

**PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES: AUGUST 4, 2020**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: William Patterson, Chairman
Vivian Schoeller, Vice-Chairman
Dean Becker, Member
Albert Campion, Member
Adam Doyle, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Cecile Daniel, Township Manager
Kenneth Picardi, Township Solicitor
Nicholas Szeredai, Township Engineer
John Moran Jr., Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

**THE AUGUST 4, 2020 MEETING OF THE PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WAS HELD VIA ZOOM. PRIOR NOTICE WAS
POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AND ADVERTISED IN THE LOCAL
NEWSPAPER.**

Chairman William Patterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA: Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Dean Becker to approve the consent agenda items as follows: a) Minutes: July 7, 2020 and b) Reports from: PA State Police, Ambulance, the Fire Company and Fire Marshall; c) Financial Matters: Authorize Payment of Bills for July in the amount of \$88,299.36 and the Treasurer's Report to be placed on file for audit. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: There were no items under Old/New Business.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Picardi submitted his written report to the Board of Supervisors. In addition to his report, Solicitor Picardi informed the Board as to the following:

- Zoning Hearing Board Application: Solicitor Picardi informed the Board that John Campion filed an appeal to the Township's Zoning Hearing Board on property that he owns at 395 E.7th Avenue and Betcher Road. The property is located in both Perkiomen Township and Trappe Borough. The ZHB Application was filed for the lot located in Perkiomen Township because Mr. Campion needs two variances. One variance is for a lot width requirement of 150 feet and the second variance is to allow a new driveway on an existing common driveway access which already has three driveway connections. Ms. Daniel explained that in 1983, this property was subdivided and consisted of four lots. The Applicant at the time sold off three of the lots and connected the homes into a common access driveway. The fourth lot was not sold but was connected to 395 E 7th Avenue; therefore, the fourth driveway was not

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connected into the common access driveway. At the time of the original subdivision, there was no restriction as to the number of driveways connecting into a common access driveway. Nick Szeredai indicated that this plan had been before the Planning Commission in 2019 and they previously had no objection to the subdivision because the proposed lot line would follow the Perkiomen Township and Trappe Borough boundary line, eliminating the existing condition of the lot being split between two municipalities. The new lot created would be solely in Perkiomen Township. John Moran opined that this driveway would not cause a safety issue. The Board discussed Mr. Campion's application and informed Solicitor Picardi that it would not take a position on this application and let the ZHB do its job.

- Zoning Hearing Board Application: At the July meeting, Solicitor Picardi informed the Board that Loretta Fitzgerald filed an appeal to the Township's Zoning Hearing Board on John Moran's determination that Ken Boakye, of 937 Hamilton Road, is not violating the Township's Zoning Ordinance. The matter is scheduled for a public hearing on August 26, 2020. Solicitor Picardi advised the Board that it should authorize him and John Moran Jr. to attend this hearing. Dean Becker made a motion, seconded by Adam Doyle, authorizing Kenneth Picardi and John Moran Jr. to defend the Township's Zoning Ordinance. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

ROAD MASTER'S REPORT: Shawn Motsavage submitted to the Board his Road Master's Report dated August 3, 2020, for activities occurring during the month of July.

In addition to his report, Mr. Motsavage requested authorization to advertise the Snow & Ice Removal Bids for 2020/2021. Vivian Schoeller made a motion, seconded by Albert Campion, authorizing said advertisement. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: John Moran, Jr. submitted to the Board his Code Enforcement report dated August 1, 2020, for activities that occurred during the month of July. Mr. Moran reviewed the Certificate of Occupancy Report due to the high number of U&Os issued during the month of July.

Next, Mr. Moran informed the Board that he received two new applications to the Zoning Hearing Board: one for 604 Buyers Road, and one for 160 Godshall Road.

Next, Mr. Moran informed the Board that he received a request from Jim Rogers on behalf of the Central Perkiomen Rotary Club and the Central Perkiomen Youth Association. He requested a waiver of the fee charged by the Township for the permit to hold a Fireworks display at the Rotary Field Complex in Limerick Township. Mr. Moran explained that the launching of the fireworks will be from property located in Limerick Township. Mr. Moran contacted the Fire Marshall of Limerick Township regarding his

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requirement of a safety plan for the display. It was agreed by both that this should be provided. This was communicated to Mr. Rogers, who indicated they were in the process of putting this together. After discussing this request, Dean Becker made a motion, seconded by Albert Campion, to waive the permit fee for the fireworks display on Saturday, August 22nd. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION: Cecile Daniel reported that there was no Planning Commission meeting in July.

PARK AND RECREATION REPORT: Ms. Daniel reviewed Kevin Motsavage's Park & Recreation Report. Ms. Daniel reported that there were some residents at the July meeting interested in the location of the proposed dog park. The biggest concern appeared to be the access to Township Line Road from the Huber Tract. There are sight distance issues surrounding the access to and from Township Line Road to the dog park. There was a discussion about moving the proposed dog park to the Highland Tract. The Park and Recreation Committee has had previous discussions about developing the Highland Property. Due to the topography and natural constraints, the discussion was to consider putting more active recreation in the northern part of the property, as this area is flatter. This would be the area where the dog park, some active recreation, and a small parking lot could be located. The southern area of the property could be left more natural. In this area, the slopes are steeper, and there are wetlands and riparian corridor. There would be a walking trail meandering throughout the property. Access to the property would be from Salem Road. At some later date, the Park & Recreation can investigate connecting the Huber Property to the Highland Property. The first step would be to survey the Highland Property, as this was never done. A survey is needed to determine where the best location would be for some of these facilities. SSM was asked to prepare a cost proposal to complete this survey.

Next, the Park & Recreation discussed removing the old deteriorated exercise equipment along the trail in the Perkiomen Greene Development. Last was a discussion about trees in the open space. The discussion was about taking trees down in the open space that are dead, as well as trimming other trees. Mr. Motsavage looked at two areas: (1) in Perkiomen Greene between Ross Lane and Red Coat Lane and (2) along Mayberry Road. After determining those areas to consider first, Mr. Motsavage contacted the tree removal company listed on the CoStars contract. The name of this company is Coventry Property Services. Dean Becker felt that the Township should develop a consistent plan that is proactive versus reactive. This work should become a part of the Township's normal maintenance program, just like the Road Program. After discussing the concept, Dean Becker made a motion seconded by Adam Doyle to approve the proposal from Coventry Property Services, Inc. in the amount of \$29,040.00 for tree services/clearing in the

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Perkiomen Greene Development between Ross Lane and Red Coat Road and along Mayberry Road. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

LOWER PERKIOMEN VALLEY REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY: Dean Becker updated the Board on the installation of the middle interceptor. The project is about 28% complete. The eagle's nest that was found in the staging area for the contractor continues to add additional time and cost to the construction of the interceptor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Nick Szeredai updated the Board on the following matters:

1. Water Line – Trappe Road: Both the Township and PennDOT have approved the detour plans for the installation of the water line in the upper portion of Trappe Road, off Gravel Pike. It is expected that AQUA will begin this work soon.
2. 2020 Road Project: The stormwater and ADA Ramp improvements in Maple Hill were completed. The steel backed timber guiderail on Bridge Street was installed. Allan Myers has given a tentative date of August 24th to begin its portion of the project.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Blackboard Renewal Notice: Before the Board for consideration is the renewal of a one-year contract for Blackboard Connect to provide call notifications and emergency alerts to the residents in Perkiomen Township. The current contract ends in September 2020. The renewal rate for 2020/2021 is \$6,671.72. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion to approve the one-year contract for Blackboard Connect in the amount of \$6,671.72. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
2. Recycling Data Collection Agreement: Hough Associates has submitted a new 3-year Recycling Agreement (2020, 2021, and 2022). Perkiomen Township has been using Hough Associates since 2010 to obtain the information to complete the required PADEP Recycling Forms and apply for the 904 Performance Grants. The fixed price for this contract has been reduced from \$3,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Dean Becker made a motion seconded by Adam Doyle to approve the Agreement with Hough Associates for the Collect of the Residential and Commercial Recycling Data for 2020, 2021, and 2022 and Prepare the PA DEP 904 Recycling Grant Application for Perkiomen Township for those years for a fixed price of \$2,000.00 per year or a discount of \$1,960.00 per year if paid by January 31st of each year . There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.

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3. Perkiomen Township Fire Company: Ms. Daniel stated that the Fire Company revenue comes from three sources: (1) the Real Estate Tax, (2) the money brought in through fund raising, and (3) grants. The collection of the Real Estate Taxes to date for the Fire Tax is on track. To supplement this money, the fire company turns to raising money and grants. Pursuit of grants is ongoing. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the fire company has had to cancel all its fund-raising activities (except the annual donation drive), as well as close its hall to rentals. At the same time, they have had expenditures that are both expected and unexpected. The fire company is looking to use grant money to offset some of the repairs and projects they are working on, but this money will not cover everything. This has caused financial difficulties for the fire company. Ms. Daniel recommended the Board consider the following donations to the fire company: (1) amending the 2020 Budget by donating \$36,000 toward the unexpected cost to repair the 2009 fire engine. If the Fire Company receives a grant to cover some of this repair cost, the remainder of the \$36,000 could go toward the replacement cost of the roof at the firehouse or any other repairs for its equipment. (2) For the 2021 Budget, donate another \$36,000 to cover the remaining expense to repair the roof of the firehouse that is not covered by a grant. This work is scheduled for repair in 2021. The Board discussed this and did not have an issue with the recommendation of Ms. Daniel. A Resolution will be prepared for the September Meeting for the Board's consideration amending the 2020 Budget for the \$36,000.

4. Road Inspection: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ms. Daniel informed the Board that she, Shawn Motsavage, and Nick Szeredai, will try to video those streets for discussion at the September Meeting. The goal for the September meeting will be to discuss the scope of work and to begin preparing the 2021 Road Project package.

5. Springhill Realty, Inc: Springhill Realty submitted a revised sketch plan for the property located at 841 Gravel Pike. The proposed sketch plan is for the 20.86 ± acres located along Harrison Avenue. This plan is scheduled for review at the August Planning Commission Meeting which will be, August 25, 2020, via Zoom.

6. ARLE Grant: Ms. Daniel informed the Board that she received word from the PA Department of Transportation that because of COVID-19, the Commonwealth office buildings are closed. Due to these closures, the 2019 ARLE Project Contracts are being delayed. There are several Commonwealth agencies that need to review and sign the agreement. The Township has been told that the project to design, upgrade, and install the traffic signal at Gravel Pike, Graterford Road, and Bridge Street cannot begin until we receive the fully executed Agreement with the Commonwealth.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Both Dean Becker and Cecile Daniel indicated there were no comments received from the public.

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SUPERVISORS COMMENTS: Dean Becker – Prior to COVID-19, Limerick Township was putting together a draft proposal for a traffic study on a portion of Township Line Road. After COVID-19, this project has been put on hold. New signage was supposed to be installed based upon discussions with PennDOT on the traffic issues on Township Line Road. This new signage included the offset intersection signs at Greenshire Boulevard and Tanglewood Drive and warning signs at Bridge Street where it intersection with Township Line Road. When, Mr. Becker was informed that PennDOT was going to repave Township Line Road, he contracted PennDOT about providing a center lane to address the left-hand turning situation at Greenshire Boulevard and Tanglewood Drive. Mr. Becker was informed that there is not enough road length to meet PennDOT Regulations to install this center lane. As a result, PennDOT installed the lines in the same place as they were previously.

Vivian Schoeller indicated that Lodal Creek Park was impacted due to the flooding. There was damage to the park: the foot bridge was damaged; there is tree debris in the park; and certain areas around the picnic tables will need repair.

William Patterson complimented the Road Crew for the job they did during the recent storm and associated flooding; the Fire Company for the number of emergency calls they handled; and Kevin Motsavage and John Moran in helping out during the storm.

There being no further business, the August public meeting was adjourned upon motion by Albert Campion and seconded by Vivian Schoeller.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecile M. Daniel

Cecile M. Daniel
Township Manager