



PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

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

ABSENT: Dean Becker, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Cecile Daniel, Township Manager
Kenneth Picardi, Township Solicitor
Mark Stabolepszy, Township Engineer
John Moran Jr., Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Shawn Motsavage, Township Road Master

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion to approve the consent agenda items as follows: a) Minutes: August 3, 2021; b) Monthly Reports: PA State Police Reports for August, Ambulance Reports, Perkiomen Township Fire Company and Fire Marshall Reports; c) Financial Matters: Authorize for Payment of Bills for August in the amount of \$93,572.89, and the Treasurer's Report to be placed on file for audit. Ms. Daniel explained that a Township Resident requested consideration be given to add her father's name to the Memorial Sign located in front of the Memorial Garden. To do this Ms. Daniel indicated a new panel would have to be purchased as all the other panels are full. This new panel would allow for eighteen more names to be added to the sign. Ms. Daniel reviewed the criteria that was originally used when the names were put together. The Board was okay with purchasing an additional panel and keeping the criteria for adding additional names the same as was originally established. If the names meet the criteria, then they may be added. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

- American Recovery Plan: Ms. Daniel explained that the American Recover Plan is a federal program that was established to provide financial support for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, due to COVID-19 impacts. The U.S.

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Treasury Department has established Compliance and Reporting Guidance on how this money is to be spent. This program will run for four years (2021 – 2024). There will be reporting requirements that the Township will be required to complete and submit to the U.S. Treasury Department each October. Jeffrey Weiss of Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC (ZA) was present at this meeting to discuss with the Board the technical assistance ZA can provide as it relates to the U.S. Treasury Department Guidelines on Compliance and Reporting the funds received under the American Recovery Plan. Township will receive half of the money in 2021 and the other half in 2022. The Treasury is still developing the final rules for this program. The first report is due at the end of October 2021. Mr. Weiss explained that the company specializes in government and nonprofit agencies. As part of the contract, ZA will provide training for what expenditures are eligible costs and what are not, look over the expenditures for compliance with the regulations, and training for reporting requirements. They will look to see if there are other funding sources that could be used that cover the same expenses. The first step will be to calculate the lost revenue the Township may have experienced due to Covid. Once this is calculated, this money can be spent over a broader area of items. The money needs to be obligated by 2024, but you have until 2026 to fund those obligations. The money to pay for this company to complete these services can be paid for from the American Recovery Funds. After review of the information, Adam Doyle made a motion seconded by Vivian Schoeller to award the contract to Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC in the amount of \$23,900.00 over the four years with fees including out of pocket expenses with payments being made in installments as set forth under the contract. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

- Ataxia Bike Ride Fundraiser: The Freidreich Research Alliance submitted a request asking for permission to use certain Township roads for its annual Bike Ride Ataxia. The list provided indicates use of School House Road, Kagey Road, and Wartman Road. Solicitor Picardi reviewed the Certificate of Insurance which included language that the event would be covered if it is pursuant to a permit being issued by the Township or is under contract with the Township. In consideration of this request, Solicitor Picard prepared a Special Events Permit/Contract to be used for this event and moving forward any other special events. It was the recommendation of Solicitor Picardi to approve this permit as well as this event. Vivan Schoeller, made a motion seconded by Albert Campion, to approve the Special Events Permit Application and then approved the event request of Freidreich Ataxia to hold a bike ride as a fund raiser on October 9, 2021. This request will allow the use of the following roads as part of this fund-raising event: School House Road, Kagey Road, and Wartman Road. This approval is conditioned upon Freidreich Ataxia submitting the Special Event Application and the issuance of said Event Permit by John Moran. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

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- Emergency Management/Tropical Storm Ida: William Patterson explained that the Board needs to approve the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for Tropical Storm Ida that occurred on September 1, 2021. Adam Doyle made a motion seconded by Albert Campion to approve the Disaster Emergency Declaration for Perkiomen Township. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0. Next, John Moran informed the Board on the damages that took place in the Township caused by Tropical Storm Ida. Most of the substantial damage assessments have been inspected and the estimates completed. In Mr. Moran's opinion the northern part of the Township took the biggest hit. At the present time, Mr. Moran estimates that four to five homes have been totally damaged. This number may increase once the final reports are completed. As part of the inspections, Mr. Moran asked Barry Isett and Associates (Township's third-party inspectors) to assist him in doing the inspections and evaluations. Their assistance saved Mr. Moran a great deal of time in completed these inspections. Mr. Moran requested the Board send a thank you letter to them for their assistance. The Board was okay with Mr. Moran's request and authorized the letter be sent. The other issue Mr. Moran had was the waiving of the demolition fee (\$100) for those structures that will have to be demolished. Mr. Moran explained that owners would still be required to get the permit and the permit would only be issued for those structures that were affect by Tropical Storm Ida. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion waiving the permit fee for any demolition permit needed to demolish a structure due to damage caused by Tropical Storm Ida. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0. Shawn Motsavage updated the Board on the impacts Tropical Storm Ida had on the Township infrastructure. The Board thanked the staff for their efforts during this storm.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Picardi was present at the meeting and submitted his written report to the Board of Supervisors.

- Easement Agreement with Fox Heath HOA: Solicitor Picardi reviewed the Easement Agreement with the Board. For the Township to complete the stream restoration work along the tributary that runs through the Fox Heath Development, the Township will need to acquire an easement. This work is a part of the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) that was approved by the PADEP earlier this year for Perkiomen Township. Currently, the Township is not in receipt of the signed Easement Agreement from the Fox Heath HOA. There was a discussion on moving forward on this agreement. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion to approve the Easement Agreement to complete the stream restoration and embankment work along the tributary running through the Fox Heath Development. This approval is conditioned upon receipt of the executed Easement Agreement being received from the Fox Heath Homeowner's Association. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

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- Conditional Use Application: Solicitor Picardi prepared a written decision for Conditional Use Application No. 2021-1. This decision was based upon the public hearing that was held on this application at the August Monthly Meeting. Solicitor Picardi requested that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign this written decision. With the request of Solicitor Picardi, Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion authorizing the Chairman to sign the written decision for Conditional Use Application No. 2021-1. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

ROAD MASTER’S REPORT: Shawn Motsavage submitted to the Board his Road Master’s Report dated September 7, 2021, for activities occurring during the month of August.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: John Moran, Jr. submitted to the Board his Code Enforcement report dated September 1, 2021, for activities that occurred during the month of August. In addition to his report, Mr. Moran informed the Board that there is a public hearing scheduled before the Zoning Hearing Board on Application No. 21-4. The applicants are Kayla and Casey Grow of 801 Limerick Road, Schwenksville, PA. The applicants are requesting a variance from Chapter 310, Article VIII, Section 310-51.A. to allow for a deck which will be partially covered by a roof making it a porch. The proposed porch projects into the rear yard setback and due to the dwelling having a walkout basement to the rear, the porch will be over 14 feet in height. The Board took no position on this application.

PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION: Cecile Daniel reported that the Planning Commission held their meeting on August 17, 2021. At that meeting, the Planning Commission discussed: The proposed subdivision at 290 Centennial Street: This proposal is a subdivision that will subdivide an existing parcel into two separate lots. Lot 2 will contain the existing single-family detached dwelling. Lot 1 will be the new parcel being created by this subdivision. The proposal from Spring Hill Realty consisting of a zoning text amendment and a zoning map amendment to rezone their property along Harrison Avenue behind the property located at 841 Gravel Pike from LI – Light Industrial to ER-Elderly Residential.

PARK AND RECREATION REPORT: Kevin Motsavage reported that there was no meeting in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th.

LOWER PERKIOMEN VALLEY REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY: There was no information to report.

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ENGINEERS REPORT: Mark Stabolepszy reported on the following:

- Intersection Route 113/Route 29: Mr. Stabolepszy informed the public that the Township is looking into the feasibility of different grant options for improvements to the intersection of Route 113 and Route 29. As part of this discussion, Mr. Stabolepszy explained, using an aerial map, the improvements being considered. Currently, the Township is still working out some of the issues. These issues include contacting the property owners located at this intersection. At the present time, the Township is looking to reach out to two of those property owners. These would be the property located at the southeast corner and the one located at the northwest corner. The Township owns the property located at the northeast corner. There was a meeting recently with the owner of the property located at the southeast corner. At that meeting, there was a discussion on what options could be considered when looking at the improvements at this intersection and how they would affect this property. These options included: (1) purchase of the entire property and demolition of the existing building; (2) option to move the existing building further east and south so the building is not right at the corner, and (3) take down the existing building and construct a new one at a location on the property that would be away from the corner. To get a better idea of what these options would cost, Mr. Stabolepszy is looking for authorization to obtain quotes for the expenditure of funds to engage an SSM structural engineer as to the ability to move the buildings, and engage SSM to prepare a concept plan to determine where a new structure on the property would be placed. He also recommended that the Township identify and hire a commercial appraiser. The goal is to get a better idea as to the soft costs to improve this intersection. The property owner was present at this meeting and indicated the option of moving the structure was no longer up for their consideration. The Board authorized Mr. Stabolepszy to prepare a quote to prepare a concept plan as noted. Hopefully, this information will be received in time for the October Monthly Meeting.
- Signal Plan: Mr. Stabolepszy reviewed the proposed Traffic Signal Plan for the intersection of Bridge Street, Route 29, and Graterford Road. The Township received an ARLE Grant for the installation of a permanent traffic signal at this intersection. One change being proposed is the removal of the island and the paving of this area. The curbing in front of the hotel will be bumped out and the curb line be changed so the supports for the traffic light can be placed behind the curbing. All this work will be in the right-of-way. The permanent signal will be similar to what is there today with the temporary signal, except the new supports will be permanent steel supports rather than wooden poles, there will be less movement restrictions and there will be advanced detection for vehicles on all approaches. The timing of the signal will be phased so that Graterford Road and Bridge Street will move at different times because the intersection is offset. The next step is to submit this preliminary plan to

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PennDOT for their review and comment before finalization of the plan. If there are no other comments, the Board needs to authorize SSM to submit this plan to PennDOT. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion authorizing SSM to submit the preliminary Traffic Signal Plan for the intersection of Route 29, Bridge Street, and Graterford Road to PennDOT for review and comment. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

- 2022 Road Project: Mr. Stabolepszy informed the Board that the field survey is complete, and the next step is to prepare the design plans.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- 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 2021. The renewal rate for 2021/2022 is \$6,671.72. Adam Doyle 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 4-0.
- Website: There was a statement that the Board authorized be posted on the website last year. This statement was about the press statement that Joseph Gale sent out last June. Since the Board authorized that this be placed on the website, Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Albert Campion to remove the statement from the Township’s website. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.
- Medical Insurance: No changes were made.
- Montgomery County Association of Township Officials: Attendance at the MCATO Fall Convention, October 1, 2021. Due to everyone’s schedule, no one from Perkiomen Township will be able to attend.
- PSATS: Attendance at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting, October 15, 2021. Due to everyone’s schedule, no one from Perkiomen Township will be able to attend.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cecile M. Daniel

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Township Manager