

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2021

VALLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The second monthly meeting of the Valley Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, via virtual meeting through *Go To Meeting*.

The Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patrice Proctor at 8:08 p.m. Those participating in the meeting were Supervisors Kathy O'Doherty, Sharon Yates, Carmen Boyd and Patrice Proctor. Supervisor Christopher Lehenky was absent. Also participating in the meeting were Amanda Sundquist, Esquire of Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees (Township Solicitor); Michael J. Ellis, P.E., of Pennoni Associates, Inc.; Scott Piersol, Township Manager; and Kris Lenhart, Roadmaster – Public Works.

It was noted that the meeting was being conducted through *Go To Meeting* to comply with Governor Wolf's order that all individuals in Chester County stay home in an effort to slow the spread and minimize public exposure to COVID-19 and maintain social distancing.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS/ACTIONS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Proctor noted that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss matters of litigation and personnel. She also noted that Board met in Executive Session on January 4, 2021, following the public meeting to discuss personnel and met in Executive Session on January 5, 2021, to discuss personnel following a meeting with the PA Police Chief's Association which began at 6:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF SCOTT PIERSOL

Ms. Proctor introduced Scott T. Piersol as recently appointed Township Manager who began with the Township today. Mr. Piersol reviewed his professional background, which included 27 years as Township Manager at East Brandywine Township, and thanked the Board for the opportunity to join Valley Township.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVE MINUTES AS WRITTEN

Ms. O'Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021, Reorganization and Regular Monthly Board of Supervisors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Ms. Boyd made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to approve payment of bills as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD GENERAL COMMENTS

Ms. Proctor reviewed that the last Christmas tree collection would be on January 25, 2021 and that the Compost Site would be open on February 13, 2021. She also noted that there is an open seat on the EAC.

CITIZEN REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

Paul Friel & Bob Frank, 975 Valley Road – Mr. Frank reviewed previously submitted water meter readings that he had forwarded. He stated that his business is on the ground floor, he lives in one unit on the second floor, and he recently had a tenant move into the other second floor unit. He stated that he is requesting that his sewer billing is based on water meter usage. Ms. Proctor confirmed that he was actually using water from a well. She inquired about his statement of the meter readings from the Pennsylvania American Water meter. He advised that he went back to using the well that was on the property. Ms. Proctor stated that we are billing the property in accordance with our ordinance/rules and regulations for “each family apartment or business suite in a multiple dwelling or office building. She also stated that she felt that the reconnection to the well may not be compliant. Further, it was advised that we could not permit his request and also noted that we cannot change any billing/regulations while we are under the Agreement of Sale for the Township’s water and sewer systems with Pennsylvania American Water.

At this time, Ms. O’Doherty made a motion to take the meeting out of order. The motion was seconded by Ms. Yates and passed unanimously.

Ms. O’Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to add, under New Business, Item C, the consideration of Christopher Lehenky’s resignation from the Board of Supervisors. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. O’Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to accept the resignation of Christopher Lehenky as Township Supervisor, effective February 1, 2021. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. O’Doherty further recognized Mr. Lehenky’s dedication and contributions to the Township over the last 14 years. Ms. Proctor also added her gratitude to Mr. Lehenky, especially for his assistance with public works and special projects.

Ms. Sundquist advised that since the resignation is effective February 1, 2021, the Board of Supervisors have 30 days to fill the position. A candidate needs to have lived within the Township for one year, be a registered elector of the Township, and be 18 years of age or older. If the Board cannot appoint a Supervisor within the 30-day time limit, it would then go the Vacancy Board. She also noted that since the resignation was more than 60 days before the primary, the unexpired term would be on this year’s ballot; therefore, the appointee would serve until December 31, 2021, and the remaining two years of the term would be served by the person winning the general election in November.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Sundquist advised that she did not have any agenda items for this evening's meeting. At this time, Ms. Sundquist departed the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police – The December 2020 statistics had been forwarded to the Board today for their review.

Fire/EMS – Chief McWilliams reported that Westwood Fire Company responded to 19 calls in December, of which 13 were in Valley Township. Westwood Ambulance responded to 109 calls in December, of which 87 were in Valley Township. Stations 144 and 244 responded to 215 calls in December. Chief McWilliams reviewed the current situation on Valley Road with part of the road closed for the PAWC construction project with regards to mutual aid and positioning of their vehicles to be able to respond.

Emergency Management – No report.

Public Works – The written monthly report was provided to the Board of Supervisors and reviewed by Mr. Lenhart. He noted that the "No Truck" signs have been installed in the Westwood area as per the recently adopted ordinance. Mr. Lenhart also thanked Supervisor Lehenky for his service and dedication as the Roadmaster and Public Works liaison.

Administration – It was noted that January reports to DCED and other entities are being filed as required by deadlines. Janice Duca is busy filling in for the vacant Assistant Clerk position and doing all the utility billing posting and deposits.

Codes – Ms. Yates reviewed the December report which was eMailed out to the Board members this afternoon.

Workplace Safety Committee – Ms. O'Doherty reported that the Committee met on January 13, 2021, and reorganized for the year. In attendance at the meeting were newly appointed members Brian Myers and Officer John McNeil, along with Kathy O'Doherty.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Tom Burt reported on the Planning Commission meeting of January 12, 2021. He noted that the Planning Commission reorganized with Denny Bement being reappointed as Chair and Bruce Manning as Vice Chair. Mr. Burt reported that the Micronics America LLC resubmission was reviewed. In attendance from Micronics were Tom Tran, Doug Howe, and Jackson Hyde. It was noted that the applicants intend to comply with the areas of significance in Pennoni's comment letter dated January 8, 2021. With regards to their stormwater plan, some verification of numbers and amended soils are required. Currently, the plan has an extension to March 10, 2021.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Discussion/consideration to approve Financial Security Release #4 for G.A. Vietri in the amount of \$161,833.25 – Ms. O'Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to approve Financial Security Release #4 in the amount of \$161,833.25 for G.A. Vietri. The motion passed unanimously.

The Engineer's Report was distributed and is on file at the Township Office.

Mr. Ellis reviewed the following items from the written report:

- Township Municipal Complex – Pennoni provided a draft letter and concept sketch of proposed Lincoln Highway eastbound left turn lane restriping, guiderail, and access drive signage for the Township to submit to PennDOT to request a field meeting and traffic study for speed reduction. The letter will go out under the Township's signature. Pennoni also submitted recommendations regarding protection and enclosures for the exterior generator and HVAC equipment. He also noted that Gomez Excavating is to construct the detention basin underdrain at the end of January or as soon thereafter as the ground conditions are dry enough to allow. Mr. Ellis does not believe this will happen by the end of January. Ms. O'Doherty question if anything can be done around the east side detention basin or if anything could be cleared out. Mr. Ellis confirmed that was to be a drainage basin when the Maintenance Garage was built. Ms. O'Doherty noted that it would be nice to have some open space at the Municipal Complex and Ms. Yates noted even a need for a dog park. Mr. Ellis advised the dog park was identified during the Park and Open Space Comp Plan and was to hopefully be incorporated in the 7.5 acres of open space with the Valley Suburban Plan dedication.
- Pugh Property Drainage – Mr. Ellis noted that the City of Coatesville was award \$300,000 for Millview Basin Retrofit via DEP's Growing Greener grant program. It was a multi-municipal application between Coatesville and Valley for both the Millview Basin Retrofit (in Coatesville) and the outfall/swale reconstruction on Mr. Pugh's property (in Valley). The grant request was for \$401,826 with the overall estimated combined project cost of \$472,000. Coordination is needed with Coatesville to establish a path forward. Responses are due to DEP by Friday, January. The Board requested that a meeting be set up with Coatesville prior to Friday. Mr. Piersol stated that he would reach out to Coatesville's City Manager, Mr. Logan.
- Storm Sewer System – CWMP recently launched their new website at www.cwmp.org. As a CWMP partner, Mr. Ellis noted that we would have access to "Partner Resources" which contains several resources to help meet the Township's annual MS4 requirements.

At this time, Mr. Ellis departed the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion/consideration to extend Hill International Contract – After discussion, **Ms. O’Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyd, to table the decision to extend Hill International’s contract past January 31, 2021 to allow Mr. Piersol time to get up to speed with the project and what assistance would still be required by Hill International.** The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/consideration to accept fire sprinkler inspection proposal– **Ms. O’Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyd, to accept the fire sprinkler inspection proposal for one annual fire sprinkler inspection with certified backflow test; one semi-annual fire sprinkler inspection; and two quarterly fire sprinkler inspections in the amount of \$1,150.00.** The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to waive Contractor Insurance Registration fee for Mark A. Eckbold General Contracting - **Ms. O’Doherty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyd to waive the Contractor Insurance Registration fee for Mark A. Eckbold General Contracting contingent that he furnishes the Certificate of Insurance as required.** The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was properly adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Janis A. Rambo, Township Secretary