



Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

Minutes

425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-9915

<http://doylestownpa.org>

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Tuesday, October 17, 2023

7:00 PM

Community Meeting Room

Members of the Board of Supervisors in attendance: Barbara N. Lyons, Chairman; Jennifer Herring, Vice Chairman; Ryan Manion; Nancy Santacecilia and Dan Wood.

Township Staff in attendance: Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations; Andrea Susten, Assistant Township Manager; Chief Dean Logan; Sean Torpey, Township Engineer and Jeffrey Garton, Township Solicitor.

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

Pledge to the flag

Ms. Lyons welcomed everyone to the meeting. Stated that before tonight's meeting they had a Budget Work Session at 3:30pm, everything went very well. Then at 6:30pm they had an Executive Session regarding matters of litigation, no decision was made.

Public Comments Agenda Items Only

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM.
- B. The Doylestown Township Municipal Building will be closed Tuesday, November 7, 2023 for Election Day and Friday, November 10, 2023 in observance of Veterans Day.
- C. Join the Veterans Advisory Committee on Friday, November 10, 2023 at 10:00AM, for a Veterans Day Event to celebrate and honor our Veterans. This year's event will be held at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building, Community Meeting Room.
- D. Keep up to date with Township News / Events – sign up for E-news at www.doylestownpa.org. E-News is sent out every Friday at 4:00PM.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Budget Work Session – September 19, 2023 – On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Ms. Santacecilia the motion carried 5 – 0.

Regular Meeting – September 19, 2023 – On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Ms. Manion the motion carried 5 – 0.

Special Meeting – October 3, 2023 – On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Mr. Wood the motion carried 5 – 0.

CORRESPONDENCES

Temple Judea Temporary Sign Fee Waiver Request – Ms. Lyons stated that this request was withdrawn prior to the start of this meeting.

BC Cares Educational Foundation Special Event Fee Waiver Request – Ms. Mason stated that this request is regarding Pumpkinfest. On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Mr. Wood the motion to waive the Special Event Fee in the amount of \$150 carried 5 - 0

Solicitor

Mr. Garon stated that the Pebble Ridge/Woodridge and Vicinity Sewer Project is finished. There are several things we must do, first transfer the PennVest Loan to Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA), we also must transfer all the lines constructed to the Authority, transfer the mortgages, liens and agreements to the Authority who will then proceed to collect payments over the course of time from the residents.

He asked for a motion to authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to execute all the documents necessary to transfer everything related to the PennVest Loan and the sanitary sewer project in its entirety. On motion of Ms. Manion, seconded by Ms. Herring the motion carried 5 – 0.

Township Engineer

None

Chief Logan

None

Dir. of Operations

2023 Structure Repair – Pennoni Engineering SOW – Change Order #1

Mr. Tomko stated that the Board previously approved Pennoni to do some design and contract documents for two structures to be repaired and put out to bid. In addition, there is a structure that is related to a Bike/Hike pipe and trail behind Doylestown Executive Quarters (Neamand Tract) that was dedicated to us at completion of the development. There has been flooding at that section of the trail. Mr. Torpey worked with the developer to have them design and permit a repair to increase the pipe size. He is asking the Board to approve their scope of work for the structure repair contract, additional services which we are calling Change Order #1 in the amount of \$8,400 in addition to their current contract.

On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Ms. Santacecilia the motion carried 5 – 0.

2023 Pavement Marking Contract – Award Recommendation

Mr. Tomko stated that this is the annual pavement marking contract was put together by Pennoni after field inspections. They solicited proposals from three companies. The low quoted amount was from Quick Lot LLC at \$14,143.00. He is asking the Board to approve that scope of work and proposal.

On motion of Ms. Manion, seconded by Ms. Herring the motion carried 5 – 0.

Green Light Go Easton Rd & Edison-Furlong Road – Approval to Accept GLG Grant

Mr. Tomko stated that we have received a Green Light Go Grant, we were awarded \$279,200.00 for the modernization of the traffic signals on Easton Rd (Rt. 611) and Edison-Furlong Rd Project. There is a twofold process, first the Board must accept grant offer, we will sign the grant offer and then PennDOT will prepare the agreement documents and we will sign

the documents electronically. He is asking that the Board accept the grant and authorize Stephanie Mason, Township Manager, or Director of Operations to go on the PennDOT website and sign the documents electronically. This is an 80/20 split, the Township is responsible for 20% of the cost, PennDOT will reimburse the Township for 80% of the cost.

On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Ms. Santacecilia the motion carried 5 – 0.

Township Manager

Vehicles to Auction

Ms. Mason stated that we have a request for the Board to authorize us to send the 2017 Dodge Charger as well as 2007 GMC Truck to auction.

On motion of Ms. Herring, seconded by Ms. Manion the motion carried 5 – 0.

Supervisors

Ms. Santacecilia – Thanked the police, firefighters, emergency services for their service yesterday when the propane tank tipped, she was evacuated and thanks the Township Staff for their hospitality for her and her 160lb dog. She is glad everyone is safe. She also wanted to thank the Finance Department and Budget Analyst for all their work to get our budget on par. She would like to ask the Board to make a motion that they receive an update each month on the total amount raised in our Capital Campaign. She made the motion, the motion failed for lack of a second. Ms. Lyons stated that anytime they get money in the bank it can be shared, however, she cannot do that with pledges, pledges are promises until the money is given. The Committee is working very hard to match the \$1.5 million that Sen. Santarsiero has gotten for us, we are still motivated and determined to raise a \$1.5 million match. She appreciates all of those who came out to the Special Meeting your voices were heard.

Ms. Santacecilia read a resolution she created to make November Veterans & Military Families Month in Doylestown Township. This resolution will serve to honor our veterans and military for their service to protect our country. Ms. Herring stated that as the wife of a veteran she appreciates all the service organizations, our Veterans Advisory Committee, the Travis Manion Foundation for all the help they give our veterans. On motion of Ms. Santacecilia, seconded by Ms. Herring the motion carried 5 – 0 with corrections.

Ms. Lyons – Stated that at the last meeting, some of our residents spoke of hardships about being on a fixed income. State Representative Tim Brennan was working in Harrisburg to increase a rebate for homeowners and renters earning \$45,000 or less. In 2023 the rebate is \$650 in 2024 the rebate will be \$1,000. Residents 65 and older, widows & widowers 50 and older and people with disabilities age 18 and older. She asked Ms. Herring to assist the residents with the filing of the applications.

Ms. Herring stated that she had a conversation with Rep. Brennan office today and asked if they would partner with us in the Township and start coordinating by hosting a session, in this building to help our residents, see if they qualify and how to apply. There is no way of knowing how many of our residents this will affect. The deadline for filing has been extended from June 30th to December of this year. You can go to www.mypath.pa.gov there is no login, there is a spot for you to apply, the screen is pretty easy to navigate, if you have trouble please reach out to the Township or Rep. Brennan's office.

Ms. Lyons asked for a motion to have Ms. Herring serve as liaison for this program for seniors and other qualified persons to receive these rebates. On motion of Ms. Manion, seconded by Mr. Wood the motion carried 5 – 0.

Ms. Lyons stated that she noticed that the police badges are pink for Breast Cancer Awareness month, she thanked the Chief for doing that.

Mr. Wood – Gave an updated on the Bike/Hike Committee meeting this morning, the Safe Routes to School Project from Shady Retreat Rd up to Burpee Rod and across the Limekiln bridge is going out to bid. This will be paid for largely by a federal grant. Hoping to have construction start before winter. Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board has restarted having regular meetings now that the 537 Plan has been authorized for further review by this Board at our last regular meeting. if anyone has questions regarding the plan, feel free to attend the Public Water & Sewer Advisory Board meeting this Thursday, October 19th at 5PM. The public comment period is open now as well.

Lastly, over the summer he purchased a new vehicle from Fred Beans, he got a free TV with the purchase. He is donating the TV to our new Community Recreation Center, he is donating a 50" 4K TV to the Township to use, either to raffle it off or to be installed in the new building which ever we think will bring more money in for the Township. One step closer to getting the project done.

Ms. Manion – stated that Park & Rec met for their regular meeting and then met with the EAC afterwards, it was cool to see them come together and talk about different way to work together, bring awareness to EAC. In December, Park & Rec does Decemberfest, several different events that take place around Central Park with everything from Jammy Jam with Mrs. Claus, pictures with Santa and the EAC will also be doing an event, so be on the lookout. Check our website, social media for calendar, lots of great events for the kids.

She wants to thank Sgt. Jones; he came to the 911 Heroes Run with the Travis Manion Foundation was held last Sunday. Over 2,000 participants, Mr. Suessenguth was there volunteering as he has for the last few years. Ms. Lyons ran the one-mile Fun Run. Sgt. Jones ran in full uniform, that was really cool to watch him, local firefighters who ran in full uniform. That is what it is all about, bringing awareness to our military and first responders' community and thanking them for their contributions.

Ms. Lyons commented on what a phenomenal event it was, she congratulated Ms. Manion on such an incredible enterprise.

Ms. Herring – stated that the EAC and Park & Rec Board had a joint meeting, they try to do this about once a year, it is a great opportunity when the committees get together wonderful things happen. Environmental Education Programming was discussed, deer control, the events Park & Rec are working on for Decemberfest and working on some signage issues in the park. After the joint meeting the EAC discussed the Backyard Poultry ordinance, we had some interesting conversations. On October 18th at 6PM at Delaware Valley University our EAC is presenting a Climate Action Planning Presentation. Should be a phenomenal presentation talking about what we should be doing in the future as far as environmental initiatives. BC Cares is bringing back Pumpkinfest which is always a favorite event on October 18th & 19th from 1PM to 8PM on Saturday and 4PM to 8PM on Sunday.

She wanted to bring to attention that since the recent terror attacks in Israel at least one Doylestown Township neighborhood has received vile, anti-Semitic flyers. These were dropped on people's driveways in little Ziploc bags. There is never a time that we want to see this type of thing in our Township. She just wants to say that everybody is welcome in Doylestown Township, that type of hateful behavior is not welcome. We love and support our Jewish members of our community; this was

very upsetting. If you ever have one of these flyers dropped off in your driveway, please reach out to the police department we need to know and figure out how this is happening. We do not want anyone to feel unwelcome in our Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Turk Road Traffic Calming – LTAC Review

Ms. Lyons stated that the Local Traffic Advisory Committee reviewed the documents and made their recommendation that the request doesn't meet the requirements for a traffic study. Mr. Tomko stated that is correct, he is the Chair of the LTAC and Sgt. Jones, Vice Chair and Matt Johnston, Township Traffic Engineer is here as well. A memo to the Board outlining Ms. Schroeder's request for a traffic calming study in accordance with our policy is in the packet along with information from Ms. Schroeder. There are three items that came out of the LTAC meeting on August 18th regarding Turk Road and the traffic calming request, these are the LTAC's recommendations:

- Based on the speed study conducted by the Doylestown Township Police Department, review by both Doylestown Township & Warrington Township Traffic Engineers. The LTAC recommendation is that the speed limit be maintained at 35mph.
- Based on the truck restriction study conducted by the Doylestown Township Police Department, reviewed by both Doylestown Township & Warrington Township Traffic Engineers. The LTAC recommendation is to remove the existing no truck restriction sign on both ends of Turk Rd.
- The LTAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider having a traffic calming study conducted, even though the resident's response for support of the study was 36% which is below the required 70%.

Ms. Lyons inquired if the Board has any comments.

Ms. Santacecilia wondered if the process should be looked at, the speed limit is 35mph, tickets are given out at 46mph. Is this policy being challenged over and over? Maybe review what PennDOT gave and make sure it applies to Doylestown Township. Safety is her main concern.

Ms. Herring stated that the committee is made up of residents and staff who will do what is best for the Township, not just use PennDOT recommendations as a blanket. She believes the recommendations are solid but has no issue with reexamining the policy.

Ms. Lyons stated that we have a policy that can be fairly applied to all the roads in Doylestown Township, the policy was created, so each subject is reviewed according to PennDOT recommendations. Maybe tweak the policy, not change it. This policy worked to evaluate this particular road and traffic problem. There is a recommendation to not go through with at traffic calming measures, she respects the process we have in place, it is a fair way to go to respect all residents and roads in the Township.

Ms. Santacecilia questioned if this was the first time this has been challenged? Ms. Mason stated that it is a process, this is the policy that the Board adopted in 2020 and it is the first time that a neighborhood has reached out and followed the process from start to where we are

now. The LTAC did state that the Board could consider having the traffic calming conducted, that comes with a cost, it takes time and involves a lot of people from the neighborhood to come up with options.

Chief Logan stated that this policy was developed over 10 years, this is not the first neighborhood that's had this issue, this is the first neighborhood that has brought a request for a study under the current policy. There have been multiple requests of the exact same nature from streets throughout the Township over the last 10 – 15 years, this is the first one under the current policy. Mr. Tomko stated that we have had residents come to us and ask about traffic calming on a street, they were provided the policy and told them what they needed to do, and we did not hear back from any that they wanted to proceed.

Chief Logan stated that the reason the policy was adopted is because it was a constant circular motion, after years of discussion we came up this policy. Based upon PennDOT's recommendations, there are certain restrictions that we must follow. LTAC discussed the truck restrictions, we are obligated under PennDOT to remove something that was put up improperly, that was an improper signage. We will do what you ask us to do under the limits of the law. Local law enforcement officers cannot stop a vehicle unless it is going 10 miles over the speed limit. This is a straight road with no curves, the park has no bearing on what is used to gauge safe running speeds. He stated that he asked the Township to do this study and help Ms. Schroeder put these flyers out, he did not know what the results would be. We have the statistics that came back, and we are still in the same position, this is a joint roadway that is shared between Doylestown Township and Warrington Township, he doesn't believe it is legal to post the road one half 25pmh and the other half 35mph.

Mr. Tomko stated that a positive thing that has come to our attention is ACT 31 adopted by PennDOT, which allows us to post the road "no tractor trailers" for trailers over 45'. We cannot restrict every truck. He asked Mr. Johnston, Pennoni to let the Board know where we stand. Mr. Johnston stated that the police did a truck study based on size and weight, Warrington Townships traffic engineer agrees with that as well. He agrees with Mr. Tomko that ACT 31 as passed by the state, on a local road the Township can restrict trucks over 45' in length. Mr. Tomko asked Chief Logan what the police policy regarding the current truck restriction is, that is posted unlawfully. The Chief stated we will not enforce it. That is why we are making the recommendation with Mr. Johnston in accordance with ACT 31 that we post no tractor trailers with a length greater than 45', that will be enforceable.

Mr. Garton stated that the Traffic Commission, the manager, chief of police and engineer can do that as soon as they can meet. Chief Logan stated as soon as we see the regulation and find out how it is properly posted, and Warrington Township confirms that they're going to post their half of the roadway the commission can meet and adopt it. Mr. Tomko as chairman of LTAC and Ms. Manion as Liaison are in support. Ms. Lyons inquired if Warrington Township would be opposed or go along with the recommendation? They have agreed that the current sign is not posted properly. Chief Logan suggest the LTAC reach out to Warrington Township to see if they are agreeable and report the findings to the Traffic Commission.

Mr. Johnston stated that Turk Rd. has two competing interests it functions as a collector road there are 100's of residents in Doylestown Township and Warrington Township that use Turk Rd to access their developments, it gets residents to Bristol Rd. and Almshouse Rd. I am sure the resident of Turk Rd. would prefer it be a neighborhood road. If it were being developed today it would be similar to Wells Rd. where there wouldn't be as many residential driveways. The traffic calming policy that was adopted takes both interests into account. There are a lot of perpendicular access that come off Turk Rd. so they are included in the study area. The Traffic Calming Policy for both Doylestown Township & Warrington Township require the approval of 70% of the residents in the study area to move forward. A traffic calming study would move the study process forward, there is another step in the process where 70% of resident approval is needed for the traffic calming plan to move forward with implementation.

Mr. Wood stated that he is interested in seeing a traffic study conducted on this road, he understands that we haven't met the 70% requirement & this is the first time doing it, looking at the residents who responded a majority are on Turk Rd. He also understands that if traffic is diverted, it must go somewhere. He understands this is not as simple as just posting a 25mph speed limit. On the Warrington side is Kelly Ave. which serves a similar purpose going from 611 to Bristol Rd posted at 25mph. He is interested is see changing speed limits change GPS directions, would a traffic study have analysis on if it would change driving patterns, he would be interested in see the results.

Mr. Tomko pointed out that this is not the first time they have addressed speeding in the Township or traffic concerns. Prior to joining the Township, he served as a traffic consultant for that purpose. He has done traffic impact studies, speed studies. We have a process in place regarding posted speed limits, what we have a problem with is when we change them, we do not necessarily get compliance, unless you have active enforcement all the time. We adopted PennDOT's rules because they work and been proven statewide.

Ms. Lyons stated that we have a process in effect, if we don't follow the process, it makes the process obsolete. If we tweak the process for one neighborhood then we will have to tweak the process for the next neighborhood, if we ok the traffic study based on the criteria in our process then we will have to ok a traffic study for a neighborhood that also does not meet the standards. We are either going to have a process or not have a process.

Chief Logan stated that the police department is all about safety. Let's say that the recommendation is to lower the speed limit to 25mph, police officers will now have to be out there to enforce the speed limit, when drivers go over 35mph we will have to start writing tickets for something not justifiable by PennDOT standards across the state. Countless police officer man hours enforcing something nobody will comply with. This roadway was built at 35mph the traffic volume, pedestrians and parks were not there. He would like the LTAC to find out if multi-way stops are permitted, do they meet the warrants. If they do that would be his recommendation. The police can get informal statistics to find out if it is remotely possible. He will put the police department traffic counters out there to find out how many cars come from each side street.

Ms. Schroeder and Ms. Mumbauer, both from Turk Road, stated that they do not agree with the percentage of positive responses. Chief Logan stated that he checked every single person through our data base and there were multiple duplicates. They also feel that a "no" response should be considered positive responses. Mr. Tomko stated that we are following the policy that was adopted by this Board of Supervisors and "no" response is not considered a positive response.

After further discussion it was decided that the Chief is going to investigate having four-way stop signs and have LTAC look into ACT 31 to make sure we meet the standards. It would then go to the traffic commission for approval. They will also revisit lowering the speed limit due to the parks.

Professional Services Agreement

EE Office Automation, LLC

Ms. Lyons inquired if anyone had any question regarding the agreement for EE Office Automation, LLC. There were no questions from the Board, she asked for a motion to approve.

On motion of Ms. Manion, seconded by Ms. Herring the motion carried 5 – 0.

Zoning Hearing Board

Darcy – 30 Anvil Lane – TP 09-042-085 – Special Exception and Variance – send the application to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Stuckert & Johnson – 529 Caddy Dr – TP 09-057-014 – Requesting Variance – send application to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Treasurers Report – on motion of Ms. Manion, seconded by Ms. Herring the Treasurers Report for October 17, 2023 was approved 5 – 0.

Bills List – October 17, 2023 the Bills List in the amount of \$904,700.46 on motion of Ms. Manion seconded by Ms. Herring was approved 5 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Public Comment – All Items

Donna Shannon – Steeplechase Dr. wanted to bring up the issue of vandalism, she mentioned that Ms. Manion had mentioned it when Kids Castle was vandalized. She wonders if perhaps something could be put in the newsletter asking parents to talk to their children about vandalism.

Peder Cox – Pine View Dr. wanted Chief Logan to be informed that Philadelphia is the next Target city for illegal immigrants, we are 23 miles away, he stated that the Hampton Inn, Homewood Suites are all within the Township, we should not be prepared for the influx immigrants. Chief Logan pointed out to Mr. Cox that those hotels are in Warrington Township, Doylestown Township does not have any hotels. He feels that the immigrants will leave the hotels and look for other places to live in Doylestown Township.

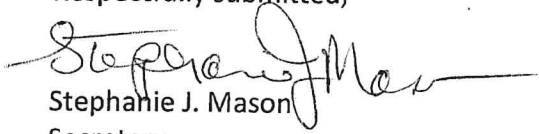
Amy Cosdon – Colonial Heritage is concerned about the raising number of tornadoes in Central Bucks, she quoted a 600% increase in the last five years in the Delaware Valley due to the urbanization of the area. Perhaps talk to neighboring townships and work out a plan to minimize urbanization and help cut down on the number of tornadoes. She also had concerns about the PennDOT Round-a-bout that is being built in the Township. Ms. Herring mentioned that the EAC and Planning Commission are looking to work together, this is something they could discuss the issues and you are welcome to attend the meetings, please feel free to reach out, she is their liaison.

Ms. Santacecilia wanted to mention that Chief Logan is now one year away from retirement and the countdown has begun. October 4, 2024, she is excited for him.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lyons adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm

Respectfully submitted,


Stephanie J. Mason
Secretary