

**MINUTES**  
**EXETER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021**

**Public Meeting**

A Regular Meeting of the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors held virtually was called to order on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM by Greg Galtere, Chairperson.

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

**Absent:** None

**Others in Attendance:** Jeff Bartlett, Township Manager  
Laurie Getz, Township Secretary  
Chris Hartman, Hartman Valeriano Magovern & Lutz, P.C.  
Wendell Morris, Chief of Police  
Clarence Hamm, Public Works Director  
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.\*

**David Hughes;** Commented on the Perkiomen Avenue Streetscape Easement Resolution. Thinks that the information being provided to the property owners should be provided to the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Exeter StoryWalk Trail Opening**

**Ms. Getz** announced that the Exeter Community Library StoryWalk trail will be open this weekend on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 10-2.

## ***MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS***

### **REGULAR APPROVALS**

#### **Regular Minutes**

**Mr. Bartlett** explained that a correction needs to be made to the approval of the April 26 minutes because Mr. Piho voted but was not in attendance.

**MOTION** of Mr. Galtere seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board APPROVED the April 26, 2021 Board of Supervisors Minutes.

**Mr. Piho** abstained

**MOTION** of Mr. Speece seconded by Mr. Staub, the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the May 10, 2021 Board of Supervisors Minutes.

#### **Disbursements – May 24, 2021**

**Ms. Savage** reviewed several items. Derivan Electric was for electric work at the RCC. ETFD quarterly payment of fire services tax. Maillie charges were for progress billing for audit work, preparation of DCED CLGS 30 and 2020 full financial statements. Ram Siding charges were for repairs due to wind damage of EMS building.

**MOTION** of Mr. Staub seconded by Mr. Piho the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED payment of the bills presented on the Disbursement List dated May 24, 2021 in the amounts of \$157,919.25 in the General Fund; \$15,872.30 in the Utility Fund; \$86,139.47 in the Fire Fund; \$973.69 in the Capital Police Fund; \$1,782.00 in the Developer's Escrow Fund; \$2,649.78 in the Sewer Fund; \$23,433.03 in the Golf Fund; \$1,884.55 in the RCC F&B Fund; \$59,893.14 in the Capital Improvement Fund; \$.56 Debt Service Fund; -\$306.80 in the WWT Sale Proceeds; \$11,760.45 in the Park Fund; \$17,980.57 in the State Liquid Fuels Fund.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

**MOTION** of Mr. Staub seconded by Mr. Speece the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the April, 2021 Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion on Township Building Operations and Resuming In-Person Public Meetings for Township Boards and Commissions**

**Ms. Getz** reviewed current COVID-19 mitigation orders with recent changes announced by the Governor. As of Memorial Day, mitigation orders are lifted except for the mask mandate. Administration is recommending that public meetings can resume in-person operations in the Township Meeting Room with mitigation efforts established by the CDC in effect. Recommending reopening the Township Building to walk-in traffic. Continuing to monitor Berks County vaccination rates and COVID-19 rates, Berks has a relatively low vaccination rate as compared to the rest of the state.

## ***MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS***

**Mr. Bartlett** stated that we can live-stream the meeting from the Township Meeting Room with minor modification by IT staff. If we were to relocate the meeting, we would need to start over with tech equipment to the tune of \$28,000. Location can be evaluated should large attendance be anticipated due to items on the agenda for specific meetings. Regular meetings are recommended to be held in the meeting room. Also clarified that the building is open, the front door has just been locked so business is done by appointment or drop box. Upon public reopening, masks will be required.

**Ms. Kircher** asked how many seats will be in the board room. **Mr. Bartlett** stated that the room will be equipped in accordance with fire code and COVID guidelines, there will be 20 available seats in the meeting room to allow for physical distancing.

**Ms. Getz** added that the meeting will be live-streamed to accommodate those who can't make it in person, or aren't comfortable coming in person.

**Mr. Galtere** asked how public comment will be handled. **Mr. Bartlett** stated that public comment will be handled in-person at the meeting. Added that residents can contact the Township at any time with a question or complaint, it does not only have to happen at a public meeting. **Mr. Galtere** stated that he is unable to attend the 6/14 meeting in person. **Mr. Bartlett** stated that we can accommodate by phone, so long as he can hear and be heard it is fine.

**Mr. Speece** asked if there will still be an option to submit comments in advance. Also asked what happens if more people show up than there are seats available. **Ms. Getz** replied that if the Board wants comments to continue to be accommodated the way we have been we can, but it is the recommendation of the staff to have public comments in person only. Stated that additional people can be accommodated in the hallway where there are speakers.

**Mr. Staub** agreed that if the building can be reopened safely for meetings he is in favor. Asked what the date for reopening the building to the public will be. **Mr. Bartlett** replied that the building will reopen after the Memorial Day holiday.

**Mr. Piho** and **Mr. Galtere** stated that they are unable to attend the meeting in-person. Both will call in for the meeting.

Discussion on having an in-person quorum.

**MOTION** of Mr. Staub seconded by Mr. Speece the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED advertisement of Board of Supervisors Meetings to be held in person the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm at the Township Building effective June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Staub** asked if a motion is needed to reopen the township building to the public. **Mr. Hartman** replied that it could be helpful. Asked Mr. Bartlett if there is a particular day. **Mr. Bartlett** replied that the building can reopen on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION** of Mr. Staub seconded by Mr. Speece the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED reopening the township building to the public on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## *MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Consider Approval of Improvements, Financial Security, and Maintenance Agreement for MDC 23-2-03 Land Development plan**

**Mr. Brugger** explained that the board previously conditionally approved the final land development plan. Those conditions have been met so the agreement is before the board for final approval.

**MOTION** of Ms. Kircher seconded by Mr. Piho the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED Improvements, Financial Security, and Maintenance Agreement for MDC 23-2-03 Land Development plan.

#### **Consider Resolution Permitting Township Manager to Execute Perkiomen Avenue Streetscape Easement Agreements**

**Mr. Brugger** stated that this is related to the installation of sidewalk for the Perkiomen Avenue Project. Allowing the Township Manager to execute these agreements will expedite the process. Township staff have been notifying the impacted property owners. **Mr. Bartlett** further clarified that this is a grant funded project and the work being done on each property varies. Staff have been in contact with property owners throughout the project.

**Mr. Piho** asked to clarify temporary construction. **Mr. Brugger** stated that it is effectively to allow access for construction equipment during this project.

**MOTION** of Mr. Speece seconded by Mr. Staub the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED Resolution Permitting Township Manager to Execute Perkiomen Avenue Streetscape Easement Agreements.

#### **Discussion on 2021 Summer Playground and Recreation Programs**

**Ms. Getz** provided the board with an overview of plans for the 2021 summer playground program in light of recent updates to COVID restrictions. Continuing to move forward with the partnership with the School Districts Talons/TIPS programs. Has been evaluating the ability to offer a public program, with the lifting of restrictions as on Memorial Day it has become feasible to offer a pared down version of our regular summer program so that kids who did not qualify for Talons/TIPS will have an option. The program will be offered at Farming Ridge only, Pineland Park will not be offered due to planned construction. Limited numbers at 125, and starting one week later than normal. 7-week program rather than the normal 8-weeks to allow additional administrative time to complete recruiting and staffing. Program restricted to township residents for now due to limited numbers.

**Mr. Piho** asked if the parks will be ready to go in time. **Ms. Getz** confirmed. **Ms. Kircher** asked if Pineland Park will be used. **Ms. Getz** replied that the program will be offered at Farming Ridge only.

**MOTION** of Ms. Kircher seconded by Mr. Galtere the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the Summer Playground Program to run at Farming Ridge Park to 125 kids for 7-weeks.

## ***MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS***

### **Authorize Administration to Seek Bids for Dumpster Services on Municipally Owned Properties**

**Mr. Bartlett** explained that this is for dumpsters at township facilities. The township has not been satisfied with the service and has been researching other options. **Ms. Savage** explained that this change would not only improve service but would save money.

**Mr. Piho** asked if we will look at locally owned services. **Mr. Bartlett** replied that it will be a public bid and anyone can respond.

**MOTION** of Mr. Staub seconded by Mr. Piho the Board UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED authorizing the administration to seek bids for dumpster services on municipally owned properties.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Clarence Hamm, Public Works Director:** Reported that they have been working on highway mowing, road repairs, milling and paving, completed work at StoryWalk.

**Joe Rogosky, Township Engineer, Great Valley Consultants:** Pre-construction meeting was held for the proposed district justice building, plan on starting sometime in June and expect a 6-month construction period. Pre-construction meeting scheduled for tomorrow on Harvey Avenue with the Mt Penn Water Authority. Detour will be implemented when that work starts, will pass info on to township staff for publishing.

**Chief Morris; Police Department:** Recently investigated 19 thefts from vehicles in the Reiffton area. Asking residents to review their surveillance footage if they have any, please contact the Police Department if they find anything. Reminded residents to lock their vehicles and don't leave valuables inside. Department will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade this weekend.

**Chris Hartman, Solicitor:** Nothing to report.

**Jeff Bartlett, Township Manager:** Reported that the special exception application for the University Rifle Club has been withdrawn. Discussed format for in person public meetings. Reminded residents that there are rules for the meetings to help govern. Reviewed the rules and proper meeting decorum.

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

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

**Tom Howell;** Stated that he couldn't find the Daniel Boone Meeting information on the website. Discussed location for township meetings, and the restaurant at the Reading Country Club remaining closed. Mentioned upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

**Ms. Getz** demonstrated where the information is located on the website.

**Ed Gallagher;** Commented on legal bills, asked how to obtain a breakdown. Specifically asked about an invoice for a hearing to remove David Hughes from the primary ballot.

## ***MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS***

**David Hughes;** Discussed the sewer receivables. Thinks it's unlikely that the total amount will be collected this year. Why is the balance so large. Thinks reports should be made on the status. Would like the board to comment on a video he made about the township's audit.

### **SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

**Mr. Galtere:** Discussed misinformation circulating on social media pertaining to the matter of legal fees for the hearing to remove David Hughes from the primary ballot. Explained that Dave Speece received the only invoice related to this matter and he paid the invoice privately. Discussed the platform that this misinformation is being consistently posted to. Thinks it's unfortunate that misinformation is such a large part of social media. Discussed the DCED financial audit report that has also been discussed online. The report was filed on time and approved. Discussed posts indicating that the DA is pursuing criminal charges against the supervisors. No criminal charges have been filed against the supervisors and this complaint is close to 2-years old. None of the supervisors have been found in violation of the Ethics Act. Encouraged residents to contact the township if they have questions or concerns to get the correct information. Commented on constant statements of incompetence of township staff. The staff are all hard-working and very capable in their positions.

**Ms. Kircher:** Asked Mr. Bartlett to provide her with a sheet made for bid tracking. Wants to know who is picking up bids. **Mr. Bartlett** stated that we do track that information, it can be provided. **Ms. Kircher** said that she would like to see more communication because she doesn't always feel like she has information.

**Mr. Pihon:** Looking forward to attending new supervisor trainings.

**Mr. Staub:** Asked Chief Morris about noise issues being received about the Roselawn Bistro. **Mr. Morris** replied that the business monitors their noise, the Police Department does respond to complaints to make sure they are in compliance with the Township's ordinance. To date they have been found to be in compliance. Continuing to monitor and work with them. **Mr. Staub** suggested considering discussing the Reading Country Club restaurant at the next meeting. Discussed social media, encouraged people to be careful commenting on social media without facts. Discussed Reading Country Club partnership, resigned when he became a board member. Explained however that it is a charitable organization that does good in our community.

**Mr. Speece:** Further clarified that he initiated the ballot challenge process. When it came before the board, it was to be transparent. He received the only invoice, and he paid it. Commented on the staff, appreciates their dedication to this township. Offered condolences to the Hafer Family, Bonnie and Terry were sadly killed in a fatal accident over the weekend.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** of Ms. Kircher, seconded by Mr. Staub the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS*

Laurie Getz  
Township Secretary

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