

WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA

Monday, November 25, 2019 AT 7:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisors Robert T. Lange, William R. Shoemaker, and Barbara L. Handelin were present. Also present were Township Manager Sally Slook, and Chief of Police John Narcise.

Supervisor Lange led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for military personnel.

Announcements

Chester County Officer of the Year – Chief Narcise announced District Attorney Tom Hogan informed him that on December 18, 2019 at the Chester County Justice Center in Court Room One at 1:00 PM, Detective Sergeant Steve Jones will be named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Charity – The Willistown Township Police Department spearheaded the Growing Beards for Charity again this year and the two charities are Unite for HER (Breast Cancer) and Beards for Buc (Educational Fund for Caln Township Officer Sambuco’s children. Officer Sambuco died suddenly of a heart attack in 2018.) There were 15 Townships that took part and \$40,000 was raised. The following law enforcement agencies took part.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Willistown Township | Kennett Borough | Uwchlan Township |
| West Goshen Township | Brandywine Township | Malvern Borough |
| West/East Goshen Regional | Sadsbury Township | West Pikeland Township |
| West Whiteland Township | Easttown Township | Oxford Borough |
| East Whiteland Township | Chester County Sheriff’s Office | Paoli |

New Business

Oath of Office – Swearing in of new police officer Amber Davenport by Magisterial District Justice Thomas Tartaglio. Officer Davenport is from Chester Township and was 1 of 150 applicants.

Minutes -Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2019. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Expenditures - Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve the list of expenditures and interfund transfers dated November 13, 2019. Supervisor Handelin seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 14-2019 – A resolution to apply for a PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant for a sanitary sewer extension project in the amount of \$252,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the West Chester Pike Sewer Extension. Supervisor Shoemaker moved to approve Resolution 14 of 2019. Supervisor Handelin seconded the motion. Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked what the money will be used for. Sally Slook stated the fund will be used for the construction costs to connect 13 homes on West Chester Pike and the Township will be reimbursed. Dave Trainer, 39 Duffryn Avenue, asked where the homes are located. Supervisor Shoemaker said that some of the homes front Street Road (Route 926) and some front West Chester Pike. There was a home that had a failed nonfunctioning septic system and did not have anywhere to hook into sewer. Jack McGinley, 2 Second Avenue, asked if this covers that entire area. Supervisor Shoemaker stated this does not cover the entire area. There being no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Budget – Supervisor Shoemaker moved to authorize the advertisement of the 2020 Operating, Sewer and Capital Budget. Supervisor Handelin seconded the motion. A resident asked if the budget was in a new format and what did the numbers before the description means. Supervisor Shoemaker explained they were accounting numbers for different categories. Kate Renalli, 2402 Woodview Way, asked what the process is for creating the budget. Supervisor Handelin said she would like to have at least one budget presentation at a public meeting and encourage citizens to voice what they would like to see in the budget followed by this review period. She presented this is 2018 and 2019 and there was not a consensus to do this. Ali Barchi, 21 Laurel Circle, asked Supervisor Handelin if there were any contiguous townships that have budget presentations. Supervisor Handelin stated this was part of her training and education at state conferences and could not give townships off the top of her head. Supervisor Shoemaker strongly believes that if issues are important to citizens they will raise them. Appearing during the budget process to raise issues is chaotic and very late in the process. We need to have this information ahead of time. We have a budget with no tax or sewer rate increase. Other than the percentage increase in wages that is driven by the collective bargaining agreement there are no increases in spending. The goal is to have a flat budget without tax increases and have been successful in doing that for 3 years. He is concerned that the township would end up with a wish list that would blow the budget out. Supervisor Lange stated the Township only raised taxes once in 30 years and it was put out on a referendum and 82% of the residents approved of a tax to preserve open space. The Township Manager stated the Advisory Boards have a staff liaison that reports to her, and they consider the recommendations of the Advisory Boards, which are citizens of Willistown, as part of the budget process. The 2020 budget along with past budgets are on the website. Supervisor Shoemaker also stated that the Township does a Comprehensive Plan every 10 years that looks at what the Township wants to be doing in the future. This is the time that citizens should come in with long term projects. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

High Tunnels – Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked what high tunnels are. Supervisor Shoemaker stated that Harrisburg passed a law requiring all municipalities in the state to adopt an ordinance establishing a definition and exception for certain high tunnel facilities. These tunnels are exclusively used for the production, process, keeping, storing, sale or shelter of an agricultural commodity. It is constructed with metal, wood or plastic frame, when covered, has a plastic, woven textile or other flexible covering and has a floor made of soil, crushed stone, matting, pavers or a floating concrete slab. The high tunnel or its flooring does not result in an impervious area exceeding the coverage limits of the zoning district and does not require a permit.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7 PM at the Township Building meeting room located at 688 Sugartown Road.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



Sally Slook, Township Manager