Proposal Discussion – Supervisor Majewski informed the Board that a resident had submitted a proposal to paint the utility box on the traffic island at the intersection of Charlestown and Pothouse Roads and asked for the Board’s opinion on this proposal.. Supervisor Guerette said she thought it was an interesting idea but she would rather see it undertaken by an art student from the high school. Discussion ensued regarding the Borough’s beautification project. Mr. Mentry asked about maintenance of this painted utility boxes; Supervisor

Majewski said she had no information on the Borough's procedures but is waiting for a response from a member of Borough Council. The Board tabled further discussion of this art project to a future date.

Pandemic Response/Reopening Updates – Mr. Mentry informed the Board that PSATS has provided public meeting requirements; at this time municipalities can meet entirely through virtual means. Once the Governor's emergency declaration is lifted, we will be required to provide a physical location for residents to attend, listen, comment and ask questions during the meeting. Supervisors will not have to be physically present, but attendees must be able to hear the Board members and vice versa. The Township can continue to offer the virtual option while opening the physical building. The Township will review social distancing and safety barriers protocols over the next few weeks. Mr. Mentry advised the Board that Chester County may move into the green re-opening phase by as early June 26th but he recommended that the Building not be reopened to the public until July 6th at the earliest. Mr. Mentry said he is still reviewing what the protocols will be once the building opens to the public and will keep the Board updated as these develop.

Additional Business/Discussion Items

Supervisor Cooney mentioned that Killion's dangerous dog bill passed in Pennsylvania's Senate. Mr. Mentry advised the Board that the dog bite victim in Schuylkill Township along with one of the Township's police officers testified before the Senate on the bill.

Mr. Mentry updated the Board on certain items:

- He will be taking vacation time in July.
- The new Township community map will be published in late June or early July.
- The EAC and Regional Planning Committee will be holding virtual meetings this month.
- The purchase of the Anderson Barn property has closed and a permit for emergency repairs has been issued to the new owner.

Supervisor Majewski announced that the amenities for Valley Park Municipal Park should be in place by July 4th.

Supervisor Donovan informed the Board that an update on the commuter rail initiative could be found at steelcityrail.com.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next work session is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Harbison
Township Secretary