

**East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors**

**September 24, 2019**

**Regular Business Meeting Minutes**

The regular business meeting of the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00p.m. on September 24, 2019 following the 2020 Preliminary Budget review in the Township meeting room at the East Rockhill Township Municipal Building, 1622 North Ridge Road, Perkasie, PA 18944.

|          |                   |                       |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Present: | Gary Volovnik     | Chairperson           |
|          | David Nyman       | Vice-Chairperson      |
|          | Marianne Morano   | Township Manager      |
|          | John Rice, Esq.   | Township Solicitor    |
|          | Steve Baluh, P.E. | Township Engineer     |
|          | Jeff Scholl       | Public Works Director |

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Mr. Volovnik with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements**

An executive session will follow the regular meeting for litigation and real estate.

**Public Comment #1**

- Todd Hippauff, 29R Rockhill Road, asked for clarification on DEP stays as posted to the Township website today. Mr. Rice responded that the Township has two DEP appeals pending. The property is under a DEP cessation order while naturally occurring asbestos is investigated. Because revised permits are anticipated resources dedicated to an unknown outcome is not viable. Once DEP has lifted the cessation order litigation would resume. Only thing stopping Quarry from operating is DEP not appeals. It was noted that Bog Run, a tributary to Quakertown Swamp, has been reclassified to exceptional value and it is very unusual for DEP to have a cessation on a quarry for ten months.
- Ryan Gottshall, 2201 North Rockhill Road, asked what the Township will gain by staying appeals. As noted to first public comment to conserve resources and to not prepare for a hearing when amended permits are anticipated. Mr. Gottshall asked for the status of District Court trial date. A new date has not been scheduled. Mr. Gottshall asked additional questions regarding the asphalt plant use active litigation. Mr. Rice stated that the Township will not publicly discuss litigation and it does not help the Township's case to do so publicly.

**Approval of Minutes and Bills Payable:**

**Approval of Minutes from August 27, 2019 Regular Meeting.**

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to adopt the meeting minutes from the Board of Supervisors' August 27, 2019 Regular Meeting. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Payment of Unpaid Bills dated September 20, 2019 in the amount of \$301,310.60**

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve payment of Bills List dated September 20, 2019 in the amount of \$301,310.60. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Pennridge Community Center Report: David Nyman**

Mr. Nyman noted the September – October newsletter was available for the public. Of note, the 2020 budget review is underway which is anticipated to be on the next Supervisor agenda. Mr. Nyman noted that he and Mr. Volovnik donate Supervisor wage to the Community Center which is greatly appreciated. **On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nyman, to approve the Pennridge Community Center Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report: David Nyman**

The August 26, 2019 Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority draft minutes and July 2019 flows are on file. Mr. Nyman noted at the September meeting the 2020 budget was approved with an operating and capital budget increase which will impact the East Rockhill 2020 budget. A draft letter regarding inflow and infiltration was provided to Mr. Scholl and Mrs. Morano and a Borough of Sellersville Ordinance that requires inspection of sewer laterals with the resale of properties was provided to Mrs. Morano. **On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nyman, to approve the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Pennridge Regional Police Commission Report: Sergeant Maloney**

Sergeant Maloney shared the August 2019 Pennridge Regional Police activity report. The report is on file. **On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the Police Commission Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Township Manager's Report: Marianne Morano**

**Presentation of the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the Township Pension Plans.** Received and distributed to the Supervisors for review.

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to acknowledge receipt of the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Conditional Use Application Perkasio Regional Authority 1503 Park Avenue.** Consensus of the Board was to advertise the hearing for October 22, 2019.

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the Township Manager Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Public Works Report: Jeff Scholl**

Mr. Scholl updated the Board on Public Works activities for August, 2019. Of note, 35 ash street trees will be removed in the Pines of Pennridge and Country Hunt development over the winter; East Rockhill works with neighboring municipalities Richland Township and Hilltown Township and assists Perkasio Borough and West Rockhill Township as needed. The report is on file.

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the Township Public Works Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Engineer Report: Steve Baluh, P.E.**

**Municipal Office Bid Documentation.** Original bids specs were revised and the scope of the project reduced for the municipal office addition and renovation. Bid results have been received totaling \$753,521 for the base bid and \$771,456 for the base bid plus alternate. It was noted this was \$25,500 less than the first bid amount.

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to reject the bids for the municipal office addition and renovation project as presented. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve placing the municipal office addition and renovation project out for bid using a hybrid of the original scope of the project, extending the deadline for project completion, inserting value engineering and notifying local contractors. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Wood's Edge Subdivision Release of Escrow Voucher #9 Pennridge Airport Business Park Release of Escrow Voucher #2.**

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve Authorization Voucher Number 9 for the Wood's Edge Subdivision in the amount of \$302.83 for construction observation/escrow administration for the period of June 22, 2019 to August 23, 2019 payable to C. Robert Wynn Associates, Inc. and to approve Authorization Voucher Number 2 for the Pennridge Airport Business Park in the amount of \$110,652.06 for site prep, E&S, earthwork and storm drainage payable to Pennridge Development Enterprises, Inc. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Subdivision Plan Review Status.** Review dated September 6, 2019 is in the Board's packets. No action is necessary.

**Creekside Independent Living.** A letter for the withdrawal of the Creekside Independent Living Plan per Mease Engineering letter dated February 1, 2019 as signed by Robert Mager has been received. The Township Solicitor has requested additional verbiage be added to the letter. No action was taken.

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nyman, to accept the Township Engineer report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Solicitor Report: John Rice, Esq.**

**General Obligation Note Proposals.**

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to accept Quakertown National Bank proposal for seven years up to \$250,000 at 2.95% as presented. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to accept the Township Solicitor report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Department and Emergency Services Reports**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nyman, to acknowledge receipt of the Department and Service Reports. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor. Copies are on file.

**New or Other Business – Supervisors’ Items**

There was none.

**Public Comment #2:**

- Josh Scheider, 754 E. Rockhill Road, asked about the Rock Hill Quarry expenses and the 2020 preliminary budget review. Mr. Nyman noted as of the last report received we were at 62% of the year but expenses were at 78%; the two mil increase totals about \$150,000 but \$186,000 has been expended to date in 2019 for Rock Hill Quarry; discussion was to not raise taxes again and Township tries to maintain 10% in reserves.
- Ryan Gottshall, 2201 N. Rockhill Road, stated that he understands the quarry fight is expensive but asked why taxes were raised and why taxes are not raised for proposed building project. It was explained that monies for the building project do not come out of the general fund, i.e. they will be expended from capital improvement, building debt and capital reserve. Monies can only be spent according to the way monies were received.
- Kim Gottshall, 2201 N. Rockhill Road, asked if the modular addition was feasible. The architect has advised that it is not. Ms. Gottshall stated that the trial date has not been set related to asphalt plant use, but questioned if a status conference took place on May 15, 2019. Yes.

**Adjournment**

**On motion** by Mr. Nyman, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to adjourn into Executive Session. With no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Morano  
Township Manager