

The meeting of the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:02 P.M. Attending were Chairman Josh Stouch, Vice Chairman Tom Wynne, Supervisor Alan Keiser, Solicitor Robert Brant, Khal Hassan of Pennoni & Associates, Pete Hiryak, Mike Heydt, Andrew Duncan, Chief Templin, and approximately 23 residents/developers.

The meeting was held outside on the parking lot at the Douglass Township Building, social distancing was observed. Mr. Stouch led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A reporter was present at this evenings meeting. Mr. Stouch announced that an Executive Session was held tonight prior to the meeting from approximately 6:00pm to 6:30pm involving potential litigation matters. No decisions or votes were taken.

Mr. Stouch asked if there were any additions, corrections, or comments to the minutes of August 17th, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting, none were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Stouch to approve the minutes of the August 17th, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Stouch asked if there were any questions, comments, or corrections to the September 21st, 2020 Board of Supervisors Agenda, none were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Wynne to approve the September 21st, 2020 Board of Supervisors Agenda as presented. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Special Presentation – Mr. Stouch presented Mr. Phil Mack with a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts during the July flooding situation in which he used his front-end loader to pull a Winnebago out of severe flooding on Swamp Creek Road and towed it to safety. Mr. Stouch also stated that during the flood Mr. Mack did not hesitate to help him rescue another resident and their pet ¼ to ½ miles into the flood and back. Mr. Mack thanked Mr. Stouch and said that he appreciates the Police and Fire Company for all they do.

Public Hearing Decisions (Hearings held 8/18/2020 @ GF&R building)

R-4 Density Amendment (Avante Apartments) – A motion was made by Mr. Wynne, seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve the R-4 Density Amendment for a maximum density in R-4 developments of eleven (11) dwelling units/one acre. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

M-1 Office & Light Industrial (Rt.100 Corridor Non-Residential) Height Amendment for a proposed Medical Facility – Mr. Bartle informed the Board by email that his client has withdrawn the application request for a text amendment regarding height in the Route 100 Overlay as applied to the M-1 underlying zoning district and they intend to modify their application to be more specific in what is being proposed and submit that modified application in the near future.

ZHB – Moyer/Mooney Rt.100 & Jackson Rd. – Zoning appeal for sign & additional temporary RV parking scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th, 2020 @ 6pm. Mr. Moyer stated that they are asking for (32) additional temporary parking spaces for RV/boat, larger vehicle storage for titled vehicles. Mr. Keiser stated that at the original zoning hearing there was 8 parking spots allowed, and it was a tough decision for those 8 spaces, he has concerns with the additional 32 spaces and also how it would be enforced and he will abstain from any vote. A resident said that he has an issue with their current lighting on the buildings, would additional parking spaces require even more lighting. Mr. Smith voiced concerns from the fire company that if a fire were to happen they would have to tanker water to the site in order to stop the fire from spreading to all vehicles parked in a row. Mr. Moyer also would like a larger 100 sq. ft. sign at 24 feet high so it can be visible from Rt.100 & Jackson Road. Mr. Brant stated that the applicant agreed at the Planning Agency meeting that they would not apply for another

sign if they would be allowed the one 100 sq. ft. sign with a height of 24 feet, is this still the case? Mr. Moyer replied yes. No other comments were given.

A motion was given by Mr. Wynne, seconded by Mr. Stouch to remain neutral in any recommendation regarding this matter. Keiser-Abstain, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Douglass Township Voting Locations for the General Election on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020

District #1 – Shepherd of The Hills Church, 527 Hoffmansville Rd., Bechtelsville PA 19505

District #2 – Shepherd of The Hills Church (Not E.C. Trinity Church)

District #3 & #4 – Tri-County Bible Church, 142 Buchert Rd, Gilbertsville PA 19525 (Not GF&R)

GF&R Report – Chief Andrew Duncan

April 2020 to August 2020: 2 Fire/Other, 20 building fire, 2 trash or rubbish fires, 3 passenger vehicle fires, 1 natural vegetation fire, 2 brush and trash fires, 8 electrical fires outside, 18 assist EMS, 6 accident w/injuries, 1 search for person, 5 vehicle rescues, 7 swift water rescues, 2 haz conditions, 1 gas leak, 7 carbon monoxide, 2 down power lines, 16 fire police calls, 2 public service, 1 standby, 1 dispatched and canceled, 1 smoke, 2 smoke detectors, 4 unintentional smoke detector activation, 7 unintentional alarm system activation, 5 request for pump detail, 2 citizen complaint. Total incidents: 128 April through August 2020. Service time YTD 374 hours and 4 minutes. Response per Municipality: Douglass/Mont 79, Upper Pottsgrove 16, Boyertown Borough 14, East Greenville 1, Amity 1, North Coventry 2, Earl 1, New Hanover 5, Eastern Berks 8, and Pennsburg 1. Training is on-going with some training via zoom. Events: Many events were canceled due to COVID-19 however the social distant carnival food truck event was held on Memorial Day Weekend, Gun Raffle tickets were sold in June and July, and table and chair rentals were made to some local eating establishments for outdoor seating. On August 20, 2020 GF&R accepted delivery of a 2020 Spartan/4Guys Rescue Engine which is replacing a 1996 Simon Duplex Rescue Engine. The cost to replace this piece of apparatus was \$651,400.00 and the process took about three years from the time our truck committee was formed to the time we were able to take delivery of this vehicle, many hours of meetings for design and build concepts were attended by our truck committee volunteers. This purchase was made possible by the tireless efforts of our Volunteer Firefighters and 11 years of Bingo Fundraising on Thursday Evenings. Without their efforts, this valuable piece of firefighting equipment would not have been able to be purchased to protect the residents, businesses and visitors of Douglass Township. No comments or questions were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Keiser to accept the GF&R Report as given. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

GACAS Report – Chief Garry Schmoltze

August 2020: 125 total calls for the month (895 YDT); 61 transports, 5 public assists, 2 unit assists, 34 canceled, 1 dead on scene, 9 evaluated/no treatment or transport, 2 refusals, and 11 standbys. Calls for service by Municipality: 39 Douglass/Mont, 36 New Hanover, 9 Upper Pottsgrove, 6 Pottstown, 1 Upper Frederick, 1 West Pottsgrove, 1 Bally, 5 Bechtelsville, 17 Boyertown, 4 Colebrookdale, 1 Douglass/Berks, 5 Washington Twp. Hospital Admissions: 49 Pottstown, 8 Lehigh, 1 Phoenixville, and 3 Reading for a total of 61. Chief Schmoltze stated that they held a mini carnival last month, the weather did not cooperate however they still made \$600 in the fundraising event. Chief Schmoltze announced that they are having a fundraising event at the ambulance building from November 27th through New Year's Eve. It will be a Carnival of Lights with 200,000 LED lights and Rider Food Trucks will be on hand. No comments were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Wynne to accept the GACAS Report as presented. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Police Department Report – Chief Templin

August 2020: calls for service 389; 2 reportable accidents; 9 non-reportable accidents; 11 criminal investigations; 4 criminal arrests, 23 paper citations, 95 e-citations, 6 non-traffic citations, and 1 parking ticket. Chief Templin stated that on September 14, 2020 Richard Hammon, Accreditation Program Coordinator through the PA Chiefs of Police Association, presented our police department with a plaque that grants our police department “Premier Agency Status” within the program. A police department is granted this status after the department has passed five or more re-accreditations in succession. Our department has been accredited since 2003, less than 10% of area police departments have “Premier Agency Status”. On October 24, 2020 from 10am-2pm we will be participating in the Drug Take Back Program here at the Township building. All current COVID-19 restrictions will be followed. All persons will be able to drop off unwanted, unused, or expired medications for proper disposal. No liquids or sharps are allowed. Chief Templin announced that range qualifications are completed and our department hosted some training classes. No questions or comments were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Stouch to accept the Police Department Report as presented. Keiser-Aye, Wynne-Aye, Stouch-Aye. Motion passed.

Trash/Recycling Bids (Bid results & recommendation to BOS)

Mr. Duncan announced that the Township received four bids for the trash/recycling contract with pricing for a 3-year and 5-year contract. The bidders were: Advanced Disposal, Whitetail, Waste Management, and JP Mascaro all bids involved a tote system (64 or 96-gallon totes), with \$5 per quarter to fund the recycling center/leaf collection program, and one free bulk item per month. The low bid was from Advanced Disposal with the annual cost of \$317.52 for a 3-year contract or an annual cost of \$309.00 for a 5-year contract. With rumors of Advanced and Waste Management merging the price will hold. Mr. Duncan recommended that the Board of Supervisors award the bid to Advanced Disposal on a 5-year contract at an annual cost of \$309.00 (\$77.25 quarterly).

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Stouch to award the trash/recycling bid contract to Advanced Disposal for a 5-year contract, as recommended, for the annual cost per household of \$309.00/\$77.25 quarterly. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report (Authorization to pay the bills) – Peter Hiryak

Manager Hiryak stated that the bills to be paid for August 2020 total \$196,684.68. No questions were given on the bills. Manager Hiryak announced that the 2021 Budget Schedule would be distributed next month.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Wynne for authorization to pay the August 2020 Unpaid Bills in the amount of \$196,684.68. Keiser-Aye, Wynne-Aye, Stouch-Aye. Motion passed.

Manager’s Report - Pete Hiryak

1. The Manager reviewed the upcoming meetings as follows: Tuesday, September 29th, 2020 ZHB Meeting @ 6pm. Monday, October 5th, 2020 BOS Agenda Meeting @ 6:30pm, BOS Meeting @ 7pm. Thursday, October 8th, 2020 P/A Meeting @ 7pm – No Workshop.
2. 2020 Census Continuing – Montgomery County residents can respond by mail, phone, or on-line. Deadline 9/30/2020.
3. PARRC Agreement & Ordinance – Finalizing for the 2nd meeting in October, Legal review pending.
4. Authorization to Advertise – Authorization is needed for the sale of the 2008 Ford Explorer that was replaced by the 2013 Ford SUV. Advertisement for bid will be through Municibid.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Wynne to authorize the advertisement to bid, through Municibid, for the sale of the 2008 Ford Explorer. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Wynne to accept the Manager’s Report as presented. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Old Business/New Business

Mr. Stouch proposed a Tax Resolution to support the Gilbertsville Fire Company and the Gilbertsville Area Community Ambulance. A Fire & EMS Tax Resolution will be for review at the October 5th, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting. No other new business/old business was given.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Keiser to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

The next Board of Supervisor's Meeting will be held on Monday, October 5th, 2020 @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marcy Meitzler