

**MINUTES**  
**EXETER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

**Public Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors held virtually was called to order on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:05 PM by Greg Galtere, Chairperson.

**Supervisors Present:** Gregory Galtere, Chairperson  
David Speece, Vice Chairperson  
Michelle Kircher  
Joseph Staub

**Absent:** None

**Others in Attendance:** Jeff Bartlett, Township Manager  
Will Brugger, Zoning Officer  
Laurie Getz, Township Secretary  
Matt Hathaway, Teachers in the Parks  
Elizabeth Magovern, Hartman Valeriano Magovern & Lutz, P.C.  
Wendell Morris, Chief of Police  
Larry Piersol, Assistant Public Works Director  
Joseph Rogosky, Great Valley Consultants, Township Engineer  
Jennifer Savage, Finance Director

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Meeting was opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Agenda Items

\*Public comments were submitted in advance of the meeting via email and voicemail. The e-mail comments were dictated by computer software.\*

**Renaë Graff;** Expressed desire for the Township to run the Summer Playground Program.

**Sarah Rugg;** Expressed desire for the Township to run the Summer Playground Program

**David Hughes;** Discussed annual audit report. Asked for comments from the supervisors on the timing of the report. Doesn't like the golf report.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mr. Galtere** announced an executive session held on March 29, 2021 to discuss potential litigation, and another executive session held immediately before this meeting to discuss potential litigation, potential lessee of township property, and personnel.

### **REGULAR APPROVALS**

#### **Regular Minutes – March 22, 2021**

**MOTION** of Mr. Speece seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the March 22, 2021 Board of Supervisors Minutes.

#### **Disbursements – April 12, 2021**

**Ms. Savage** explained several items included in the disbursements. Cody computer charges are related to police software annual maintenance. Dell invoice is for new servers for the Administration and Police Departments, came in under budget. Maillie invoice for progress billing for reports prepared for the township by Maillie. Pioneer Crossing charges are for disposal of waste from cleanup of a property on Buddies Ct.

**MOTION** of Mr. Speece seconded by Mr. Staub, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the April 12, 2021 disbursements.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Monthly Golf Report**

**Mr. Galtere** stated that the report is available for review on the township's website.

**Mr. Speece** stated that the metrics that are reported on the golf report are useful for comparison purposes, they are not necessarily all financial measures. Finds the report to be helpful. Explained membership revenue and how it is accounted for.

#### **Monthly Right to Know Report**

**Mr. Galtere** stated that the report is available for review on the township's website. 14 of 15 requests were completed within 5-days.

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion on 2021 Playground Program and Facility Rentals**

**Ms. Getz** explained that the program is being evaluated and options explored for how a program can be safely run with the existing COVID-19 restrictions. Stated that Berks County is still considered to have a high level of community transmission.

Ms. Getz introduced Matt Hathaway from Teachers in the Parks (TIPS) to make a presentation on a proposed partnership between his program, the Exeter School District, and TIPS for the 2021 season.

**Mr. Hathaway** explained that TIPS has been operating in the parks in Exeter since 2004 when it started in Lorane Hollow Park. They currently work in 11 of the 15 school districts in the county. Goal is to incorporate teachers into summer programming to help kids. Last year, they were unable to run programs as normal due to COVID. Explained that the school district has put together a list of 450 children who have been identified as highly impacted by COVID. Teachers will staff at a 1:10 ration, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. A responsible plan is in place to pull this off. Approached the Parks & Recreation Department this year seeking a partnership so that we can offer recreation along with the learning.

**Ms. Getz** clarified that we are intending to combine our two programs this year in a smaller, COVID-friendly manner. The Parks & Recreation Department is being asked to provide recreation staff only, the school district and TIPS are providing everything else. Clarified that the only drawback is that registration unfortunately cannot be public but rather will be limited to the kids identified by the school district and handled by the district.

**Mr. Hathaway** explained that kids will be put into small groups upon arrival that they will stay in, and during park hours they will cycle through learning, recreation, and mindfulness activities. At the conclusion of the park component of the program the students will be bussed back to the school district for lunch and extended care.

**Mr. Galtere** commented that he has been a huge fan of TIPS, thinks the program is phenomenal. Learning gaps from the summer is always a concern, but especially given COVID this year. Very happy with the collaboration between the school district and the Parks & Recreation Department, thinks it is beneficial to the community. **Mr. Staub** agreed that the TIPS program is tremendous. Is happy to support any way that we can work together and provide something safe to benefit the kids. **Mr. Speece** agreed. **Ms. Kircher** agreed, thinks it is a great program and believes that any way we can bring the school and the township together is a good option.

**Ms. Getz** thanked the Board for their support, explained that this seemed like a great time and opportunity to work together and provide a COVID-friendly option for kids. Long term goal is to continue this partnership while bringing back regular summer programming for those who want that option as well. Clarified that the kids for this program have been pre-identified by the district, so registration is going to be running differently this year as it will not be a public registration, wanted to clarify for the board.

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**Mr. Hathaway** further clarified that this program is being partially supported by federal money that is being spent to support the kids that were identified for this program. **Mr. Galtere** asked for clarification that the kids have been identified as those who need it the most. Mr. Hathaway explained that there were several different tools used to identify the list, such as academic need, free and reduced lunch status, and other measures. Not being able to help everyone this year, they did the best to identify those who could benefit the most.

**Mr. Staub** stated that he supports this program, and would also be in support of a regular program if we determine we're able to offer one. **Ms. Kircher** asked if it would be possible to run another program after this program in the afternoon. **Ms. Getz** stated that it is an option that can be explored.

*Matt Hathaway left the meeting at this time.*

### **Consider Approval of Parking and Access Easement Agreement for 3933 Perkiomen Avenue**

**Mr. Brugger** explained that as part of the Perkiomen Streetscape project the township plans to relocate the existing driveway entrance to the shopping center where the old Radio Shack building was and install a small parking lot on Mr. Borja's property and partial township land. This is being done in consideration of Mr. Borja granting a temporary construction and maintenance easement in the front of his property as well as a permanent easement for the sidewalk to allow the township to do its work.

**MOTION** of Mr. Galtere seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED Parking and Access Easement Agreement for 3933 Perkiomen Avenue.

### **Consider Approving 90-day Time Extension for Sunset Manor Land Development Preliminary Plan**

**Mr. Brugger** explained that a land development submission had been received for a commercial truck repair business. Planning Commission and Engineer have reviewed and prepared comments, the plans are being revised and the applicant is now requesting a 90-day extension to complete their revisions.

**Mr. Rogosky** explained that there were certain zoning issues that needed to be addressed, the developer and their consultant need to determine whether or not they'll be appearing before the Zoning Hearing Board. This extension will allow them time to make any necessary design revisions. Engineer is in favor of the time extension.

**MOTION** of Mr. Speece seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 90-day Time Extension for Sunset Manor Land Development Preliminary Plan.

### **Approve Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Sign Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Agreements on Behalf of the Township**

**Mr. Brugger** explained that this is a formality that will allow the Township Manager to sign these agreements rather than these standard agreements having to come before the board. **Mr. Rogosky** explained that they are routine agreements, and this would allow a more standardized administrative process.

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***MOTION*** of Ms. Kircher seconded by Mr. Speece, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Sign Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Agreements on Behalf of the Township.

**Consider Zoning Variance Request for 400 W 37th Street**

**Mr. Brugger** explained that the applicant is asking for the single-family dwelling to be converted to a two-family dwelling with a retail business on the bottom floor in a residential zone.

Board declined to take a position.

**Consider Zoning Variance Request for 13 Ironstone Drive**

**Mr. Brugger** explained that the property owner is seeking to construct a carport within the required yard setback. Neighbors have expressed support, no issues identified.

Board declined to take a position.

**Consider Awarding 2021 Double Bituminous Seal Coat Contract to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$88,922.86**

**Mr. Piersol** explained that this was a budgeted item for road maintenance projects, the bid came in under budget. Asphalt Maintenance Solutions is the low bidder.

***MOTION*** of Mr. Speece seconded by Mr. Staub, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED Awarding 2021 Double Bituminous Seal Coat Contract to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$88,922.86.

**Approve Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Sign the DCNR Grant Application**

**Ms. Getz** explained that this is a formality to update our paperwork with DCNR for the grant that has been awarded to us. When the grant application was received the township had an interim manager who had signed the application.

***MOTION*** of Mr. Staub seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Sign the DCNR Grant Application.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Larry Piersol, Assistant Public Works Director:** Working on the Library StoryWalk project, replaced fence at Lorane Hollow Park.

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**Joe Rogosky, Township Engineer, Great Valley Consultants:** Working on Hilldale and Butter Lane, making progress. Mt PennWater Authority has been replacing their water main on Harvey Avenue which will involve a road closure that will be announced when the date is finalized.

**Chief Morris; Police Department:** Physical agility testing completed over the weekend, about 70 candidates came out and 33 are moving on to the next phase of the recruiting process. Moving along well through accreditation process.

**Elizabeth Magovern, Solicitor;** Nothing to report.

**Jeff Bartlett, Township Manager:** Announced that the Board will be conducting public interviews for the appointment to the vacancy created by the resignation of John Cusatis. The candidates will be contacted to schedule for Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and/or Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> depending on candidate availability. Applicants will be contacted to schedule, the meetings will be publicly advertised and announced.

Discussed several matters he has been made aware of that have been discussed incorrectly on social media platforms. Stated that the information included on these websites, that are not official township platforms, contain a lot of inaccurate and false information. Encouraged residents who have questions to look at the township's official platforms like the website or e-newsletter, submit a right to know request, or contact the township directly. Topics being discussed incorrectly online include the township's finances, the Promenade Shopping Center, possibility of a community center. Urged residents to get their information from the township directly, social media contains a lot of misinformation so make sure to check the source.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT – General Comments**

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*None Submitted*

### **SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

**Ms. Kircher:** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Staub:** Stated that many people have reached out to him this week looking for some information or clarification on various issues. Announced the upcoming Heritage Tournament at the RCC on May 1<sup>st</sup> which will include induction to the newly created RCC Hall of Fame.

**Mr. Speece:** Complimented the electronic newsletter, content and timeliness. Thanked Public Works for their work on the library's StoryWalk. Thanked Jeff for addressing some of the recent falsehoods being reported on social media.

**Mr. Galtere:** Provided an update on the canned food drive happening on April 24<sup>th</sup>, this will be an annual event held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of April each year. Food can be dropped off at the Dunn Center that day from 9am-12pm. Thanked the Township for allowing use of the Dunn Center for the food drive,

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at different times due to COVID there have been 44 people involved in the community preparing food to be distributed. Complimented Mr. Brugger for his work on many difficult issues recently.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** of Mr. Speece, seconded by Mr. Staub, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Getz  
Township Secretary

DRAFT