

Board of Supervisors Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

The implementation of the GoToMeeting Remote Platform for public meetings complies with the Disaster Emergency Orders and Proclamations issued by Governor Wolf to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

Attendance via virtual platform: Supervisors - Elaine DiMonte and Ray McKay. Online participants: Mark Knightly, Public Works Director; Al Davis, Alternate Commissioner, Kennett Area Fire and Emergency Services Regional Commission ("Commission"); Bill Haaf, Chairman, Energy Committee.

Public in attendance via remote access: 5

1. DiMonte called the meeting to order at 7:00 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board noted that Supervisor Stumpo is out on medical leave. The meeting is completely virtual this evening with everyone participating remotely due to the forecast for inclement weather.
2. **Sunshine Announcements:** Board members met with GKO Architects on January 15th.
3. **Announcements:** DiMonte reminded attendees to visit the Township website to sign up for Constant Contact notifications.
4. **Public Comment on Non-agenda Items:** Lieutenant Nicole Palmer, State Police Troop J, Avondale Station, asked to be heard as she is retiring and wanted to take the opportunity to provide an update on activities for Pocopson Township. Palmer provided State Police response statistics including but not limited to false alarms, disorderly conduct, DUIs, and vehicle crashes. DiMonte responded that the Board is aware of response by the State Police to unlicensed motor vehicles such as ATVs that have been reported by Township residents. Palmer assured the Board that a representative from the State Police will reach out regarding her replacement. Board members thanked Lieutenant Palmer for her service and expressed appreciation that she took time during her tenure to attend the public meetings. Mark Slouf was recognized by the Board to publicly comment on the activity at the motor-cross track on Trimbles Ford Lane. Slouf noted that Township Deputy Zoning Official Michael Balsama responded to the concern and visited the site. Slouf asked the Board how they would respond to the renewed activity and asked why the cease-and-desist order was not being enforced. DiMonte responded that the Township Consultants have discussed the current complaint and are actively investigating code violations that may be associated with this current activity. Township Consultants are in touch with the Chester County Conservation District and DEP and have requested a site meeting to evaluate the situation.

5. **Conditional Use Hearing for Koberg:** Board announced that the hearing is continued on the record to Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
6. **Zoning Hearing Board Application - Cook, 1560 Brandywine Drive, Tax ID #63-4-3.7:** Don Lynn, Attorney for the Applicants Paul and Helen Cook, appeared to discuss the Application. Lynn apologized for not attending the December meeting but noted that they will be attending the Zoning Hearing Board Hearing on Wednesday. Dean Stafford of Dean's Landscaping also appeared on behalf of the Applicants and reviewed the Site Improvement Plan prepared by Inland Design dated 9/11/2020, last revised 10/22/2020, and corrected in accordance with the Comment and Review Letter submitted by the Township Engineer Gilmore & Associates. Stafford presented that the Applicants have a dysfunctional lot with a narrow driveway that cannot accommodate more than one vehicle at a time. The driveway as it exists creates a tremendous hardship to access the property, particularly for family members suffering from medical conditions. He added that the proposed retaining wall has been vetted and meets all engineering standards. Lynn and Stafford noted that the Planning Commission moved to recommend to the Board that the relief requested be granted. The proposed improvements will allow the Applicants to safely access a shed in the backyard that houses a snowblower and lawnmower as they will no longer have to maneuver the grassy slope. Other benefits from the proposed improvements include aesthetics from landscape plantings that are part of the site plan. McKay indicated that he has examined the plans and agrees with the proposed improvements. In addition, he is happy that the improvements will permit the family to remain in the Township long term. McKay added that it appears that the improvements will enhance the overall value of the property and be a benefit to the community generally. DiMonte added that after reviewing the Application she agrees with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. No public comment. MOTION: DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board grant the relief requested in accordance with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and as discussed this evening; motion carried.
7. **Public Works Report:** no action required. The Department is on standby for tonight's forecasted ice event.
8. **Planning Commission Report - January 6th Public Meeting:** Board acknowledged receipt of the report.
9. **Facilities:**
 - a. Authorize legal advertising to bid new township building - DiMonte reported that the bid package for the new building is ready to be released as recommended by the Township Solicitor. MOTION: McKay moved, DiMonte seconded, to authorize legal advertising for the submission of bids for the new township administration building; motion carried. DiMonte recognized Peter Barsz, CPA, and Amanda Gattuso, from Barsz Gowie Amon & Fultz. Treasurer responsibilities were outsourced to the firm when Peggy Lennon moved on to East Bradford Township. DiMonte noted that the firm will assist the Board with financial matters for the new building. McKay indicated

that he will be overseeing proposed work for the Barnard House over the summer. No public comment.


10. **Kennett Area EMS Commission:** Davis reported that the Commission continues to meet virtually. During the January 12th meeting, the Commission discussed the quarterly disbursements to the fire companies as follows: \$101,113.60 to Kennett Fire Company; \$279,194.65 to Longwood Fire Company; \$62,836.58 to Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company. An equipment study by emergency vehicle response is scheduled. Commission continues to discuss volunteer retention and recruitment plans/analysis of needs and the state of volunteers. A few new volunteers have signed-up with training to be scheduled. DiMonte asked about the retention of Spanish-speaking volunteers. Davis indicated that the testing materials are available in Spanish which will enable volunteers to study for the test. DiMonte noted and Davis confirmed that the multi-municipal participants in the Commission appear to be keeping up with the financial payments. McKay inquired as to the fire companies billing insurance companies for auto accidents. Davis indicated that the procedural problem with that process is tied to state law that requires the insurance money be sent to the individual who would then be responsible for turning it over to the fire company. The fire company would have to institute a collection suit against the individual. No public comment. Board thanked Davis for his continued service on the Commission on behalf of the Township.

11. **New Business:**

- a. Brandywine Valley Scenic Byways Commission Budget - Board acknowledged receipt of the 2021 budget. McKay noted that while the income and expense detail was provided, the budget does not include a line item for a carryover balance. It appears the major project will be the interactive website.
- b. Brandywine Creek Greenway Mini-Grant - MOTION: McKay moved, DiMonte seconded, to authorize signing the Agreement Between Brandywine Conservancy and Pocopson Township for the Brandywine Creek Greenway Mini Grant Program as previously approved and discussed; motion carried.
- c. Energy Committee Report - MOTION: DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to approve the reappointment of the Energy Committee as follows: Bill Haaf, Bernadette Kegelman, Mike Magee, Donald McKay, Kathy Miller, Sonal Sehgel, and Nate Wilson. Haaf reviewed the recommendations submitted to the Board for the new township administration building that includes, but not limited to, LEED 4.1 Certified Level or Silver Level, delay of installation of solar array, and a guided tour of the Public Works Facilities when it is safe to do so under the current COVID-19 restrictions. DiMonte had a few questions regarding the ChargePoint Level 2 Commercial Charging Station, particularly concerning the overall cost to the Township to install and operate. Haaf indicated that there is rebate money available from the state for a limited period to offset the cost of installation. Haaf indicated that drivers pay for power with a credit card and there is no expense to the Township other than installation. Haaf indicated that he will submit the text for a letter to be approved by the Board and to be sent to

businesses in the Township regarding carbon reduction. DiMonte and McKay thanked Haaf for his work and the work of the committee and look forward to hearing from them with additional ideas.

- d. Memo of understanding for Police Services and Personnel - DiMonte reported that Chief Nelling, Birmingham Township, is interested and will discuss with his Board of Supervisors. Knightly reported that conduit work is complete for installation of an electronic gate at the Locust Grove Road parking lot for the Park. Public Works is waiting to hear from PECO for the electrical connection. McKay offered that it would be a good idea to outline how Pocopson would interface with Birmingham Township Police on a short-term basis. DiMonte indicated that patrols to respond to ATV and unlicensed motorized vehicles would be a good starting point. No public comment.
12. **Old Business:** no old business to discuss.
13. **Correspondence:** no correspondence.
14. **Treasurer's Warrants:** The Board again thanked Peter Barsz and Amanda Gattuso for attending the meeting. Board recognized that thus far the transition has been seamless with no complaints. Gattuso recognized Peggy Lennon for the smooth transition and supplying documentation. Gattuso and Barsz look forward to working with the Township team. No public comment. MOTION: DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to approve the Bill Payment Lists for the period January 5, 2021 to January 25, 2021 recommended for payment by the Treasurer; General Fund: 32 bills totaling \$117,868.26; Highway Aid: 4 bills totaling \$11,689.15; Parks, Recreation & Trails: 1 bill for \$2,665.00; Township Facilities: 2 bills for \$12,650.15; motion carried.
15. **Approval of January 4, 2021 Reorganization Meeting Minutes:** DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to approve the meeting minutes as submitted; motion carried.
16. **Adjournment:** prior to adjourning, McKay requested the status of the fence or demolition permit for the Dance Hall along the Brandywine as the paperwork was supposed to be filed with the Township by the end of the month. Secretary noted that the Zoning Official is following up on the request with the landowner. MOTION: McKay moved, DiMonte seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



Susan Simone, Secretary



Elaine DiMonte, Vice Chairman

