

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2022

ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held its second regular meeting of the month on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 as a hybrid meeting. In attendance were:

Board:	Lisa Strickland, Vice Chair	Staff:	Centrice Martin, Township Manager
	Patti Stephens		Dave Modricker, Director, Public Works
	Jeremie Thompson		Jaymes Progar, Assistant Township Manager

Others in attendance included: Rhonda Demchak, Recording Secretary; Sue Werner, Schlow Centre Region Library; Shawn Kauffman, Emergency Management Coordinator, Centre Region Council of Governments; Greg Scott, Executive Director; Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County; Diana Griffith, Agricultural Land Preservation Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Strickland called the Tuesday, October 18, 2022, regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Martin thanked and welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the Board of Supervisors meeting had been advertised in accordance with the PA Sunshine Act as a hybrid meeting with an option to attend online utilizing zoom and the main meeting room for any public members to participant. Persons attending the meeting as members of the public and wanted to participate were asked to state their name, municipality, and topic. Members of the public are to be muted during the meeting and must be acknowledged by the Chair. Board members are asked to indicate their name when motioning or seconding a motion so that the minutes are accurate. Ms. Martin took Roll Call and there was a quorum.

Ms. Strickland asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an item.

Mr. Thompson moved that the Board of Supervisors **add** the letter of resignation submitted by Supervisor Williams to the agenda. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed unambiguously.

III. CITIZENS INPUT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thompson moved that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2022, and October 3, 2022. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS REPORT

1. Schlow Centre Region Library

Ms. Sue Werner, Schlow Centre Region Library, noted her report is included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Stephens and Ms. Strickland thanked Ms. Werner for the report.

2. C-NET Report

Mr. Jaymes Progar noted that his report is included in the agenda packet.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusionary Initiatives – Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Filipino-American Heritage Month, German-American Heritage Month, Italian-American Heritage Month, Polish-American Heritage Month
2. Township and Fiscal Responsibility – Emergency Management: Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Shawn Kauffman, Emergency Management Coordinator, Centre Region Council of Governments gave a presentation that was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Stephens suggested that each Board member take the special trainings that is required, and she will create a spreadsheet.

Sergeant Hendricks thanked Mr. Kauffman for the information.

3. Community And Economic Development - Overview and Updates on the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County (CBICC)

Mr. Greg Scott, Executive Director, CBICC reported that he completed his first full year as the Executive Director. Mr. Scott noted that he is getting to know chamber members, investors, government entities, elected officials, farmers, academics, entrepreneurs, and business owners. It is the mission of the chamber to be a voice for Centre County. The collaborative approach for economic development is partnering with the county and township officials to bring new business and investments to the region. Mr. Kauffman stated there are some challenges and noted the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan and the lack of specific incentives to attract new businesses.

Mr. Scott reported there will be a new Economic Development Council that will be introduced in 2023. Mr. Scott asked for the Township to reconsider investing in the CCEDP in 2023.

Community And Economic Development - Informational Overview on the Centre County's Purchase of Agriculture and Conservation Easement Program

Ms. Diana Griffith, Agricultural Land Preservation Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint from the overview that was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Griffith reported that they value Ferguson Township's participation as one of the three Centre County municipalities helping to preserve farmland through the Municipal Partnership Program.

Ms. Griffith will send the Board the presentation that she gave.

4. Environment – no report.

VII. COG AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS

All committee reports are included in the agenda packet.

- a. Joint Facilities Committee and Centre Region Parks and Recreation

b. Climate Action Sustainability Committee

Mr. Thompson highlighted from his report the Regional Refuse and Recycling Customer Survey, Letters of Support for Community Solar and the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy education event. The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2022.

c. Public Safety Committee

Ms. Stephens highlighted from her report the Property Maintenance Codes and problems with TRASER.

d. Human Resources Committee

e. Joint Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee and Centre Regional Planning Commission Meeting

f. Finance Committee Executive Committee

Ms. Strickland highlighted from her report the Budget Wrap-up Session.

2. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no other committee reports.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

All reports were included in the agenda packet.

a. Township's Manager's Report

b. Public Works Director Report

Mr. Thompson asked if the street tree pruning will be done in the Teaberry neighborhood. Mr. Modricker reported that he thought it would be done in that area but will verify and get back to Mr. Thompson.

c. Planning and Zoning Report

d. Officer in Charge Report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing – Agricultural Properties Partial Exemption Resolution

Mr. Modricker noted that provided with the agenda is the revised partial agricultural properties exemption policy for consideration by the Board. The revised policy requires property owners of agricultural properties to file a one-time application by September 30 that results in the Stormwater Engineer to conduct a review and a response no later than October 30 of the filing year. Partial agricultural exemptions awarded and applied to agricultural properties will renew annually subject to the property sustaining no changes. Property owners that received approval for the partial exemption do not need to file a new application for the exemption apply in future years.

Public Hearing – There we no comments and the hearing closed.

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **adopt** the resolution to grant a partial exemption for eligible agricultural properties from the Ferguson Township Stormwater Management Utility Fee and Repealing Resolution 2021-26. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: MS. STRICKLAND – YES; MR. THOMPSON – YES; MS. STEPHENS- YES

The motion passed unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Contract 2022-C8, Fall Long Lines, Round 2, Pay App 4: \$29,217.31
- b. Harner 4-Lot Subdivision Surety Reduction No. 6 - \$140,942.90
- c. Orchard View Subdivision Surety Reduction No. 5 - \$373,365.55
- d. Sheetz at Harner Surety Reduction No. 5 - \$50,364.28
- e. Letter of Match Commitment for DCNR Supplemental Grant Contract

Mr. Thompson moved that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the Consent Agenda. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Hearing – Winter Maintenance Agreement Resolution

Mr. Modricker reported that Ferguson Township has performed winter maintenance for PennDOT on a section of Whitehall Road SR3018 from West College Avenue SR26 to Blue Course Drive. PennDOT approached the Township about performing winter maintenance on a section of SR26 from the Ferguson Township boundary with State College Borough to the intersection of Shingletown Road SR26/SR45. Ferguson Township Public Works winter operations crews travel this section of road to perform snow and ice removal on Township roads and is agreeable to performing this service.

Mr. Thompson moved that the Board of Supervisors **adopt** the resolution. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: MR. THOMPSON – YES; MS. STEPHENS- YES; MS. STRICKLAND – YES

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Hearing – Agility Agreement Resolution

Mr. Modricker stated that for approximately the last decade, the Township has entered into an Agility Agreement with PennDOT. The Agility Agreement allows the two parties to barter services and products. The specific work plan is prepared and agreed upon between the Township Road Superintendent and the PennDOT Centre County Maintenance Manager. Examples of services provided by the Township include mowing and street sweeping sections of SR26, SR45, and SR3018 in Ferguson Township. Examples of services provided by PennDOT include providing an Athey Loader to assist with roadside swale maintenance and delivering salt brine produced at the Bellefonte maintenance office for pre-wetting and anti-icing operations of the Township.

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **adopt** the resolution. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: MS. STEPHENS- YES; MS. STRICKLAND – YES; MR. THOMPSON – YES

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Informational Update on CRCOG 2023 Proposed Operating Budget

Ms. Martin reported that on Friday, September 23, 2022, the Centre Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Finance Committee received the proposed 2023 Operating Budget. A link to the CRCOG proposed 2023 Budget is provided below. The proposed budget includes an increase of approximately 16 percent which results in approximately an 18 percent increase for Ferguson Township's contribution. Ferguson Township's increase from 2018 to 2019 was 4 percent; the increase from 2018 to 2020 was 10 percent, the increase from 2018 to 2021 was 14 percent; and the increase from 2021 to 2022 was 18 percent. Ferguson Township's increase from 2022 to the proposed 2022 Operating Budget is 18 percent. Provided with the agenda are copies of two memos (2 and 3) prepared by Centre Region Municipal Managers to the CRCOG Finance Committee.

[2023 DRAFT Detailed Budget to Finance Committee](#)

The Board is asked to consider providing additional guidance on the COG budget to the Township's representative on the Finance Committee.

5. Acceptance of Supervisor Tierra Williams Resignation Letter

Ms. Martin reported that the Township received the resignation letter from Ms. Williams with an effective date of November 4, 2022. Ms. Martin thanked Ms. Williams for her service.

Ms. Stephens moved that the Board of Supervisors **accept** Ms. Williams resignation letter. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion.

Ms. Stephens stated that she will be missed for her perspective and enthusiasm. Mr. Thompson wished Ms. Williams the best. Ms. Strickland thanked Ms. Williams for her time and service to the Board and wished her the best.

The motion passed unanimously.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Ms. Stephens reported that her neighbor had concerns about the stop sign at North Allen Street and Aaron Drive. There was also an incident with a dog attacking another dog and now the neighbors are concerned. Ms. Stephens was asked if Ferguson Township has a position with the hate group Proud Boys coming to Penn State. Ms. Martin reported that the Ferguson Township Police Department will provide support if needed during the event.

Mr. Thompson thanked Ms. Stephens about the dog situation she reported.

Ms. Strickland reported that she had a communication about the Homestead Park with a request to keep the space open so the residents can use the space for such activities as badminton, volleyball, etc. Ms. Strickland reported that the Coffee and Conversation this past weekend was well done and well attended.

XII. CALENDAR ITEMS – OCTOBER

- a. Election Day, November 8
- b. Special Meeting on DRAFT 2023 Operating Budget, November 9
- c. Special Meeting on DRAFT 2023 Operating Budget, November 10
- d. Administrative Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day, November 11
- e. Planning Commission - October 24, November 14
- f. Pine Grove Mills SAP Advisory Committee - October 27, November 17

- g. Fall 2022 Neighborhood Association Open Forum – November 9
- h. Parks & Recreation Committee, November 10
- i. Tree Commission - November 21

Ms. Strickland reported there was an Executive Session on October 11th regarding a real estate acquisition.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Stephens motioned to **adjourn** the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Centrice Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Centrice" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Martin".

Centrice Martin, Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 11-01-2022