

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 25, 2018
Meeting Minutes

The public meeting of the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Plumstead Township Municipal Building, 5186 Stump Road, Plumsteadville, PA

Present:

Brian Trymbiski	Chair
Nick Lykon	Secretary
Dan Hilferty	Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Darren Carroll	Member
Jonathan Reiss, Esq.	Township Solicitor

Absent:

Peter Busillo	Vice Chair & Treasurer
Carolyn McCreary	Township Manager

Mr. Trymbiski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Coffee With A Cop will be held on October 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Altomonte's. There will be a blood drive at the Township building on Friday, September 28 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Board of Supervisors Worksession scheduled for September 27 is cancelled. The Planning Commission will hold a special meeting on September 27 to continue work on a proposed overlay district for Plumsteadville Village. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee meets on October 8.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Jonathan J. Reiss, Esq.

- 1. Zoning Hearing Board Application – 6120 Easton Road:** Mr. Reiss reviewed details of the application, noting the applicant desires to increase the size of the parking lot and seeks three variances including permitting a portion of the proposed new parking spaces to be within the required buffer yard. Mr. Lykon sought Board consensus to send a letter of support to the Zoning Hearing Board for the application. Mr. Hilferty stated he supports the application, but would rather the Zoning Hearing Board make the decision based on the testimony presented without Township input. **Motion** by Mr. Lykon, seconded by Mr. Carroll directing the Township Manager to send a letter in support of the application to the Zoning Hearing Board and requesting the Zoning Hearing Board to vote in favor of the application. With no additional comment, the vote was 3-1 with Mr. Hilferty dissenting.
- 2. Authorization to Advertise Amendment to Parks & Recreation Committee Ordinance:** Mr. Reiss stated this had been discussed with the Board at a prior meeting, and he circulated the ordinance amendment to the Board, made a couple of changes per Ms. McCreary's review and recirculated it to the Board. **Motion** by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Hilferty to authorize the advertisement of the proposed ordinance amendment. With no additional comment, all voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Reiss stated he had two items for Executive Session, one involving litigation and the other involving a potential real estate acquisition. Neither will require formal action of the Board at this meeting.

DEPARTMENT AND FIRE COMPANY REPORTS: On File

COMMITTEE MINUTES: On File

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion by Mr. Hilferty, seconded by Mr. Carroll to approve the bills list dated 09/25/18 subject to audit. With no additional comment, all voted in favor 4-0. The amounts reported on the bills list are as follows: General Fund - \$133,752.69, Water Fund - \$30,873.72, Local Services Tax Fund - \$5,890.00, Capital Reserve Fund - \$21,166.00, Open Space Fund - \$124.00, Flood Mitigation Grant Fund - \$240.73, State Liquid Fuels - \$110,597.71, Developers' Escrow Fund - \$34,974.38, Construction Escrow Fund - \$3,600.00, Zoning Hearing Board Escrow Fund - \$420.34

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mr. Hilferty, seconded by Mr. Carroll to approve the minutes of the 09/11/18 meeting. With no additional comment, all voted in favor 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the various challenges facing emergency medical service providers with the Chief Pressler of Central Bucks EMS and Chief Tuttle of Point Pleasant/Plumsteadville EMS, with Mr. Hilferty citing a cover story in the September issue of the PSATS Township News magazine. Mr. Hilferty stated this was just to have a dialog to benefit the Board and the community about ongoing issues they face. He noted while the Township is not rural, it is also not an inner-ring suburb of Philadelphia. He referenced the recent mergers CBEMS has been a party to and areas it has absorbed, manpower shortages, problems with reductions in reimbursements from Medicare and insurance companies, and unfunded mandates. He pointed to the number of EMS providers shrinking from 2,000 in the late 80's and early 90's to between 900 and 1,000 today (source: Township News, September 2018). Chief Tuttle explained the difference between basic and advanced life support services to the Board. He also spoke about the requirements to have more equipment on the trucks in service with limited grants available to reimburse the squads. Chief Pressler stated there is still the misconception that the squads are only for transport of patients. He indicated it is difficult to address this from a statewide level because there are areas of the state that are dramatically behind the providers in this area, and the southeastern part of the state. Chief Pressler stated public education is vital regarding where the funding comes from for EMS services. He noted commercial insurance is not what it was 10 years ago, fewer patients have commercial insurance, and both Medicare, medical assistance and commercial insurance carriers have reduced their reimbursements or limited the number of transports for a patient. Mr. Carroll suggested this might be better suited for a discussion by the Emergency Services Management Committee. Mr. Lykon thanked Chief Pressler and Chief Tuttle for their service and availability to answer his questions whenever they arise. Mr. Trymbiski asked about how transport payment works from facility to facility. He also asked about writeoff costs, particularly for individuals who keep the check from their insurance carrier instead of forwarding it to the squads. He asked if any type of scholarships have been considered in Bucks County to incentivize new recruits, similar to what was reported in the PSATS article about Alleghany County. Mr. Trymbiski asked how CBEMS got to where

they are today financially, citing their 990 report filing. Chief Pressler spoke about containing costs where they can, trying to raise revenue as costs go up, management and long range planning. Chief Tuttle stated changing regulations can dramatically alter a 10-year plan. Mr. Lykon suggested the EMS squads look at ways to make the most of what they have and what they are purchasing, asking if they can stretch the dollar by looking at cooperative purchasing to reduce costs. He referenced the volunteer fire companies in the Township doing this a couple of years ago to see if there were any savings or efficiencies to be realized. Mr. Hilferty stated as the population ages there will be increased demands for services, and education is a key component for the residents to understand the need to support both the volunteer fire companies and the EMS squad. Mr. Trymbiski thanked Chief Pressler and Chief Tuttle, stating the squads save lives even with the increasing costs involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Hilferty to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. With no additional comment, all voted in favor 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager

Date Approved