

WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 29, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

Rita Reves Park

1040 Garrett Mill Road, Newtown Square, PA

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisors William R. Shoemaker, Robert T. Lange, and Barbara L. Handelin were present. Also present were Township Manager Sally Slook, Police Captain Robert Klinger, Finance Director and Emergency Management Coordinator Martin McKenzie, Parks and Recreation Director Mary Hundt, and Assistant to the Township Manager Jennifer Jacobs.

Supervisor Shoemaker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and moment of silence for military personnel, first responders, and all front-line workers in the current pandemic.

Announcements

None

New Business

Oath of Office: Swearing in of Captain Robert Klinger as Chief of Police by Magisterial Justice Thomas Tartaglio

Police Chief Klinger thanked residents, friends, family, coworkers, and other first responders from neighboring municipalities for coming out and showing their support. He promised Willistown residents and the Board he would ensure the Willistown Police Department continuously strives to improve.

Supervisor Shoemaker added defunding the police movement is a popular topic in the news media currently. He paraphrased Senator Bernie Sanders and said the best police are well trained, well educated, adequately paid professionals who take pride in their work. Supervisor Shoemaker said that the Willistown Police Department and all of the departments and organizations represented exemplify those high standards.

Supervisor Handelin shared a comment she said to retired Chief Narcise. She believes if every police department were more like Willistown Township, our country wouldn't be facing issues of police misconduct. She encourages the department to continue to be great leaders and share their best practices as far and wide as they can.

Minutes – Supervisor Lange moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 26, 2020. Supervisor Handelin seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Expenditures - Supervisor Handelin moved to approve the list of expenditures and interfund transfers dated June 26, 2020. Supervisor Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Resolution #13 - Acceptance of Low Bid of \$262,114.02 by John A. DiRocco General Contractors Inc. to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation- Supervisor Lange moved to approve Resolution #13. Supervisor Handelin seconded the motion. Richard Glunk, 209 Spring Road, asked for an explanation of the bid, and Supervisor Shoemaker explained it is for paving. The Township maintains state roads within the Township, and the state reimburses the Township through the revenue generated by the liquid fuel tax. Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge

Lane, asked who was the second-lowest bidder. Ms. Slook responded it was Glasgow at \$282,724.24. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 3-0.

Appointment of Bob Kacergis to the Parks and Recreation Board – Supervisor Lange moved to appoint Bob Kacergis to fill an unexpired vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board. Supervisor Handelin seconded. Supervisor Handelin asked Parks and Recreation Director Mary Hundt how many candidates were considered and how the vacancy was advertised. Ms. Hundt explained only one candidate applied, and the vacancy was advertised via the Great Valley InCommunity Magazine as well as being listed on the Township website. Board and Commission vacancies are typically advertised in the Crier, but the Crier is on hold due to the pandemic. Ms. Hundt also reported that as far as she knew, prior applicants had not been contacted. Supervisor Handelin stated how important it is for the township to follow the practices of advertising, recruiting and vetting multiple candidates for Township Board seats that are already in place. Ms. Hundt said there is now an additional vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board, and she is happy to make sure that as many different forms of advertising as possible to attract more candidates. Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, pointed out every Willistown household received the Comprehensive Plan Survey in June, and respondents were encouraged to write in if they were interested in volunteering with the Township. Ms. Hundt said she would review the responses and follow up. Supervisor Handelin requested the BOS table the nomination and remand the nomination to the Parks and Recreation Board for a more robust process to encourage residents of Willistown to serve on our Boards so that we have as broad and open representation of our community on all the volunteer Boards. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried 2-1. Supervisor Handelin said her voting against the motion does not reflect on the candidate's qualifications.

Police Report – Lt. Heim reported the Willistown Police Department has an open-door policy, and he encourages residents to reach out anytime with questions or concerns. In June, the department arrested a subject for violating a protection from abuse order. Juveniles were caught breaking into the Mill Park concession stand. The department is working with the families to have these minors complete community service hours in lieu of anything on their permanent record. Additionally, a female was arrested for simple assault on Gable Road.

Citizens' Comments

Mahala Renkey, 45 Tulip Drive, commented on the amount of tree debris on the side of Willistown roads due to the recent storms. Ms. Slook said Ms. Renkey could email her any locations she feels is a safety hazard for drivers and pedestrians, and the Public Works Department will look into it. Ms. Slook emphasized it is the responsibility of the homeowners and not the Township to have trees and limbs removed from their property.

Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, commented he thinks Bill Hagan, Public Works Director, and his road crew did a great job removing all the downed trees and coordinating restoring power to residents with PECO during the recent storm.

Richard Glunk, 209 Spring Road, asked about the Spring Road culvert replacement. Ms. Slook asked Mr. Glunk to contact her so they can set up a time to meet to go over the project and address his concerns.

A resident commented she would like the Board meetings to be held via Zoom. Supervisor Shoemaker stated meetings had been held via Zoom, this meeting was held in person because of the swearing-in of the new Police Chief. Future meetings are planned for Zoom, and reminders will be placed on the website and social media.

Mike Kerr, 33 Stonehenge Lane, asked for a status update on Troutbeck Farms. Supervisor Shoemaker said, given the pandemic delays, they are still working on sewer connections. Troutbeck will be on the agenda at the next Planning Commission scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, via Zoom.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, July 29, 2020, at 7:00 PM and will be held via Zoom.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



Sally Slook, Township Manager