

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Minutes of Board Meeting held on May 5, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Lowman S. Henry, on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township, Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Supervisors present in addition to Mr. Henry were Gary A. Crissman, Robin Lindsey Chris Judd, and Norman Zoumas. Also, in attendance was Bradley Gotshall, Township Manager, and Steve Stine, Township Solicitor.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Zoumas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2020, and April 21, 2020. Ms. Lindsey seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Announcements

Mr. Henry announced that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session before the meeting to receive information from the staff, and they would meet afterward to receive information from the Township's staff.

Public Comment

Mr. Henry announced that there would be no in-service public comment due to the Shelter in Place Order, the Municipal Building is closed to the public. Anyone wishing to contact the Board members may send an email message or call the Township Manager.

Chairman and Board Member's Comments

Mr. Henry announced that on Monday, the Township received a new roof for the bocce ball courts at Koons Park, and the Public Works staff are preparing to install that roof.

Manager's Report

Mr. Gotshall reported on the Township's self-response rate for the U.S. Census. This response rate is the rate at which the Township's residents have responded to the U.S. Census. As of Monday, May 4, 2020, that rate is at 68%; West Hanover Township is in first place with the county currently. He reminded the Township residents to keep filling out the Census forms or signing on to the website to respond to the Census if they have not already done so.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation and action on Ordinance 20-04; authorizing the incurring of a nonelectoral debt by issuing general obligation bonds

Mr. Henry mentioned that the Board's agenda is posted every Friday at the close of business. Mr. Judd added that the Township had added a new feature to the website, allowing residents to submit comments or concerns for each agenda item.

Jay Wenger, SGA (via teleconference) summarized Ordinance 20-04. This Ordinance is a parameter Ordinance, which is a form of approval that has been used by the Township in the past. This Ordinance has been written as not to exceed 36,000,000 million dollars, and the Bond issuance is not expected to exceed 29,000,000 million dollars. Although a higher amount has been advertised, General Obligation Bonds are calculated at the Level Debt Service over 30 years, and the annual debt would be approximately 1,000,450 dollars. Susquehanna Group Advisors (SGA) will begin the rating process on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, if the Board adopts the Ordinance. This Bond issuance should not affect the Township's current rating.

Mr. Crissman mentioned that he is concerned about the Township Authority's 2021 Budget with the current situation and the revenues coming into the Township in 2021. Mr. Crissman asked Mr. Wenger if the amortization schedule for the 1,000,450.00 dollars could be extended beyond 30 years. Mr. Wenger explained that half of the funds could be re-amortized for a subsequent 29 years, and the increase per year would not be substantial. Mr. Judd asked Mr. Wenger if repayment of the Bond Issuance has been included in the Authority's Budget. Mr. Wenger explained that repayment of the funds was included in the Authority's Budget. Mr. Crissman noted that the 2021 Budget had not been adopted yet. Mr. Henry explained that repayment of the Bond had been budgeted because of the Consent Decree, and the long-term plan includes this borrowing. Additionally, the sewer rates will not increase in 2021, which will assist those residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Judd noted that the Township is always borrowing and repaying money to rebuild and expand the entire sewer system infrastructure.

Mr. Wenger advised the Board that based on the current estimates and this borrowing, which is being called Option 2, there is no rate increase projected for 2021, and a modest increase is projected for 2022 of 3.3%.

Ms. Lindsey asked Mr. Weaver if the funds have been earmarked for specific projects. Mr. Weaver explained that money had been budgeted for some time. The 29,000,000.00 dollars is part of 148,000,000.00 million dollars needed to finish the projects planned in the Consent Decree. The funds have been budgeted out into the future for some time now. GHD has provided a rate analysis to the Authority Board, and this analysis will be presented to the Board at the next meeting scheduled for May 25, 2020. This 29,000,000.00 is part of the Beaver Creek, Paxton Creek, and Spring Creek projects and the Budget will be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Crissman asked Mr. Wenger to provide a different payment structure beyond the 30-year repayment schedule. Mr. Wenger explained that the Ordinance should be deferred and revised if Mr. Crissman would like to see a different payment structure.

Mr. Crissman requested that the repayment schedule is presented on paper. Mr. Weaver assured Mr. Crissman that the repayment schedule, debt payoff, and rate increases over time would be included in the presentation at the meeting scheduled for May 26, 2020. He noted that because the Board chose to keep level debt, it was not advantageous to push the debt out 40 years because the debt was already wrapped at the back end. A lot of debt will expire in 2036 and 2037, along with the reserve of 19.5 million dollars that the Board has chosen to use to offset rates to pay this debt. Thus, the reason there is no rate increase scheduled next year.

Mr. Wenger offered to send Mr. Gotshall a summary of all the current debt and repayment schedule and debt service, rate schedule before the Authority meeting scheduled for May 26, 2020.

Ms. Lindsey asked Mr. Wenger for clarification as to why two underwriters are working on the Bond Issuance. Mr. Henry explained he prefers two underwriters as advisors for the Bond Issuance. Mr. Wenger added that both RBC and Boenning & Scattergood are referenced in the Ordinance as a team.

Mr. Crissman inquired about the Township's credit rating review. Mr. Wenger explained that he is not anticipating any change to the Township's rating. However, SGA has a backup plan; they would purchase Bond Insurance Policy to bring the Township back up to the A.A. rating if necessary.

Mr. Crissman mentioned that the Township Authority is borrowing 29 million dollars, and the document indicates 36 million dollars.

Mr. Wenger explained that the document is written to ensure that the State requirements have been met so that SGA does not have to return to the Board for a second approval. The final Bond Purchase agreement will have precise numbers; the 36 million dollars is just to conform to state law.

Mr. Zoumas asked Mr. Stine if he had reviewed Ordinance 20-04 and the agreement. Mr. Stine indicated that he had reviewed the agreement, and everything is in order.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-04, authorizing the incurring of a nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation bonds. Mr. Judd seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Action on a Participant Release Agreement with Big Fish Entertainment LLC,

Mr. Gotshall reviewed the Participant Release Agreement with Big Fish Entertainment. The agreement acts as a waiver of liability for two K-9 Officers in the Police Department to partake in a training program. Mr. Stine has reviewed this agreement, and staff recommends approval. He noted that the motion should authorize the Director of Public Safety to execute a participant release agreement for the K-9 Unit's involvement in this training program.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the Participant Release Agreement with Big Fish Entertainment LLC, which authorizes the Director of Public Safety to execute a participant release agreement for the K-9 Unit's involvement in this training program. Mr. Zoumas seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Presentation and Action on Resolution 20-15; authorizing the execution of a lease finance agreement with Santander Municipal Finance for 2020 Ford Explorers

Mr. Gotshall presented Resolution 20-15, which authorizes the Township to enter a lease finance agreement with Santander Municipal Finance to lease two 2020 Ford Explorers for the Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department.

The lease for the Police Department's vehicle will be paid for using the recent Auto Theft Insurance Fraud agreement between the Township and Pennsylvania State Police. The lease for the Parks & Recreation Department's vehicle was not included in the Township's 2020 Budget; however, the 2008 Ford Explorer did not pass the State Inspection, which has a few mechanical issues. This lease payment will be covered by the sale of an excess of surplus junk vehicles from the Public Works Department, and if there is a balance left over, it can be covered by the Township's General Fund.

Mr. Crissman noted that the Resolution does not reference two vehicles; it references just one vehicle. Mr. Stine explained that the motion should include the amendment to make the Resolution include two vehicles.

Mr. Crissman motioned to approve Resolution 20-15 authorizing the execution of a Finance Agreement with Santander Commercial Equipment Vehicle Finance Municipal Finance for a 2020 Ford Explorer AWD, contingent upon additional Ford Explorers. Mr. Judd seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Action on Ordinance 20-03; Amending Chapter 196, Vehicles and Traffic, to enact certain restrictions on truck tractors and trailers.

Mr. Stine reported that Ordinance 20-03, which amends Chapter 196 of the Township's Codified Ordinances, was done because of some tractor-trailers parking on a parcel of land located on Union Deposit Road.

Mr. Stine noted that there is no need for the public hearing because no one is present to comment. Technically, Ordinances that are not Zoning or Land Development do not require a public hearing anyway. However, the Township has done so traditionally.

Mr. Crissman motioned to approve Ordinance 20-03, which amends Chapter 196 Vehicles and Traffic to enact certain restrictions on truck tractors and trailers.

Mr. Zoumas seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

Subdivision and Land Development

Improvement Guarantees

Mr. Crissman motioned to the Improvement Guarantees for 100 Tech Drive, Stray Winds Farm, Phase 5B, and Blue Ridge Village, Phase 1. Ms. Lindsey seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

Payment of Bills – Lower Paxton Township & Lower Paxton Township Authority

Ms. Lindsey made a motion to pay the bills for the Township and Authority. Mr. Zoumas seconded the motion. Mr. Henry called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Announcements

Mr. Henry announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Crissman motioned, to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Zoumas seconded the motion. Mr. Henry adjourned the meeting for the Lower Paxton Township at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shellie R. Smith
Recording Secretary

Approved by,



Chris Judd,
Secretary