



Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

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

<http://doylestownpa.org>

MINUTES

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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

7:00 PM

Community Meeting Room

Board Members in attendance: Jennifer V. Herring, Chairman; Barbara N. Lyons, Vice Chairman; Dan Wood, Judy Dixon and Christina Maida.

Township Staff in attendance: Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations; Andrea Mergner, Assistant Township Manager; Charles Zeigler, Chief of Police; Lauren Gallagher, Township Solicitor and Abhishek Joshi, Township Engineer.

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

Pledge to the flag

Ms. Herring welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prior to this meeting the Board met in Executive Session where they talked about appointments to Boards and Commission and legal matters.

Presentations

None

Public Comments Agenda Items Only

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 7:00PM
 - B. The Doylestown Township Municipal Building will be closed Tuesday, May 19th for Primary Election Day and Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day
 - C. **Summer Camp at the CRC**
Your child can attend a full-day, multi-sport camp with Overtime Athletics at the Community Recreation Center every week this summer! We're also offering half-day pickleball and chess camps. Register today at www.doylestownpa.myrec.com
 - D. Save the Dates for these Special Events in 2026:
 - **Gather for Good** – Thursday, April 16th from 6:30 – 8:00pm hosted by our Human Relations Commission.
 - **Save the Date for our Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting and Mulching Workday** – at Central Park – Saturday, April 18 from 9 AM – 11 AM. This is a family-friendly event, and civic groups, Scout troops, and community organizations are encouraged to participate. Find more information on our website.
 - **Annual Touch a Truck Event** – Saturday, May 16th from 10am – 1pm at Central Park.
 - **2026 Memorial Day Parade:** Join Doylestown Township's Board of Supervisors and Veterans Advisory Committee on Monday, May 25th at the Memorial Day Parade.
 - **The Thompson Performing Arts Series** in Central Park begins June 17th at 7pm with Stevie Mac and continues every Wednesday through August 12th. Please find the 2026 complete line up at www.doylestownrec.org
- More information for these events and more can be found in the Winter & Spring Program guide sent to residents' homes or by visiting www.doylestownpa.org

- E. Chapman Road Bridge is closed to all traffic 24 hours a day. A full detour is in place directing motorists to use Pine Run Road to Limekiln Road and Ferry Road. Repairs work is expected to be completed by June 30, 2026. This is a PennDOT project you can visit their website or visit the Township website for updates.
- F. 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: Regular Meeting – March 17, 2026 – Ms. Lyons requested the following change in her motion regarding the Tax Collector use of the Township Building, “approve the time requested with limitations of staff time and other courtesies to the building”. On motion of Ms. Dixon, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board approved the minutes of March 17, 2026 with amendments stated by Ms. Lyons. The motion carried 5 – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bucks County Transport – DART –Letter to Legislators – Information Purposes

Ms. Mason stated that Ms. Lyons shared that the DART Committee sent correspondence to our state legislators indicating that we were looking for funding for the DART, DART South and DART West. We wanted to share this letter with the Board. The members received an email stating that the letter was successful and additional funding from SEPTA will be issued for the operations for RT. 611 (DART South) and DART West as well.

Central Bucks Senior Center – FY2025 Profit and Loss Statement – Information Purposes

Ms. Mason stated that during the budget process we had a request to assist the Senior Center with some additional funding. We requested some additional information which we have received and are sharing with the Board. When we get into the budget process this year, we can add this to our discussions. Additionally, we are supporting them administratively with a Federal grant they are applying for through the Congressman’s Office.

Doylestown Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update – Information Purposes

Planning and engineering for the update to the 2000 plan was started in 2022. Presentations were made in 2024, submitted everything, revised everything in August. This month we received the plan’s approval. Our updated plan will be added to our website, replacing the one from early 2000. She thanked all the members of the Publics Water and Sewer Advisory Board who were helpful working with Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority along with staff to put this document together and go through the process. This has been a long process, we can take a sigh of relief and move forward with the plan.

REPORTS

Solicitor

Nothing to report.

Township Engineer

Nothing to report.

Police Chief

Chief Zeigler reminded everyone that Saturday, April 25th, is the Drug Takeback Event from 10am to 2pm. There will be two locations: Doylestown Hospital and the Giant Supermarket in Doylestown Point.

Dir. of Operations

Trail Assessment Proposal

Mr. Tomko stated that this proposal from Pennoni was talked about previously at a budget work session with the idea that we would do a trail assessment like the robotic road evaluation. Pennoni has worked with a sub consultant that will provide the technology for us to drive the trails and do an

assessment to help prioritize maintenance. We need to start maintaining the trails because their age is starting show. Part of our budget this year is for trail maintenance. He asked the board to approve the proposal for the 2026 Trail Assessment Proposal from Pennoni in the amount of \$10,750.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved the Trail Assessment Proposal from Pennoni in the amount of \$10,750 with additional miles billed at \$197.

MS4 Outfall Screening and Verification Proposal

Mr. Tomko stated that this is part of our MS4 permit for us to conduct annual inspections of outfalls in our stormwater systems. This proposal was prepared by Gilmore, they have been working with us for a number of years with our MS4 Program. The proposal is broken down into five parts:

1. Project Coordination and Management - \$3,000.00
2. Outfall Inventory Review - \$9,000.00
3. Field Investigation, Verification and Screening - \$87,000.00
4. Dry Weather Screening (assumes 10% of all outfalls/observation points) - \$15,000.00
5. GIS and Mapping Updates - \$12,500.00

Total Outfall Verification and Screening Proposal - \$126,500.00

He asked for the Boards approval.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Maida, the board approved the Gilmore & Associates Engineering Proposal for the MS4 Annual Reporting and agree to the total amount of the verification and screening proposal of \$126,500. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Assistant Township Manager

PTO for Part-Time Employees

Ms. Mergner stated that the Board received a memo dated March 31st for consideration for PTO for permanent part-time employees, the memo includes three different options.

Mr. Wood stated that all three options make sense, earning PTO with tenure.

Ms. Mergner mentioned that there are two options with a sliding scale and a pro-rated percentage of the full-time. All three have years of service, the pro-rated percentage, it's 60% of what full-time employees receive.

Ms. Lyons suggested Option One Sliding Scale – Tenure Based 2-4 years of service 5 days; 5-9 years of service 10 days and 10+ years of service 15 days.

Ms. Dixon suggested Option Two Sliding Scale with Less Time off. She feels we should be budget conscious, she feels it is a good plan, still gives people time off. Will this be a use or lose or is it every year? Option Two Less Time off is use or lose, would not roll over or pay out.

Ms. Maida is in favor of the first or third options. If someone is dedicating 10+ years of service to the Township, even on a part time basis, they deserve something in return.

Ms. Herring is also in favor of the first option.

Ms. Mergner stated that we do have a part-time employee who has been here for 15 years.

Mr. Wood stated he leans toward Option One as his preference.

On motion of Ms. Dixon, seconded by Ms. Lyons, the Board voted on Option Two Sliding Scale with Less Time off. The motion failed 2 – 3 with Ms. Maida, Ms. Herring & Mr. Wood voting Nay.

On motion of Ms. Maida, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board voted on Option One Sliding Scale with More Time off. The motion carried 4 – 1 with Ms. Dixon voting Nay.

Township Manager

Nothing to report.

Supervisors

Ms. Maida – the Finance Committee met March 25th, there is a vacancy on the Finance Committee at this time, if anyone is interested in joining, please send a resume. The next meeting will be May 27th at

7PM. Mr. Wallace and his team put together a review of the 2025 Budget vs. Actual results. The Township is in really good financial health by all measures, revenues exceeding budget and expenses coming in under budget. A lot of projects underway, a lot of good things on the horizon to continue to improve the quality of parks, roads, water, sewer, etc. They discussed the fire department and Kids Castle.

She was at the HRC meeting in place of Ms. Herring discussing the Gather for Good event as well as other ideas, future events next year.

The next Pension Advisory meeting will be May 11th at 4:30pm.

Ms. Maida gave a shout out to Karen Sweeney, she grew up in Doylestown enjoying the parks, playing sports, going to Kids Castle. They have only worked together for a few months, you are a legend as far as she is concerned, you have such a legacy to uphold. She is fortunate to have grown up here and played in the parks you had the vision and leadership over.

Ms. Dixon – Made the motion to appoint Eric Seldorff to eh EAC, seconded by Ms. Lyons, the motion carried 5 – 0.

Public Water & Sewer Committee - is thrilled that the 537 Plan has passed. Ms. Mason sent notice to PWSAB earlier this week, they are very happy about that.

EAC – Grant Rowe of Doylestown Borough came to the meeting, he is now the Borough's Sustainability Coordinator. Our EAC's are going to work together to host a table at the Farmers Market on Saturdays once a month.

Regarding Dark Skies, a meeting with Ms. Mason and Ms. Goldstein and a few of the EAC members to see how we might put some of the Dark Skies concerns into ordinances for the Township. This Saturday is the Arbor Day Celebration 9am. Come out to Central Park.

Bike/Hike met this morning. The New Britain Trail Ribbon Cutting is still to be determined should be in late May. Safe Cycling to School, there will be some fun videos that kids can watch on YouTube, they have a YouTube creator who might be doing this work. The Pump Track is going to be opening on June 1st.

She wanted to remind everyone that it is the season for bikes and walkers on the road, cars do share the road with pedestrians and bike riders. Please allow 4' between your car and any cyclist or walker.

If you are looking to buy lawn equipment, look at electric equipment. A two-stroke gas powered motor running for 30 minutes is the equivalent to driving a Toyota Camry 11,000 miles, very inefficient. Think about buying electric.

Mr. Wood – stated that he has nothing to report tonight.

Ms. Lyons – Mayor's Monarch Pledge Survey, you do not have to be a mayor to support this, any head of a local or tribal government can do this. The idea is to protect the Monarch, its population is dwindling. It's a pledge we make if we do it by proclamation, it is stuff we already do now. This is just a formality to codify and solidify what we already do. Public communication efforts to residents, engage with community gardens, engage with other responsible people who have an interest in preserving the Monarch. She asks that for the next meeting of the Board of Supervisor that we consider a proclamation in support of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Survey.

Ms. Herring – stated that she is very happy to let everybody know that our Chief Zeigler was appointed to the PLEAC Commission by unanimous vote. This organization sets the standards for Police Accreditation. The Chief has been very involved in our accreditation process. She just wants to

congratulate him publicly and share with the rest of the Board this great accomplishment. Congratulations!

She stated that they spoke about how we have had some Borough residents come to some of our meetings, she wanted to share that we are doing a lot of work right now working with the local municipalities that are around us to get some strength in the projects we are working on. She was able to attend Solebury Townships meeting about affordable/accessible workforce housing. The public and elected officials, Rep. Brennan, as well as a representative for Sen. Steve Santarsiero, were in attendance. It was an interesting meeting, if you are interested in finding out more about what they are looking into for workforce housing, something we are all interested in right now, it's on their website.

Planning Commission – she sat in for Mr. Wood at the last meeting. There were many discussions on a small subdivision with eight homes, at 1595 Pebble Hill Road. The Planning Commission is looking to do a site visit to the property, there has not been a date set at this time. Another small subdivision, 925 Sandy Ridge Road, there will also be a site visit as well, Monday, April 27th at 4PM. The public is welcome to attend.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Equivalent Dwelling Unit Transfer Agreement

Ms. Gallagher, Township Solicitor stated Doylestown’s public sanitary sewer system is owned by Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority. Sewage is treated in various places including the Harvey Avenue Treatment Plant which also serves Buckingham Township including property located at 4435 Progress Meadow Drive and along Cold Spring Creamery Blvd. This project proposes a residential development which requires more Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) and sewer capacity in the Harvey Avenue Treatment Plant currently allocated to Buckingham Township.

Doylestown Township has significant capacity in that treatment plant and has agreed to transfer some of its capacity over to Buckingham Township for use in the proposed residential development. The total EDUs requested to be transferred is 40, increasing Buckingham Township’s allocation and Doylestown Township allocation would be reduced by 40 EDUs.

This has been reviewed with Buckingham Township as well as Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority. We are working out a couple of minor details. She asks that this be approved subject to final approval by the Township solicitor’s office, the substance of the agreement will not change.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved the Equivalent Dwelling Unit Transfer Agreement subject to final approval by the solicitor’s office. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Barn Plaza – TP# 09-014-037-002 & 09-014-037-003 - Planning Module, Development Escrow & Stormwater Agreements

Ms. Mason stated that Barn Plaza has Preliminary/Final Plan Approval and is moving forward with the process. This evening we have the Planning Module as well as their Development Agreement and Stormwater for your consideration. They have been in touch with DEP and had to make some tweaks to their submission, they have met DEP’s requirements, and we have to revise our resolution. We are looking for the Boards approval on the resolution.

On motion of Ms. Dixon, seconded by Ms. Lyons, the Board approved the revision to the resolution for Barn Plaza Planning Module. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Ms. Gallagher stated that there is a Development Agreement and a Stormwater Agreement for Barn Plaza Development. We are continuing to work out a couple of minor details with engineers' office as well as the developer, but these are in a form ready for the Board's consideration this evening, subject to final approval from the solicitor's office and engineers' office.

On motion of Ms. Dixon, seconded by Ms. Lyons, the Board approved the Development Agreement and Stormwater Agreement for Barn Plaza Redevelopment subject to final approval by Township Solicitor and engineers. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Doylestown Hill – TP#09-017-042, 09-017-044 & 09-017-045 - Development Escrow & Stormwater Agreement

Ms. Gallagher stated that we have worked with the developer's attorney as well as the engineer's office to put these agreements together. Both are in a form ready for the Boards consideration this evening. We ask that they be approved subject to final approval from the Township Solicitor and Township Engineer.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved the Doylestown Hill Land Development Agreement & Stormwater Agreement subject to final approval by Township Solicitor and engineers. The motion carried 5 – 0.

2026 Fee Schedule -Amendment

Chief Zeigler with new PLEAC updates there is a new standard put in place regarding Crime Victims Right to Access Law, ACT 134. It allows victims of crime to pursue civil actions, should they feel the need. Currently they would not get any of the investigative information from the police department without a subpoena, making it difficult to decide if going through a civil process is worth the process. This allow the victim of a crime to request this information from the police department, and the law allows us to give that information in limited form to them. There is a \$125 fee for the request plus postage and any storage media used to send the information to the requestor. There is a redaction of anything that is personally identifying information. Addresses, email addresses, dates of birth, sensitive investigative information are all legally allowed to be redacted. The fee is only charged if the request is granted.

Ms. Dixon inquired, does it seem onerous on the victim having to pay an additional fee if they're already a victim of a crime? Are they making the request because they are going to civil litigation?

Chief Zeigler replied that he understands what she is asking. The concern is sometimes there can be attorney fees, can we disclose or should we disclose this? We can't separate that in the fee schedule. Yes, the requests have been coming up due to civil litigation, right now the police department policy is that we do not release any police reports or investigative information without a subpoena, which means they have to file a docket with the court. This will cut that process out, so they can see what they are dealing with before they decide if they are going to take the case to civil litigation.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board approved the Amendment to the 2026 Fee Schedule for ACT 134. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Tax Collector – Building Use

Ms. Herring stated that we received a memo from the Tax Collector, Ms. Frister, regarding the use of one of the Conference Rooms in the building.

Ms. Lyons stated that Ms. Frister was at the last Board meeting and indicated that it is for the convenience of the residents that we provide space for your tax collecting obligations. Ms. Lyons made the motion to approve those dates and times, and since then she has received numerous calls from residents of the Township who object to us allowing a Township Tax Collector to use the Township Office Building. Residents say they pay the tax and a portion of the tax they pay goes to your compensation, you work on a commission basis. It's not just the Township Municipal Taxes,

you're collecting Bucks County taxes and School District taxes. The objection is that it is not an appropriate use of the Township Building, she realizes other municipalities allow the use of Township space for the tax collector, that has not been our practice. There has always been a specific place, time detailed where you can pay your taxes, those places were provided for by the tax collector. Our tax collectors have provided renovations to their homes to satisfy that requirement or built a separate office facility on their property or rented space. You indicated that your facility was not appropriate due to parking, having a dog and people don't want to come into a private home. You went to the Zoning Hearing Board asking for relief so that you could put an office in your home. You were denied that you were given the opportunity to get a continuance, in order to comply, to make sure that your home was listed as a tax collector's office. She is concerned that her first tax bill received dated March 1, 2026 and it doesn't have a location or time to pay that bill, it only has a Post Office Box. At the March 17th meeting the Board agreed to the dates and times you requested. Your website shows different dates and different times and states that one of the meeting times will take place at the library. Now we have additional time you want to use the Township Building. Her concern is that the law requires you, as the tax collector, to give specific notice of the dates, times and location of where people can pay their taxes, where you received them and they are receipted. We have an obligation to make sure that your notices are compliant. The Township pays for the postage and the notices. Even though you said it was to the benefit of the residents to have a convenient place for the residents you are not in compliance. More importantly the residents don't know where they are supposed to pay their taxes.

She feels that the Township is not authorized to give you free office space, she also stated that Ms. Frister ran for election as tax collector knowing that the process and procedures and customs was you would provide your own office space. If we were going to change anything about your office space whether we provide it or not, is one is an issue that should have its own discussion. Her concern for all the tax payers, I don't know where personally to pay my taxes. I don't know if I go to your website, your website states if there are changes to the dates and times, check my website. If you have problems or questions don't call me, send an email to my website. Any other issues will be posted by yourself and also the Township blurring the lines even further, using office staff to accept & receipt payments because they do not know where to go. The staff is not authorized to do that.

Ms. Frister stated that she did not ask office staff to receive and receipt tax bills, the whole point of this is to try to make it consistent. She understands that there is confusion and she wants to stop that.

Ms. Herring stated that she is supportive of having an office in this building because people are going to come here, which is why a lot of municipalities have offices of tax collectors in them, one central place you bring your water bill, parks & recreation, pay your taxes. As long as it's advertised and consistent. She feels we can correct the confusion.

Ms. Lyons stated that it is for Ms. Frister to correct the confusion, tax bills have already gone out with no place to pay taxes, except the PO Box.

Ms. Maida stated that part of Ms. Frister's proposal was a tax drop box paid for by her that would also be here so our staff wouldn't have to pick up the checks. This would be a location for drop off.

Ms. Lyons stated that she is not sure the drop box accomplishes the task. Somebody could say they dropped it off last week, but the tax collector didn't get it until two weeks later. People want a receipt.

Ms. Herring stated that in her experience with tax collectors and their offices, many have facilities within the municipal buildings as well as a drop box. The drop box does a couple of things, it allows people to deposit their tax payment easily no matter what time, it also relieves the issues with the municipal staff in having to tell them that they can't accept a payment, because our staff cannot legally accept the payment. It's a very common practice to have the tax collector in the municipal building.

Ms. Lyons stated it is not common practice in Doylestown Township. If we are going to change that procedure it is something that we're going to have discussed publicly. If we are going to give this tax collector free space, she doesn't have to pay but we pay her. That is something that has to be considered by the Township at large, not by us making this okay for her.

Ms. Dixon inquired if Ms. Frister was counting on getting the zoning for her house, which is how the confusion started. The specific dates you requested are pretty limited, is there a thought to try to find a rental space that you would be able to utilize, so there would be more hours available for tax payers.

Ms. Frister stated that she certainly could or she could continue meeting people at the library.

Ms. Lyons stated that personally she thinks Ms. Frister should do that.

Mr. Wood inquired if this proposal was for the 2026 year only or for the entirety of your term? He realizes we are in tax season, he is fine with this for this year, talking about confusion, he wants to give out tax payers every opportunity to have a solution in front of them. If we want to revisit this again next year, whether it be paying a rental fee like DTMA does for office space or Ms. Frister finding her own office, he think that it is fair to consider next year.

Ms. Herring stated that she thinks that sounds reasonable, it can help relieve some of the issues that the public has in paying their tax bill currently.

Ms. Lyons stated that we don't know what the public has because they haven't had a chance to consider whether the Township tax collector should be getting free office space provided by the Township.

Ms. Herring inquired what DTMA pays? Is there a number Ms. Lyons would be comfortable with?

Ms. Lyons stated that DTMA reimburses the Township on everything, rent, services, administration expenses, any contributions to pension, benefits, vacation. The DTMA reimburses the Township for all of this, there is no free rent.

Ms. Maida inquired if there was a rental fee the Board would be comfortable with for Ms. Frister?

Ms. Frister stated that she does not need anything administrative, just space.

Ms. Lyons suggested fair market value of the rent for this year only would be something she would agree to. A fair market value rent that satisfies our tax payers. You should pay your share.

Ms. Frister asked the Board to keep in mind that this is additional hours. She is not required to do these additional hours. She is required two days at the last two weeks of the discount periods, that's it. I'm offering all these additional hours, which is my time because I want to be available. She is trying to be more accessible.

Ms. Herring stated that the office is a tiny conference room in the front of this building, she feels a nominal rent for two days a week, plus whatever other time you might need, maybe an additional day during the week if something gets busy. She suggested \$100 a month.

Ms. Lyons feels rent should be more than that. She feels the rent is the only fair thing to do for our tax payers. She is speaking for the residents that called her and had objection to Township providing office space free of charge, when they pay you to collect their taxes by commission. Rent is the expense you are supposed to bear. Ms. Lyon also stated that she wants to make sure what days and times, specifically that Ms. Frister is asking and that she property give notice to the residents. When, where, what time. Items on her website are not clear nor ADA compliant.

On motion of Ms. Maida, that the Board allowed Ms. Frister to be in the Township Building on April 23rd and April 30th as originally agreed to by the Board and add Wednesdays & Fridays until May 12th, look into what is fair market value for the room, so the Board can agree on what they think is an appropriate fee. This will be revisited at the Board meeting on May 12th, seconded by Ms. Dixon. The motion carried 4 – 1 with Ms. Lyons voting Nay.

DTMA Intermunicipal Agreement

Mr. Brent Eaton, Executive Director of DTMA, shared with the Board the Sixth Amendment to the existing Intermunicipal Agreement which would add 280 N. Broad Street as a designated service area. The agreement is a triparty contract between Doylestown Township, Doylestown Borough and Doylestown Township Municipal Authority. The agreement provides water service to 280 N. Broad Street utilizing Doylestown Borough Water System. He shared the history of the Intermunicipal Agreement which dates back to 1987, the agreement and subsequent amendments provide a framework with Doylestown Borough and DTMA to share water resources to better serve areas of our respective municipalities. This amendment satisfies criteria spelled out in the developer water service agreement signed in November of 2025. There were no questions from the Board.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board approved the Sixth Amendment to the Intermunicipal Agreement. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Treasurers Report – April 14, 2026

On motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved the April 14, 2026 Treasurers Report. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Bills List – April 14, 2026

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Maida, the Board approved the April 14, 2026 Bills List. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Public Comment – All Items

Joe Van Houten, Doylestown Township – wanted to speak regarding the tax collector's use of the building, he pointed out that under the Tax Collectors Manual for the State of Pennsylvania, last edited in 2018. He pointed out a couple of important items with regard to administration. Since tax collectors are independent contractors, they should be obligated to pay their fair share of any office space. If they use space free of charge, they are obligated to consider that as compensation.

Doreen Stratton, Doylestown Borough – stated that her grandparents settled here in 1867, she is a third generation townie, she has seen good changes and not so good changes in Doylestown. She would like to speak about the Hart Tract because it's not a good change. She shared the history of the Lenni-Lenape Tribe in Doylestown. She thinks the last 24 acres of the Hart Tract could be holding Lenni-Lenape artifacts. Have an environmental impact statement or bring in certified archaeologist.

Chris Valeri, Buckingham Township – Founder and President of the Buckingham Historical Society. Spoke to the logistical and safety of the Hart Tract, this will be a multi-year industrial invasion, streets were never designed for industrial traffic for a project of this magnitude. He spoke to a lack of sidewalks, emergency vehicles delayed by a disabled delivery truck, a constant flow of heavy machinery blocking narrow streets, weight of trucks will crumble local asphalt, leaving tax payers to foot the bill. Not just about traffic, erosion of our quality of life. The George Hart Tract is a local treasure, the surrounding is a functional neighborhood, forcing the construction 36 units into this space is a recipe for disaster.

Edna White, Doylestown Township – she is concerned about the Hart construction, you're opening the door for other open tracts of land, wouldn't it be nice if we left some open property to our children. Is this feasible? Putting cart before the horse, figure out water, is there a way in & out, does it work? Then look at can we do it, if it can't be done, what happens to the other open land in Doylestown Township that builders want to build on. We need thoughtful housing. Do we wait for builders to say what they want to do and then figure it out? It would be nice to share it with of the Township, so they understand what you are trying to do? Is Mr. Hart's will restrictive of what you are considering? She is tired of if there is not an heir to somebody's will to fight what everybody else wants to do, we ought to respect what people left and why they left it.

Jonathan Neuber, Hilltown Township – He was at the March 12th Planning Commission meeting. His concerns still remain, they have not been addressed by Mr. Zaveta or the Bucks County Historical Society to his satisfaction. It is hard when you speak and go on record, it's harder than putting it on a Facebook post. People can criticize you, they can do it very easily. When you are dealing with people that have a lot of money, you can feel like you are getting rubbed out. To keep on topic with what was brought up on other issues with the tax collector's office and the environment. He is not from this township but thought there was some interesting tie-ins. The gas blowers for the environment, you got to think about what you can lose with the environment there. If Mr. Zaveta's plan goes through, we're talking about the proper operations of things that will have less environmental impact. This is going to have a lot more environmental impact than any gas blower. Also, with the zoning, I respect the taxpayers not wanting to give a free office out. It would be a huge loss in cultural, environmental and historical heritage. Huge impact which would dwarf anything that's being discussed if this proposal goes through.

RECOGNITION OF KAREN A. SWEENEY RETIREMENT – 31 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms. Herring shared with those in attendance that we are recognizing the 31 Years of Service of our Parks & Recreation Director Karen Sweeney. A slide show throughout the years was shown.

Ms. Herring stated that she has worked with many public servants, very few embody the spirit of public service like Karen Sweeney. Attending concerts at Central Park, Karen is doing what she always does, walking around the crowd, talking to people, selling 50/50 tickets, making sure everything runs smoothly, making sure the concert goers are safe and having a good time. Almost every time we speak, she says the same thing “I do it for them”. Them is all of you, the residents, the families, the community she cares so deeply about. When we opened the Community Center it was in part because of Karen’s dedication and hard work. Karen doesn’t seek recognition, she serves because she genuinely cares about all people, regardless of age, background or beliefs. She believes in community in the truest sense of the word. Karen has set a standard that is incredibly hard to match. Ms. Sweeney will be missed, her presence, energy and commitment to this community will make a lasting impact, we are grateful. Don’t go too far and don’t be a stranger.

Ms. Herring invited Ms. Sweeney to the podium while she read a proclamation from the Township and presented her with a plaque recognizing her 31 years of dedicated service to Doylestown Township and the Community.

Ms. Mason stated that she is honored to be here tonight as we celebrate an extraordinary individual, whose impact on the Township will be felt for years to come. She was here when Ms. Sweeney became the very first Parks & Recreation Director, from the start she has been nothing short of remarkable. She lives her personal motto, stay humble, work hard, be kind. For 31 years she has served with dedication, creativity and compassion. She built the Parks & Recreation Department from the ground up, developing programs that strengthened the community and enriching it through performing arts. Her vision drove several successful fundraising efforts, from Octoberfest to the Annual Golf Outing making countless programs and park improvements possible. She has mentored and developed the future leaders, all while quietly working behind the scenes, never seeking recognition. She has led by example, being humble, working hard and always being kind. We all know Karen leads with heart, giving freely listening deeply and showing true compassion. Her impact reaches beyond our walls, and her absence will be felt. We will miss her greatly, we are deeply grateful for her service and the legacy she has left behind. Ms. Mason spoke to Ms. Sweeney directly thanking her for her commitment, passion and generosity of spirit. We wish you the very best in the next chapter, may it be filled with joy, fulfillment and all the happiness you greatly deserve. Congratulations! Ms. Mason presented Ms. Sweeney a gift from the Township.

Ms. Lyons read from the letter that she sent in support for your last award that she sent to the awards committee. She read that she has known Ms. Sweeney for 30 years both as a volunteer on the Doylestown Township Park & Rec Board and then as a Township Supervisor, she knows first hand Ms. Sweeney’s contribution to the people of Doylestown Township and Central Bucks Community. Many park amenities, sensory trails, outdoor classrooms, kids castle, park pavilion, outdoor sports fields, bocci courts, frisbee golf, amphitheater, dog park and a 30,000 sq.ft. recreation center. The many recreation programs she created, oversaw and mastered, including performing arts series concerts which bring thousands of people to the Township, Golf Outing, Touch a Truck and Fido Float. Her efforts over the years has brought thousands of dollars to the Township for these park improvements. Karens gift to our residents was not only her ability to provide all that she has accomplished but to make her passions the passions of others which she has worked, volunteers, members of the Board and her Township colleagues. She is loved and respected by all. She will be deeply missed, but her accomplishments and contributions to Doylestown Township will live on for generations to come.

Ms. Lyons continued saying that Karen is kind, generous, a loving daughter, aunt, neighbor, niece, a loving and kind person to all of her co-workers and residents. Her kids grew up with Karen, and she is still in their lives. She taught me how to make my aggressive rescue dog with fears of abandonment to a kind and loving creature that became a members of my family. Since I have known you so well, your future away from the Township as an employe will be just as awesome. She knows that Ms. Sweeney told people she did not want any special recognition, but the Board and the staff did not agree with you. In keeping with your role as dog lover and dog whisperer, we decided that our Doylestown Dog Park needed a new name. Ms. Sweeney was presented with a replica of the new sign at the Dog Park – Karen A. Sweeney Dog Park.

Kathy Brown wrote and read a very moving poem she wrote for Karen called Be Proud and Move Forward.

Ms. Sweeney stated that she was so overwhelmed, 31 years is a long time, it is the culmination of a 45 year career in park & recreation from graduation to today. She thanked the Board with all her heart for allowing her to take this ride and taking ride with me. You are the decision makers, and we had a lot of plans, a lot of options, you've given me a blank slate to work with over the years. She loves this community, it truly was my mantra to work hard, be humble and be kind. It's never been about me, it's been about the community. A life, a career, a job, thank you for the paychecks. She is so happy to have made this journey, it started as an opportunity to come home. Many of her teachers have been on different committees and boards, spent time with them and that's been very special. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this community. She took a moment to recognize the competent, capable, creative team stepping up and into this role they will do a tremendous job. Cortnie, Christian and Melissa, thank you for all you've done the last couple of years, you have helped grow the department even more, there will be great things to come in the future. Working through park and recreation is never an easy task, it's an upstream swim, always justification, research She thanked Dan & Jen for making conversations easy, we accomplished a lot. Judy, it has been a pleasure working with you, asking the questions and wanting to understand why, where we're going and what the vision is. Christina, it's been a short time, and it's been such a pleasure. There was a few moments of chaos where you brought peace and showed the vision and she appreciated that. Barbara, 31 years, a lot of good times, up times, down times, a lot of tears, a lot of successes. She is so appreciative for your guidance and wisdom. Stephanie, your leadership has been overwhelming, I know I leave not just as a former employee but with many friends and she is thankful. She is so thankful that her Mom is with us here tonight, she has taught me well. She remembers coming home from college telling her mother that she is changing her major to Parks & Recreations, her mother said, "You're going to do what?" I hope that I have made her proud as well. She recognized her dear friends here tonight that have seen her through a lot and have been great friends. Especially the one over there with the little red hat, Nicholas has been with me through a lot of events. She thanked her friends in the audience and all of her co workers and friends. She knows that she hasn't always been easy, I fight hard and I push through, thank you for bearing with me. It's been an honor, a pleasure. I'm going to miss this, it's a hard stop, it will be an interesting path, but I'll find the way and continue share and volunteer where I can.

Ms. Herring asked everyone to stay and join us for some refreshments as we celebrate Karen's Retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Stephanie J. Mason, Secretary