



## **Board of Supervisor Meeting - November 25, 2019**

### **Agenda Information**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **Festival of Lights and Santa Tour**

The Festival of Lights will be held at the Reading Country Club on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Santa Tour will be the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Thursday 5 to 9 p.m.

##### **Toys for Tots**

The Township is an official collection site for 2019. Collection of new, unwrapped toys will be collected through December 9th.

##### **Community Food Drive**

Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted at the Township Building December 2<sup>nd</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Exeter Area Food Pantry.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Discussion on Responses to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Reading Country Club**

The Township received Statements of Interest from:

- Realen Properties
- Resurgent Golf Advisors
- The Goldenberg Group
- High Real Estate Group LLC

The Solicitor is reviewing the documents to determine what information is confidential and should not be released. When the review is complete the documents submitted by all respondents will be posted on the Township’s website.

The Analysis of the proposals prepared by Larry Hirsh and High Associates is on the Township website.

Larry Hirsh, Golf Property Analysts and Ruth Devenney, High Associates, will be present at the meeting to discuss the responses and answer the Board’s questions.

The Administration recommends that the Board take the matter under advisement with future discussion to occur in early 2020.

**Approve Recycling Collection and Transportation Contract**

The Administration received three (3) proposals for this contract:

Contractor	Annual Per Unit Costs		
	2020	2021	2022
A.J. Blosenski	\$66.36	\$68.35	\$70.40
J.P. Mascaro	\$79.08	\$80.64	\$82.68
Eagle Disposal	NO BID		

The Administration has reviewed the proposals and recommends that the Board award the contract to A.J. Blosenski, subject to the Solicitor’s review.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Authorization to hire four (4) Police Officers**

The Police Department has completed the testing process necessary to make a recommendation to the Board for the hiring of additional police officers. The Chief of Police is requesting that the Board authorize the hiring of four (4) officers at this time. The 2020 Budget includes hiring of four (4) officers, three (3) with effective hiring date of January 2<sup>nd</sup> and one (1) with effective hiring date of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Chief is requesting that the Board hire three (3) officers effective January 2<sup>nd</sup> and one (1) officer effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Two of the three officers recommended to be hired on January 2<sup>nd</sup> are already Act 120 certified. The third officer is not Act 120 certified and would be eligible to attend the

academy in Reading beginning in January. It will take this officer six (6) months to complete the academy training and become Act 120 certified.

The Chief has indicated that the Township would be eligible for a refund of 75% of the academy cost of \$6,000 and 45% of the salary of the officer while attending the academy which is approximately \$26,450.

The officer recommended to be hired on July 1<sup>st</sup> is currently employed in another community as a police officer and has indicated that he would accept the appointment as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Resolution Forgiving 2018 and 2019 Township Taxes for the Reading Country Club**

A resolution that will forgive the Township Real Estate Taxes for the Reading Country Club is posted on the Township's website. The Administration recommends that the Board adopt the resolution.

### **Authorize Advertisement of Ordinance Establishing OPEB Trust**

A draft of the Ordinance establishing the OPEB Trust will be available on the Township's website when the Ordinance is completed by the Solicitor. The Administration is recommending that the Board authorize the advertisement of the Ordinance which would be considered for adoption at December 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

### **Approve Agreement with Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to print 2020 Real Estate Tax Bills**

Berks County Intermediate Unit processes real estate tax bills that include the Homestead Exemption. The County cannot process the Homestead Exemption.

The cost for this contract is \$11,026.52 which is \$8,539.59 more than the Township paid to have the County process the bills in 2019.

### **Approve Migration of Code Red System to Swift Reach which is the Berks County Emergency Notification System**

The Township Emergency Management team has been working with Berks County's Department of Emergency Services to secure permission to utilize the County's existing Emergency Notification system, Swift Reach. This migration from CodeRED to Swift Reach will result in a savings of \$9,000 to the Township, as well as improved notification abilities for the Township. The change is planned to become effective on 1/1/20.

In addition to the improved functions available for the Township, residents will have greater abilities to customize their notification preferences. Such options include:

- Residents can add to their account additional addresses other than their home address; work address, parent and/or children's home addresses can be added in

order to receive emergency notifications for other locations that they may be interested in outside the Township.

- Users can choose to opt in (or out) of Swift Reach groups like:
  - Severe weather warnings/advisories;
  - 422/222 closure notifications;
  - Planned road closures;
  - Holiday events;

What process will this require of residents?

- The Administration will be providing instructions how to register for Swift Reach on the Township website and Social Media pages. Those residents with limited computer resources or that have difficulty registering for Swift should contact the Township so staff can assist with registration.

While the Administration will be attempting to migrate existing data from CodeRED, the Administration cannot rely on the migration happening. Additionally, the data that exists in CodeRED is sub-par, and a large part of the reason that the Administration began researching alternative services. The Administration will be encouraging residents to register for Swift Reach, rather than assuming that the Township will retain their CodeRED registration information to ensure that we have the most accurate information possible.

### **Zoning Hearing Board Applications**

#### **811 Shelbourne Road**

The applicant is proposing a restaurant use at the old Exeter Golf Course clubhouse, zoned SR3. The applicant is requesting a variance from Uses Permitted by Right. The Township Planning Commission recommended granting the request.

#### **5160 Perkiomen Avenue**

The applicant is a landscape contractor business that is appealing a zoning violation notice. A landscape contractor is not a use permitted by right in the Township Commons District. Applicant claims Terry Naugle, acting as the Zoning Officer during 2017 stated that the use would be permitted. Mr. Naugle claims there was never a conversation about a landscaping business locating there. The only zoning permit on file is for a Law office. The Township Planning Commission did not take a position on the appeal, but they did recommend granting the variance for the use.

### **Authorization to Sell 1997 Spartan Rescue Pumper to Clearfork Volunteer Fire Department, Bastian, VA for \$52,000**

The Fire Department is requesting that the Board authorize the sale. This is part of the Equipment Modification Program. The proceeds will be retained by the Fire Department.

**Consider Approving Agreement with Traffic Planning and Design to Provide Professional Services in the Amount not to Exceed \$9,500 in Connection with the Noise/ATV Ordinances**

As requested by the Board, the Administration contacted Traffic Planning and Design (TPD) and discussed the noise issues. TPD submitted a proposal which has been uploaded to the Township website.

**Proposed Ordinance to Rescind the Per Capita Tax Ordinance**

The Administration recommends that the Board authorize the Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance for the Board's consideration at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to rescind the Per Capita Tax Ordinance.