

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2020
7:00 PM

I. ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held its first Regular Meeting of the month on Monday, April 6, 2020, at Ferguson Township via Zoom. In attendance were:

Board: Steve Miller, Chairman
Laura Dininni
Lisa Strickland
Patty Stephens
Prasenjit Mitra

Staff: Dave Pribulka, Township Manager
Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works
Jenna Wargo, Planning/Zoning Director
Eric Endresen, Director of Finance
Chris Albright, Chief of Police

Others in attendance included: Rhonda Stern; Dr. Bob Allen; Jeremie Thompson; Shirley Hsi; Wes Glebe; Nick Fugaro.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Miller called the Monday, April 6, 2020, regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established through Zoom. A conference bridge was established as a backup to the Zoom virtual meeting.

III. CITIZENS INPUT

A resident voiced her concern on COVID social distancing rules for small groups. A discussion followed on procedures.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Strickland moved that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the Board of Supervisors Minutes of March 16, 2020. Ms. Dininni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. MANAGER REPORT ON LOCAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Mr. Pribulka reviewed updates to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Township operations are reduced to critical functions; Brush and Leaf collection has been suspended for the month of April; the Township office remains closed to the public and most administrative staff are working remotely. Residents can contact the Township via the regular phone number during regular business hours, by email or by visiting the Township's website. Mr. Pribulka expressed his appreciation of those being patient for delayed responses. Police operations remain at full service with COVID-19 protocols in place for first responders. The pandemic has prompted the Centre Tax Agency to extend tax due dates as noted that can be found under the Finance and Tax information on our website as well as other Township and COVID-19 updates through Constant Contact.

A suggestion was made to send out a reminder that leaf collection will begin following the month of April. Discussion followed on reminders for those in the community with kids to limit group gatherings. Further discussion was on hiring of a part-time emergency management staff that has moved forward and on other emergency response staffing decisions. Resources were discussed.

Mr. Pribulka responded to Dr. Allen's question on protection for state of housing and noted no regulations are in place at this time in the Township.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.25 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO EXERCISE CERTAIN SPECIFIED POWERS FOR PURPOSES OF MAINTAINING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COMMUNITY.

Mr. Pribulka introduced the proposed ordinance for adoption. Mr. Miller opened the floor to public comment.

Ms. Dininni moved that the Board of Supervisors **adopt** the ordinance authorizing the Township Manager to exercise certain specified powers for the purposes of maintaining, protecting, and promoting the health and safety of the Township. Mr. Mitra seconded the motion.

Mr. Pribulka responded to a resident's question on duration period. It will run parallel with the disaster declaration issued by the Center Region Council of Governments (COG) duration of the pandemic.

ROLL CALL-Ordinance #1054: Mr. Miller – YES; Mr. Mitra – YES; Ms. Stephens – YES; Ms. Strickland – YES; Ms. Dininni – YES.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. 2018-PWGG: \$947.13
- b. Special Events Permit – 2020 Ride of Silence
- c. Voucher Report – February 2020
- d. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report – January 2020

Ms. Dininni moved that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the Consent Agenda. Ms. Strickland seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. BOARD MEMBER REQUEST – O.W. HOUTS PROPERTY.

Ms. Dininni discussed sending a letter to the Borough council to express improved quality of life of residents in the area and to be in line with the TSD zoning.

Ms. Dininni moved that the Board of Supervisors **forward** a letter to the State College Borough Council from Ferguson Board of Supervisors in regards to utilizing areas in the specified district for use that is consistent with the Zoning District. Mr. Mitra seconded the motion.

Discussion followed on addressing issues and long term use in that area, particularly the Ferguson Township access. A citizen spoke on concern once construction starts back up on communication between the Township and the Borough. Mr. Glebe discussed the ongoing construction and that he is in communication with those entities and the reasoning behind some of the larger vehicles going into the site. The Borough has been doing their best to accommodate the residents throughout the construction.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pribulka asked for direction from Board members on language for the letter.

VIII. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **COG COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Mr. Miller reported for the Executive Committee that the contract was finalized. A meeting will be held tomorrow (4-7-2020) via Zoom for routine business and update on financial impacts of COVID-19.

Ms. Dininni discussed the decision on the Parks and Recreation Comp Plan and comments.

2. **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS** - None

3. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Township Manager. Mr. Pribulka reviewed his written report. A verbal report was provided on the COVID response team; initiatives and corresponding meetings. Two responses were received to proposals for the fire station needs assessment for the Township that was part of the 2020 Operating Budget. An award should be forthcoming at an upcoming Board meeting.
- b. Public Works Director. The report was provided with the packet. Mr. Modricker gave an update on construction projects. Most staff are working remotely.
- c. Planning/Zoning Director. The report was provided with the packet. Mr. Pribulka reported on the active land development plans. Some reviews have been delayed due to other agencies. The next Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled for May. Planning is currently not accepting zoning applications and are catching up on some older projects. The next virtual Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 13th.

- IX. **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD** – None.

- X. **CALENDAR ITEMS** – Next virtual Board of Supervisors Meeting is April 20th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Dininni motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Pribulka, Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 04-20-2020