

The meeting of the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:01P.M. Attending were Chairman Josh Stouch, Vice Chairman Tom Wynne, Supervisor Alan Keiser, Solicitor Robert Brant, Khal Hassan of Pennoni & Associates, Pete Hiryak, Andrew Duncan, Mike Heydt, Chief Templin, and approximately 17 residents/developers.

Mr. Stouch led in the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that two Executive Sessions were held tonight prior to the meeting, one from approximately 6:00pm to 6:30pm involving real estate matters and one from approximately 6:45pm to 7pm involving personnel matters. No decisions or votes were taken. The meeting room was set up for social distancing, proper PPE was used by the public. A reporter was present at the meeting.

Mr. Stouch asked if there were any additions, corrections, or comments to the minutes of May 3rd, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting, none were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Keiser, seconded by Mr. Wynne to approve the minutes of the May 3rd, 2021 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 May 17th, 2021 Board of Supervisors Agenda, none were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynne, seconded by Mr. Stouch to approve the May 17th, 2021 Board of Supervisors Agenda as presented. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Public Hearing – Douglas Rauch, Esq., GF&R (TAFRA) Tax Exempt Loan & Resolution

Mr. Brant opened the public hearing at approximately 7:03pm. Mr. Rauch is representing the Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue Company for a non-profit (TAFRA) tax exempt loan. Mr. Rauch asked for the consideration of the resolution approving the financing of a project by the Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue Company consisting of the demolition of the existing fire station, the construction of a new fire station on the same property, and the payment of the costs of undertaking the project and undertaking the loan; requiring the company to continue to provide firefighting services to the Township. Fire Chief Andrew Duncan stated that for 2-1/2 to 3 years the Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue Company has been involved in the process of developing and building a combined emergency services building (firehouse & police department) and we are looking to borrow 3.2 million as part of a tax-free loan through TAFRA. There were no question or comments given. The hearing was closed at 7:08pm. Mr. Brant stated that the hearing was properly advertised and the Board may act on this resolution at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Keiser to adopt Resolution 05172021-01 approving the TAFRA Tax-Free Loan for the Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue Company for 3.2 million dollars consisting of the demolition of the existing fire station, the construction of a new fire station on the same property, and the payment of the cost of undertaking the project and undertaking the loan. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator

Manager Hiryak introduced the new Regional Recreation Coordinator Patricia McCloskey. Ms. McCloskey stated that she is making the rounds to each Municipality to introduce herself, she also announced that there is a grant available in August and a PennDot Trails Grant in July.

GF&R and GACAS Reports – Written reports were submitted to the Board of Supervisors and available in the lobby.

Police Department Report – Chief Templin

April 2021 Statistics: 345 calls for service, 2 vacation notices, 6 reportable accidents, 5 non-reportable accidents, 10 investigations, 4 criminal arrests, 4 paper citations, 55 e-citations, 2 non-traffic citations, and 3 parking tickets. Chief Templin stated on April 24th, 2021 our police department participated in the National Take Back Initiative. The community was able to bring their unwanted, expired, and unused medications to our municipal building for proper destruction and disposal. We collected 63.2 pounds of medications for proper disposal and close to 1500 pounds this year. Chief Templin thanked Rita Saville of Saville’s Diner for her donation to the police department. Rita’s support is very much appreciated. The Police Department would like to thank PA Representative Tracy Pennycuick of the 147th Legislative District for dropping off lunch in celebration of National Police Week. On May 16th, 2021 the Police Department, Montgomery County Farm Bureau, family, friends, and neighbors participated in a tractor parade in honor of township resident Charlie Rhoads. The review of the SR-0073 bridge is complete and PennDot will be installing fencing on both sides of the bridge. Details regarding the fencing, cost, and timing are currently being worked out at this time. Sgt. Evans will be in charge of the day to day operations of the police department while I am away from May 22nd – May 30th, 2021.

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

Solicitor Report – Robert Brant, Esq.

400 Gilbertsville Road – Final Resolution (BOS Approval Required) – Mr. Brant stated that a revised Preliminary/Final Approval has been prepared. The Traffic Impact Fees amount to \$33,124.20, and the developer will pay to install a fire hydrant at Thrush Drive in the amount of \$19,504.00, and a fee in lieu of sidewalks in the amount of \$25,000 recommended for approval by Mr. Brant.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Wynne to adopt the Final Resolution for 400 Gilbertsville Road Development. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Hallowell Phase I – 15 Lots (Pending) – Mr. Brant stated that they are working through the documents.

303/305 Gilbertsville Road – 15 Lots (Pending) – Mr. Brant would need authorization to prepare Final Resolution. The Manager stated that the required mowing was completed however the demolition of the building has not been completed and it is a safety issue, Ms. Rice stated that asbestos was found in the house so it is taking a little longer for the removal process however the developer will be pulling a demo permit shortly. Mr. Hassan stated that the options for approval are either give an escrow for demolition, or make it a condition of the developer agreement. Ms. Rice stated that the demolition crew will be applying for a demolition permit.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded Mr. Keiser to authorize Mr. Brant to prepare the Final Resolution paperwork for the 303/305 Gilbertsville Road Development on the condition that the building on the premises be demolished prior to Final Resolution approval. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

The manager stated that Ms. Carpenter requested a copy of the soils report, Ms. Rice will check on that issue. Mr. Hassan stated that DEP prepared the report and he would like a copy of the report.

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

Public Works Department – Michael Heydt

Mr. Heydt stated that they will be working on Henry Road and Himmelwright Road (paving and tar & chip) on June 1st, 2021. Bow Lane is scheduled for base repairs and drainage repairs in July and an overlay in August from Gilbertsville Road to the New Hanover Township line. Roadside mowing is ongoing. Mr. Link thanked Mr. Heydt for the pothole repairs on Brookside Drive. No other comments were given.

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

Manager Hiryak stated that the bills to be paid as of May 17th, 2021 is \$328,718.26 with a late addition to Susquehanna Trust making it a total of \$340,851.51, the Manager announced that this included the 2nd check to the Gilbertsville Fire Company in the amount of \$181,276.93 from the Fire Tax collections. Copies of the full report are available in the lobby.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynne, seconded by Mr. Stouch for authorization to pay the Unpaid Bills as of May 17th, 2021 in the amount of \$340,851.51. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Manager's Report - Pete Hiryak

1. The Manager reviewed the upcoming meetings as follows: Thursday June 10th, 2021 P/A Meeting @ 7pm, No Workshop Scheduled. Monday June 21st, 2021 BOS Agenda Meeting @ 6:30pm, BOS Meeting @ 7pm.
2. Stafy II Escrow Release No.2 for \$210,255.51 (BOS Approval Required) – We have received an escrow release request from Mikelen, LLC, Pennoni Engineering recommends escrow release #2 in the amount of \$210,255.51 with a total of construction escrow balance remaining of \$300,983.28.

A motion was made by Mr. Wynne, seconded by Mr. Stouch to approve Escrow Release #2 for the Stafy II Tract, recommended by Pennoni Engineering, in the amount of \$210,255.51 with a construction escrow balance remaining of \$300,983.28. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

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

Old Business/New Business

- a. Lisa Drewicz – Noise Ordinance – Ms. Drewicz stated that she is having trouble with loud base sounds at all hours in the Twin Ponds area and the police stated there was nothing they could do because we do not have a noise ordinance. She asked for the Boards consideration to adopt a noise ordinance and had copies of noise ordinances from neighboring municipalities for the Board to review. The Board will discuss the possibility of a noise ordinance with the Solicitor.
- b. Township Manager Contract – Mr. Brant stated that this contract has been discussed under personnel matters in executive session and the duration of Mr. Hiryak's contract will be from April 1st, 2021- April 1st, 2023. The salary will remain the same at \$123,000.00 per year with no additional benefits. Mr. Wynne commented that Mr. Hiryak is not asking for any raise or additional benefits, or additional time off. Mr. Stouch stated that when we announce that we have had an executive session involving personnel matters we have been discussing the manager's contract and how many of our employees have been here for 20 – 30 years and will soon approach retirement ages like Pete, Barry, and Marcy. We need to discuss a plan going forward, Betty Musser retired at the beginning of this year and that position has been filled.

A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Keiser to approve the Manager's Contract for the during of 4/1/2021 – 4/1/2023 at \$123,000.00 per year. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Mr. Updegrave asked who is responsible for the timing of traffic light signals, Mr. Heydt stated that traffic light studies are done by PennDot. Mr. Updegrave said that at Congo Road & E. Philadelphia Ave he has trouble with the signal not changing for several loops when he is driving bus, Mr. Heydt stated that most of the issues occur when vehicles pull up beyond the signal trip line. Mr. Duncan announced that last Thursday the fire company building was put out of service and the fire company has temporarily relocated at 1449 E. Philadelphia Avenue operating out of that business with no delay in services. Mr. Duncan thanked Mr. Brant, Mr. Hassan, Pete, Marcy, and TAFRA for the public hearing process. Mr. Stouch wanted to remind residents that Election Day is tomorrow so please vote. No other public comment was given.

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A motion was made by Mr. Stouch, seconded by Mr. Keiser to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm. Keiser-Aye, Stouch-Aye, Wynne-Aye. Motion passed.

The next Board of Supervisor's Meeting will be held on Monday, June 21st, 2021 @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marcy Meitzler