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Board of Supervisors Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Supervisors Elaine DiMonte, Ricki Stumpo and Raymond McKay; Mark Knightly, Public Works Director.

Public in attendance: 7

1. **Call to Order:** DiMonte called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Sunshine Announcements:** Board members met with a representative from the Meyner Center on March 21st regarding the organizational analysis.
3. **Announcements:** DiMonte attended a County Prison Board meeting. There was a presentation by a representative from the County Intermediate Unit.
4. **Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:** Jack Robinson voiced concern about the pickleball notice posted on the tennis court fence. He lives right across the street and the noise doesn't bother him. His comment was about the Township signs on the fence that do not look official. He did not want to be blamed for no pickleball, so he removed the signs and returned them to the Township Building. He asked why the pickleball facility was suspended. DiMonte referenced the February public meeting and the decision made by the Board to suspend pickleball at the tennis courts due to noise concerns. She indicated longtime residents who live in the area find the noise annoying. She added noise from pickleball is a problem nationwide and the solutions to mitigate noise are expensive. Robinson said he lives directly across from the tennis courts and does not find the noise annoying. Pickleball is a form of exercise that he is able to do. Sandy Retzlaff commented that the noise problem is pervasive and measures such as limiting the time of day the game is played can help alleviate the noise. Stumpo noted that it would be difficult for the Township to monitor playing time. DiMonte commented that the Township is not obligated to provide a pickleball court. Robinson said that there is playing-noise at the basketball and tennis courts neither of which is annoying. Don Lane commented that he has lived in the Township a long time and the recreational facilities have been in place longer than most residents. Don Lane asked if the board measured the noise levels. Andrea Gosselin commented that it's not necessarily the volume of the noise but the nature of the noise and its consistency. Board recognized that there are ample exercise opportunities in the park. DiMonte noted the Board need not react to every exercise fad that comes along. She said more than one person has complained about the noise. Robinson may get a petition started to resume pickleball access at the tennis courts. Board members offered that the zoning official has provided remediation suggestions for the noise and that the costs generally start in the range of \$15,000.00. Board asked Public Works Director to redo the signs suspending pickleball and to include the Township logo. Board asked Robinson to please stop removing the signs.
5. **Work Sessions:** DiMonte reported the March 20th Work Session was cancelled.
6. **Founders Day Celebration Update:** Co-Chair Sandy Retzlaff attended to present the report. Co-Chair Tim Connolly was not able to attend. Retzlaff reported that the Committee met on March 20th and will meet the third Wednesday of the month going forward. The concentration of the event will be the historical aspect. Township support is provided by Aleida Diaz including articles for the newsletter and Constant Contact platform. Retzlaff shared with the Board potential updated event logos created by resident Judy Mineault.

Stumpo noted the Board received one design which appeared to be a bit too modern for what the Committee wants to do historically. Retzlaff will get the logo designs to the Board as it will be important to include them on emails, correspondence, and collateral material going forward. DiMonte noted that from Connolly's presentation last month there is a good structure in place to move forward but no doubt more committee members are needed. Retzlaff agreed noting they are a committee of 7 but need more members and volunteers. She hopes that the newsletter article will stir up interest. McKay suggested that there should be an expectation that event volunteers attend a regular monthly committee meeting so that everyone is part of the planning process. Retzlaff and Georgia Brutscher will be working on sponsorships. Committee is working on the logistics for transportation options for attendees to get from the park to the Locust Grove Schoolhouse and the Barnard House. A reach-out to Northbrook Canoe Company might be an option for a bus. Public Comment: Linda Moore commented that perhaps revisit the transportation used for the barn tours years ago. Would a tractor/wagon/hayride be an option or horse drawn carriage? Stumpo commented that safety is paramount and recalls road closures in part for previous events. McKay offered that insurance coverage will be a consideration. DiMonte suggested the County SCCOOT or ChescoBus system might be able to provide assistance. Maybe a trolley is an option if the route is circular with drop off - hop on at historic sites. Linda Moore suggested setting up a table on Primary Election Day April 23rd for residents to sign up to serve on the committee or to volunteer. She can check with the judge of elections for permission. Board agreed to this suggestions but noted it will be important to have the logo approved in order to create posters for the 23rd. Moore asked if political candidates in the November election would be able to set up a table the day of the event. She also suggested that it would be an opportunity for a voter registration table as well. Stumpo and DiMonte noted the request for political tables must be reviewed by the Township Solicitor.

7. **Kennett Area Fire/EMS Commission:** McKay reported the Commission met in Pocopson on March 12th. Capital funds will be used to purchase equipment which is extremely expensive and sells out quickly. Commission reviewed EMS calls for the month. McKay reviewed the genesis of funding noting it does not come from the state but that the municipalities are tasked with funding fire and EMS. Grants are useful but generally have strings attached. Volunteer retention is always a concern and there are no doubt companies are moving to paid personnel. McKay will try to educate the public on these topics via the Township newsletter. The Commission will next meet on April 9th at the Kennett Township Building. Public Comment: Linda Moore asked if the number of EMS calls are plotted on a map to see where the calls are geographically concentrated. McKay indicated that they are not plotted on a map. Moore noted that over 20 years the population has changed with denser living areas. She was curious to learn how insurance companies assess a customer base a percentage surcharge for insurance, particularly comparing residential and commercial customers. McKay indicated the Commission receives reports on the number of occupants in facilities such as Kendal and the County properties. McKay noted the collection of impact fees on new construction varies by municipality, but the funds are used for fire and EMS. McKay clarified that the Commission does not have taxing power. There is a tax abatement for volunteers, but the savings represent \$300 to \$400. DiMonte asked about the status of recruiting volunteers from the Hispanic community. Is assistance provided for the certification tests? McKay indicated recruitment in Kennett with a higher Hispanic population.

8. Public Works Report:

- a. West Creek Road Gravix Wall Project Update - Knightly reported no updates since the last public meeting. The weather is holding for the prep work for paving. Jurich will be on site in April. Public Comment: McKay offered the wall looks great. Board members agreed the project moved along quickly. Linda Moore complimented the work as well and looks forward to using the completed road.
 - i. Pay Application #2 Approval Request - DiMonte reviewed the March 14, 2024 letter from Robert L. Johnston, P.E., recommending release of \$495,500.00 for work completed January 31, 2024 to February 29, 2024 and withholding 10% retainage in the amount of \$49,550.00. MOTION: McKay moved, DiMonte seconded, to approve Pay Application #2 as recommended by the Township Engineer; motion carried.
- b. Procurement Request - DiMonte reviewed request to purchase a 2023 Ford truck as described in the March 6, 2024 Proposal from Hondru Ford. The purchase is included in the 2024 budget/capital reserve funding source: MOTION: DiMonte moved, Stumpo seconded, to authorize approval of the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-150 (X1E) XL 4 WD SuperCab 6.5' Box (9) in the amount of \$46,995.00; motion carried. MOTION: DiMonte moved, Stumpo seconded, to authorize the sale on Municibid the 2012 F-350 Pickup Truck which has aged out of service; motion carried.
- c. Southern Chester County Co-Op Materials Request - Bid Opening March 26th - MOTION: DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to authorize the Public Works Director to purchase prior to April 22, 2024, those materials and services from low bidders identified in the March 26, 2024 bid opening that are required to complete projects scheduled prior to April 22, 2024; motion carried.

Board inquired as to the status of repairs to the County bridge on Denton Hollow Road. DiMonte asked about general clean up of tree material and vegetation on Denton Hollow Road left by the contractor. Knightly offered that utility work on Denton Hollow Road is not yet complete. Knightly added that curbside chipping began today.

9. **Facilities:** no report or action required.

10. New Business:

- a. Proposal to Update Sewage Map per Act 537 - proposal will be submitted for the April Board meeting.
- b. Proposal from Cohen Law Group to Perform Verizon Cable Franchise Renewal Services - DiMonte reported the contract will be expiring and the Township Solicitor recommends deferring negotiations through the Cohen Law Group, Pittsburgh. Board is in receipt of a proposal submitted to the Chester County Consortium by Cohen Law Group to perform regional negotiations. MOTION: McKay moved, Stumpo seconded, to accept the Cohen Law Group proposal dated November 30, 2023, and to authorize the Township Solicitor to reach out to Cohen Law Group to include Pocopson Township in the negotiations; motion carried.

11. **Old Business:** no old business no action required.

12. **Correspondence:** no correspondence.


13. **Treasurer Warrants:** MOTION: DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to approve the Bill Payment Lists for the period February 27, 2024 to March 25, 2024 recommended for payment by the Treasurer: General Fund: 36 ACH, 35 checks totaling \$410,317.98; Liquid

MINUTE BOOK PAGE ____

Fuels Fund: 1 check totaling \$30.82; Capital Reserve Fund: 1 check totaling \$25,316.00; Township Facilities Fund: \$0; Parks and Recreation Fund: 3 checks totaling \$43,364.17; ARPA Fund: \$0; Open Space Fund: 1 ACH transaction totaling \$2,447.17; Fire & EMS Fund: \$0; motion carried.

14. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2024:** Board agreed to table approval of the Minutes to the April meeting.

15. **Adjournment:** at 7:21 p.m. Stumpo moved, DiMonte seconded to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.



Susan Simone, Secretary



Elaine DiMonte, Chairwoman