



## **PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: JULY 7, 2020**

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**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  
Shawn Motsavage, Road Master

**THE JULY 7, 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:** Dean Becker made a motion seconded by Vivian Schoeller to approve the consent agenda items as follows: a) Minutes: June 2, 2020 and b) Reports from: PA State Police, Ambulance, the Fire Company and Fire Marshall; c) Financial Matters: Authorize Payment of Bills for June in the amount of \$71,906.59 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:**

Affirm the Statement from Board of Supervisors Regarding Commissioner Joseph Gale's Press Statement: William Patterson read the following regarding Commissioner Gale's Press Statement. This statement was as follows:

### **STATEMENT FROM PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING COMMISSIONER JOSEPH GALE'S PRESS STATEMENT**

We, the Board of Supervisors of Perkiomen Township, stand together in condemning Montgomery County Commissioner Gale's comments made in his press statement dated June 1, 2020. The Board found his comments offensive, divisive, and categorically untrue. Systemic racism is not a false claim. It has existed in some form for 400+ years. Black Lives Matter is a movement that began in 2013 to end systemic racism and inequality. While the Black

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Lives Matter movement is working to resolve the wedge that exists today, Commissioner Gale's comments only serve to increase that divide.

Like the rest of America, Perkiomen Township serves a diverse population. This diversity demands that the Board be sensitive to many different points of view when dealing with the day-to-day issues that come before us. We are committed to listening and working toward a future that serves the needs and interests of all our residents, including their constitutional right to freely express themselves.

We stand with those municipal officials who condemn Commissioner Gale's press statement and we urge him to retract it or to vacate his post. By coming together with likeminded municipal officials and private citizens, we hope to achieve our common goal of eradicating systemic racism.

Perkiomen Township Board of Supervisors

William Patterson

Vivian Schoeller

Dean Becker

Adam Doyle

Albert Campion

Mr. Patterson indicated that this statement was posted to the Township's website on June 13, 2020. Vivian Schoeller made a motion, seconded by Albert Campion approving the statement and making it a part of the record. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Patterson asked his fellow Supervisors how long they wish to keep this on the website? After discussing this question, it was agreed to leave it on the website to be evaluated month to month as to whether it will stay or be taken down.

**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 Loretta Fitzgerald filed an appeal to the Township's Zoning Hearing Board on John Moran's determination that Ken Boakye of 937 Hamilton Road was not violating the Township's Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Fitzgerald is requesting the ZHB overturn this determination. The ZHB has set a public hearing on this matter for August 26, 2020.
- **Kenny Park:** Mr. Park had filed an appeal to the assessment of his property at 13 Barley Sheaf Lane. Although the School District has the most tax dollars at stake, it has chosen not to participate in this appeal. Recently, Mr. Park's attorney submitted to the County an appraisal as to what his client feels the property is worth. Solicitor Picardi feels that the County may choose to settle the case versus litigating it. No

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final decision has been made on this matter, but Solicitor Picard will update the Board as he receives information on this issue.

**ROAD MASTER’S REPORT:** Shawn Motsavage submitted to the Board his Road Master’s Report dated July 6, 2020, for activities occurring during the month of June.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** John Moran, Jr. submitted to the Board his Code Enforcement report dated July 1, 2020, for activities that occurred during the month of June.

**PERKIOMEN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING:** Cecile Daniel reported that the Planning Commission held its meeting on June 16, 2020. At this meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the sketch plan being proposed by Springhill Realty for the 20-acre parcel they own that abuts Harrison Avenue. The Planning Commission’s comments indicated they were not happy with the proposed plan. It was recommended that Springhill Realty work with the Montgomery County Planning Commission on a new concept plan. As the discussion continued, it appeared that Springhill Realty was thinking about moving from the concept of quads to apartment buildings. Based upon everyone’s schedule, the Township may not see anything on this new concept before September.

**PARK AND RECREATION REPORT:** Ms. Daniel indicated that the Park & Recreation Committee had a meeting scheduled for this coming Thursday. At this meeting there are two issues to be discussed. (1) Open the basketball courts now that the park & playgrounds have been opened. (2) Access driveway onto Township Line Road from the Huber Property. There are some issues with access and sight distance. The Committee needs to discuss these issues. Mr. Motsavage obtained three quotes on preparing the ground where the dog park is being proposed. Based on the quotes received, Mr. Motsavage is recommending we go with Fox Lawn Maintenance for \$1,135.00. It is anticipated that this work would begin after the Park & Recreation Meeting. Last, the three signs owned by the Township have been refurbished as budgeted.

**LOWER PERKIOMEN VALLEY REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY:** Dean Becker updated the Board on the installation of the middle interceptor.

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

1. 2020 Perkiomen Township Road Projects: Mr. Szeredai reported that they held a pre-construction meeting with Allan Myers and their subcontractor Wexcon. Wexcon was completing the stormwater portion of the road project in Maple Hill. This construction work began on June 29, 2020. During the stormwater construction, there

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was an issue discovered when the grate of Catch Basin 7 was removed. It became apparent that the catch basin box was in much worse condition than previously thought. Everyone agreed that the best long-term solution would be to replace the catch basin box, top unit and grate. The contractor advised us that trying to rehabilitate the box in place would cost more than replacement. The options discussed were (1) replace the box; (2) rehab the box; or (3) simply leave it in place in its poor condition. Mr. Szeredai informed the Board that the contractor agreed to honor the contract unit price of \$3,600.00 to replace the structure. As a result, SSM is recommending that the Board approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$3,600.00 to replace Catch Basin 7. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Adam Doyle to approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$3,600.00. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

2. 817 Limerick Road Subdivision: Mr. Szeredai reported that Atlas Broadband Solutions, Inc. has requested a partial release of the financial security for the 817 Limerick Road Subdivision. After reviewing the request, SSM is recommending approval of Escrow Release No. 2. With approval of the release of \$20,550.00, the balance remaining in the Letter of Credit will be \$30,556.00. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Adam Doyle to reduce the Letter of Credit for 817 Limerick Road Subdivision to \$30,556.00 and release \$20,550.00 as recommended in SSM's letter of July 2, 2020. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.
3. 54 Wartman Road Subdivision: Mr. Szeredai reported that HAEG, LLC/ Michael Arsenich has requested a partial release of the financial security for the 54 Wartman Road Subdivision. After reviewing the request, SSM is recommending approval of Escrow Release No. 1. With approval of the release of \$5,175.00, the balance remaining in the Escrow will be \$83,716.00. Albert Campion made a motion seconded by Adam Doyle to the release the amount of \$5,175.00 as recommended in SSM's letter of July 2, 2020. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.
4. Aqua Trappe Road Waterline: Ms. Daniel made mention and Mr. Szeredai's indicated in his report, that due to the location of the existing utilities the waterline will need to be relocated to the centerline of the road rather than in the center of the westbound lane. The result is that Trappe Road will need to be closed to through traffic during construction of the waterline and a detour route will need to be established. Aqua must submit a detour plan to the Township and to PennDOT for review prior to beginning this work.

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**MANAGER’S REPORT:**

1. Crossing Guard Services: Ms. Daniel presented to the Board the proposed agreement with Advanced Protection Company to provide Crossing Guard Services for Perkiomen Township. These services will be provided at the intersection of Kagey Road, Forge Road, and Campus Drive. The cost for these services will be split equally with the Perkiomen Valley School District. This is the same company that provided the services for the previous school year. The agreement is a one-year contract and will cover the 2020/2021 school year. In addition, the Board needs to adopt a Resolution appointing Advanced Protection Company as the special crossing guard for the 2020/2021 school year. Both Solicitor Picardi and Ms. Daniel have reviewed the Agreement and prepared a Resolution for the Board’s consideration. After review of the documents, Adam Doyle made a motion seconded by Dean Becker to approve Resolution 2020-15 and approve the Security Services Agreement between Perkiomen Township and Advanced Protection Company, and, authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute the one-year agreement to cover the crossing guard services for the 2020/2021 school year. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.
  
2. 457 Deferred Compensation Plan: At the January Meeting, Ms. Daniel explained that Perkiomen Township has had a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for many years. The matter before the Board is to change the Plan Document Services, which were, until now, provided by MetLife Services. Going forward, these services will be handled by Brighthouse Financial Life Insurance Company. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, MetLife has turned the Deferred Compensation Plan over to Brighthouse Financial. In order to make this change, Brighthouse Financial hired Retirement Plan Solutions, Inc. to restate the Plan Documents. These revised/updated documents are before the Board for consideration. Ms. Daniel recommended approving the documents which include the following: the Adoption Agreement, the Basic Plan Documents, and the Plan Description. In the paperwork, there are two forms labeled “Formal Record of Action”. These forms which will need to be completed upon the Board’s adoption of these documents. Vivian Schoeller made a motion seconded by Adam Doyle to approve the following: the Adoption Agreement, the Basic Plan Documents, and the Plan Description and authorize the Chairman to sign both Formal Records of Action to be sent to Brighthouse Financial. There were no public comments. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

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

**SUPERVISORS COMMENTS:** Dean Becker requested the following item be added to the August agenda: A coordinated effort for tree maintenance in the Township.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cecile M. Daniel*

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Cecile M. Daniel  
Township Manager