

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 2021

19376
A workshop meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman Henry on the above date at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center located at 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Board members present in addition to Mr. Henry were Robin Lindsey, Norman Zoumas, and Paul W. Navarro. Also in attendance were Bradley N. Gotshall, Township Manager, and Steve Stine, Township Solicitor.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Zoumas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement

Mr. Henry announced that the Board of Supervisors met in executive session before the meeting, and they would meet again afterward to discuss personnel matters.

Public Comment

Ashley Pollart, 4925 Colorado Avenue, asked Mr. Henry if the Supervisors had the opportunity to discuss and vote on the Bees and Chicken Ordinance. Mr. Henry explained that at the last meeting the Supervisors were instructed to provide feedback to Mr. Gotshall about their thoughts on changes to the Ordinance. He asked Mr. Gotshall to provide an update on the proposed changes to allow Township residents to keep chickens and beehives.

Mr. Gotshall reported that he has compiled a report based on the feedback he received from the Supervisors and there are some similarities and differences of opinion on the issue of keeping bees and hens. The similarities include quality of life issues, such as aesthetics, noise and smell, and the impact on the neighborhood, such as the number of animals or beehives being

kept. Also, the desire to support private property rights. Some of the differences of opinion were related to how to safely, efficiently, and effectively implement regulations that bolster these private property rights.

Mr. Gotshall noted that he would continue to work with the staff to present a draft Ordinance for the Board to consider which may include the similar opinions conveyed by the board members.

Mr. Henry announced that once there is a draft of an Ordinance, the Supervisors can have a public discussion. He asked the Board members if anyone objected to directing the staff to draft an Ordinance to discuss at a Workshop meeting. There was none.

Introduction of LPT PD's Mental Health Co-Responder Alexa Lorange

Adam Kosheba, Director of Public Safety, announced that the Co-Responder Program was implemented by the City of Harrisburg back in May 2019, they hired a mental health co-responder and a floating co-responder that the Township's Police Department shared with two other Municipalities. Since the inception of this program, there has been some success and it became important to continue the program.

Mr. Kosheba thanked the Supervisors for their support of this new co-responder position which is in part funded by Dauphin County and supplemental funding provided by the Township. He introduced Ashley Yinger, Program Administrator, Dauphin County District Attorney's Office.

Ashley Yinger, Program Administrator, Dauphin County District Attorney's Office announced that the work she does focuses on behavioral health initiatives. The Co-Responder Program evolved from the Dauphin County Stepping Up initiative which is a national initiative to reduce the number of individuals in prison who have a serious mental illness. She provided an overview of her responsibilities at the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office.

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Ms. Yinger announced that back in 2016, representatives of Dauphin County worked with the Council of State Government to evaluate the existing conditions in the prisons, such as the number of individuals in Dauphin County Prison with a serious mental illness and their length of stay. Through that analysis, they discovered that the number of individuals with a serious mental illness who were incarcerated was much higher than those who did not have a serious mental illness, and most of them were non-violent offenders. After this evaluation, they made multiple recommendations, and the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office was able to implement most of the recommendations. The Crisis Intervention Training (CIS) program is one recommendation; this is a 40-hour basic training model geared towards law enforcement including Correction Officers and Probation Officers to help them identify individuals with mental health issues as well as some de-escalation tactics. To date, 121 police officers in Dauphin County have been trained. The co-responder is another recommendation in Dauphin County's Stepping-Up initiative. They created the co-responder position which is a mental health professional embedded in the Police Department and their primary focus is mental health. The co-responders help officers respond to calls involving individuals with a mental health and/or substance use disorder. The co-responders assist with calls where behavioral health might be the underlying factor for individuals at risk of arrest. The co-responders can be dispatched along with law enforcement officers on these calls or follow up with individuals to provide an assessment or referral for services

Ms. Yinger introduced Alex Lorance, Co-Responder for the Township's Police Department. Ms. Lorance provided an overview of her day-to-day responsibilities working with the Township's Police Department in conjunction with Dauphin County's Crisis Intervention Team. The goal is to provide support and referral information to individuals experiencing an emotional crisis or difficulty in coping with a personal problem.

Action on a Proposal for ARP Accounting & Advising Services from Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC

Robert Taylor, Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC was present to answer questions about the proposal.

Mr. Navarro motioned to approve the Proposal for ARP Accounting and Advising Services from Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC, for \$55,000.00. Mr. Judd seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a roll call vote.

Mrs. Lindsey voted nay, Mr. Zoumas voted aye, Mr. Judd vote aye, Mr. Navarro voted aye, and Mr. Henry voted aye. The vote was (4:1) four to one to approve the proposal with Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC for \$55,000.00.

Action on the Mutual Release and Settlement of All Claims Agreement with CRW

Mr. Henry announced that the motion made last week for the Mutual Release and Settlement of All Claims Agreement with CRW must be corrected.

Mrs. Lindsey made a motion to amend the vote to approve the Mutual Release and Settlement of All Claims Agreement with CRW for \$1,900,587.00. Mr. Zoumas seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous to approve the Mutual Release and Settlement of All Claims Agreement with CRW for \$1,900,587.00.

Announcements

Mrs. Lindsey announced that the Township's Parks and Recreation Department will host a Yard Sale on Saturday, April 17, 2021, at George Park.

Mr. Henry announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021, beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Zoumas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Judd seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Shellie R. Smith
Recording Secretary

Approved by,



Chris Judd
Secretary