

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

Attendance: Supervisors – Ricki Stumpo, Elaine DiMonte, Alice J. Balsama; Mark Knightly, Public Works Director.

Public in Attendance: 25

1. **Call to Order:** Stumpo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Sunshine Announcements:** no Sunshine Announcements.
3. **Announcements:** Balsama announced that her term of service expires in December and that she will not be running for re-election. Attendees showed their appreciation and thanks for her service to the Township with a round of applause. Stumpo announced that she attended the following meetings: December 27th with residents of the Cabin Club Community, DEP, and Fish and Game regarding the Cabin Club Dam; January 8th Kennett Area EMS Commission; January 10th Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee; and January 16th the annual Ag Security Area Advisory Board.
4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Linda DeHaven asked if the Special Event Ordinance will be discussed during the meeting. Balsama indicated that the Planning Commission will provide their recommendations going forward. Brad Peiper, Kennett Library Board Representative, asked to be included on the February agenda to summarize 2018 activities and to provide an update on the new library plans.
5. **Work Session:** the January 22nd work session was cancelled.
6. **Public Works Report:** Knightly reported that the Department will be trimming trees on Hickory Hill Road.
 - a. **Procurement Preapproval Requests** – Board reviewed the procurement pre-approval requests submitted by the Treasurer. The requests are CoStars purchases and included in the 2019 Township Budget. Balsama inquired as to the estimated cost of a new dump truck rather than replacing the body which is in poor condition. Knightly responded that the 2004 dump truck is mechanically sound and his best estimate to purchase a new truck would be more than four times the amount of the request. MOTION: Stumpo moved, Balsama seconded, to approve the purchase of a TBEI 10' stainless steel dump truck body from E.M. Kutz, Inc., for \$30,050.00; motion carried. Board discussed the number of plows the Department uses and the variety of sizes needed to accommodate the roads in the subdivisions. MOTION: DiMonte moved, Stumpo seconded, to approve the purchase of a Gledhill 11' snow plow from E.M. Kutz, Inc., for \$11,803.00; motion carried.
 - b. **Speed Study for The Preserve at Chadds Ford** – Knightly reported that he has received and responded to communications regarding both a speed study and safety concerns at the school bus stop. Board recognized Shilpa Saroha, Pratt Lane, who presented the following concerns: (i) Pratt Lane is a cul-de-sac street with one location for a bus stop with 3 scheduled pick-up times serving over 80 children from the community; (ii) there are numerous observed and documented incidences of drivers failing to stop when the bus stop lights and stop arm are engaged; (iii) drivers frequently speed

through the community with disregard for pedestrians and speed postings; (iv) it is difficult to reach out to delivery drivers but many of the speeders are residents of the community; and (v) parents contacted Unionville-Chadds Ford School District (UCFSD) Transportation Coordinator Marco Sordi and School Superintendent Dr. John Sanville requesting assistance to resolve the bus stop concerns. Lynn Martin commented that parents contacted UCFSD on numerous occasions to discuss the bus stop concern. Tim Martin asked if a recommendation from the Township and the State Police might be helpful in moving forward on resolving the concern. Kapil Aggarwal added that serious conflicting traffic movement is occurring as vehicles use the road on either side of the traffic island in order to exit the community. Vas Param acknowledged that the HOA board has communicated concerns via their Facebook Page, newsletter, and correspondence, but the HOA seeks assistance from the Township given the severity of the concerns. DiMonte agreed that direct contact with the community is the best path forward but noted that the matter should be addressed with the school district, particularly whether adding additional bus stops within the community is a possibility. Param inquired as to the installation of speed bumps. Knightly explained that installation of speed bumps is possible in the summer but not during the winter season due to snow plowing and ice control operations. He also noted that quite often a vehicle will accelerate immediately after crossing a speed bump and there is a level of noise associated with vehicles crossing a speed bump. Balsama suggested that the Township hold off on the steps necessary to install speed bumps until other efforts are made to address the concerns. Knightly reported that a speed control sign was installed in the community. Residents agreed that the speed monitor has helped to slow traffic but asked that it be relocated closer to a curve in the road. Knightly acknowledged he could relocate it but doing so may place it in a front yard. Stumpo expressed that clearly this is a community concern that should be addressed with direct communication from the HOA. Linda DeHaven, Locust Grove Road, commented that as a former school bus driver, it was her experience that parents would photograph license plates so that the incidents can be shared with the bus driver and the school district. Tanna Blevins, Locust Grove Road, commented that vehicles routinely run the stop signs at the 3-way stop for Corinne and Locust Grove Roads close to Pratt Lane. Lieutenant Michelle N. Swantner, Station Commander, Avondale Station, attended the meeting to respond personally. The Station did not have a record of previously reported school bus stop violations. Swantner reported that contact has been made with residents of The Preserve in order to document the violations discussed here this evening. She explained the legal process for issuing violations and the district court procedure with regard to filing citations and testimony if a not guilty plea is entered. The State Police take very seriously the safety of children; however, as a policy, they do not get involved in the politics of recommending how a school district or a municipality addresses concerns. Swantner confirmed that the Station can provide data regarding the number of violations. She spoke to Sanville and Sorti earlier today because they were not able to attend tonight. She commented that citations for speed violations may be difficult in the community given the travel distances that are required for calibrating the speed of a vehicle on what is essentially a cul-de-sac with one-way-in and one-way-out. Swantner asked the residents to continue to gather information regarding vehicles in violation and sharing the data with the State Police so that citations can be issued. She will also have a community information officer contact the HOA regarding establishing a town watch. Swantner will assign patrol cars to the area, although generally speaking, common courtesy is the missing element. Balsama suggested that the Township consider writing a letter to UCFSD acknowledging the comments made during the public meeting and offering that assigning a school crossing guard might be an option. Christopher Conaway, Denton Hollow Road, commented that given limited resources

for most agencies that the HOA consider contracting with a private security firm to monitor the morning and afternoon bus stop times. **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** Kara Ditty Bovard, Pratt Lane, inquired as to whether the Township has a sidewalk ordinance to address clearing ice and snow following a winter storm. Sidewalks are often left unattended for days-on-end creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians. Stumpo explained that the Township does not have a sidewalk ordinance and that the concern should be addressed by the HOA. Param commented that the HOA sends letters, sometimes second and third notices, to the residents regarding clearing the sidewalks but generally the notice goes unanswered. Stumpo offered that perhaps a course of action would be to contract the sidewalk clearing with the landscape company. DiMonte and Balsama agreed that the HOA should discuss with their management company and residents if, by example, a special assessment is needed for clearing sidewalks. The Board agreed that the HOA board members consider scheduling a meeting at the Township to discuss some of these options. Stumpo noted that she would be available to attend on behalf of the Supervisors if the HOA requests her to do so.

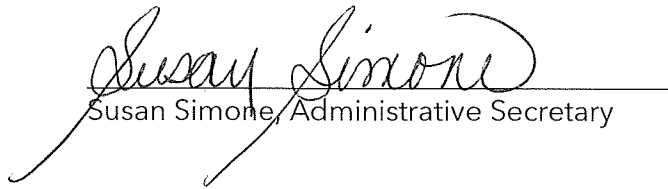
7. **Facilities:** no update at this time.
8. **Kennett area EMS Commission Report** – Stumpo attended the January 8th meeting. The Commission discussed the purchase of a new ambulance as well as maintenance specifications required for an ambulance in service. She noted that Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company anticipates that they will establish a paid position for an engine driver.
9. **Zoning Official Report:** report tabled for the February meeting.
10. **Planning Commission (PC) Report/January 16, 2019 Meeting:** DiMonte acknowledged receipt of the PC Report. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tanna Blevins asked the Board if action would be taken on the recommendations of the PC to amend the Special Events Ordinance. DiMonte noted that discussion on the matter will continue during the February 6th PC meeting. Secretary for the PC clarified that while the PC discussed recommendations at length, the Commissioners reached no consensus. For this reason, the PC Chairman asked that Commissioners review their notes and be prepared to identify substantive amendments for the February meeting.
11. **New Business:**
 - a. **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRCA) Letter** – Board waived a reading of the letter submitted by Jim Jordan on behalf of BRCA. Jordan sympathizes with the Township in the need to pass an ordinance governing special events; however, BRCA is part of the community, too, and they are proud to serve the residents with educational and special events. Their mission statement includes holding 230 acres+ in conservation easements for the Township. Jordan said the way the Special Event Ordinance reads, BRCA does not fit the definitions outlined so it appears they will be able to continue their activities without having to go through the steps outlined in the ordinance. Such a path forward should not be a problem as they have an excellent track record with the Township and their continuing to do business as usual should not have an adverse effect on the Township. They have never had a parking issue given that they have a 300+ acre property. He also stated that health and safety are number one factors in the planning for all events. He has great concern that the ordinance will remove management of their programs and special events and put it in the hands of the Township. Balsama commented that the Board appreciates the manner in which BRCA has presented their objections and concerns and that Jordan has taken the time to attend the meeting tonight. She indicated, and the Board agreed, to submit the letter to the Township Solicitor for review and response. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jim Gawthrop said that to his knowledge there are no negative impacts to the Township for any of the activities at BRCA. Kara Ditty Bovard commented that she lives near BRCA and recognizes them as good neighbors. Her family frequently attends

programs and outings at BRCA. Ron Blevins said that the BRCA has contributed greatly to the Township in saving open space and the Township is the beneficiary of the types of activities offered by BRCA. Balsama noted that as a long-time resident, members of her family participated in many activities at BRCA over the years.

- b. **Constable Contract Renewal** – Supervisors reviewed renewal of Independent Contractor Agreement for Constable Services (“Agreement”). Elected Constable Michael Balsama proposed additions to the Agreement for security and for processing of warrants. Supervisor Alice Balsama recused herself from the vote given that Balsama is her spouse. MOTION: DiMonte moved, Stumpo seconded, to submit the Agreement and proposed revisions to the Township Solicitor for review and recommendation for signing; motion carried.
 - c. **Municipal Trash Collection** – Board acknowledged receipt of information from Peggy Conaway, Denton Hollow Road, regarding consideration of private versus publicly contracted municipal trash and recycling collection. Conaway brought the matter before the Board as residents continue to face significant increases in the hauler trash collection fees. Lucinda Schreck, Denton Hollow Road, agreed that regardless of which hauler a resident chooses, level of service, or billing period, there’s been an exorbitant increase in fees. Conaway added that there is still a concern with hauler trucks blocking roadways as a result of the number of different haulers operating on varied schedules. Conaway inquired as to the increase in the amount the Township pays for the recycle bins at the Township Administrative Office. Stumpo clarified that the recycle bins represent income for the Township as the recyclables are a commodity. The amount varies but the range is \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year. She also commented that any contract the Township proposes with a waste hauler will have to take into account the commercial properties operating in the Township, most notably the County properties. Stumpo was sympathetic to the fee increases and the concern and recounted an option known to her through a local hauler that represents a “pay as you go” plan for a specific number of bags of trash per year. The Township recycle bins are accessible 24-7 and represent a no cost means to recycle whether a resident or a nonresident. Balsama suggested that the low cost options may not provide an adequate level of service. She also noted that given that this is the second time Conaway has approached the Township on this matter, that it would be appropriate to conduct a survey to gauge the interest in contracted service. DiMonte agreed that a survey is the first step given that most of the HOAs in the Township contract hauling services for their communities. Board directed that as a first step, the Secretary send a letter to the HOAs as to their hauler contracts and interest. Board also noted that long-term, it might be advantageous to post a brief online survey on the Township website to obtain an average number of responses regarding interest in this matter.
12. **Old Business:** no old business submitted.
 13. **Correspondence:** Stumpo reviewed an email received from Ernie Holling, President, CCATO, regarding interest in submitting a task for the project list for the Chester County Council of Boy Scouts of America Day of Service on April 13th. Balsama suggested forwarding the email to the Historical Committee for their consideration and response.
 14. **Treasurer’s Warrants:** Stumpo moved, Balsama seconded, to approve the Bill Payment Lists for January 8 - 28, 2019 recommended for payment by the Treasurer; General Fund: 31 bills paid totaling \$35,523.78; 14 debit card charges totaling \$2011.49; Highway Aid: 1 bill for \$9,489.91; Parks, Rec & Trails: 1 bill for \$70.98; motion unanimously approved.
 15. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. December 26, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes – Balsama moved, DiMonte seconded, to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted; motion carried.

b. January 7, 2019 Reorganization Meeting Minutes - DiMonte moved, Balsama seconded, to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted; motion carried.

16. **Adjournment:** At 7:45 p.m., DiMonte moved, Balsama seconded, to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.


Susan Simone, Administrative Secretary


Ricki Stumpo, Chairman