

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, June 15, 2020, at the Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, New Britain Township, PA, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Present were Supervisors: Chair William B. Jones, III, Vice-Chair Helen B. Haun, Members Gregory T. Hood, Cynthia M. Jones, and MaryBeth McCabe, Esq. Also present were Township Manager Eileen M. Bradley, the Township Solicitor Peter Nelson, Esq., and Township Engineer Craig Kennard.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Jones called the Meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Jones led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Announcements:** Mr. Jones announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to this Meeting discuss land acquisition and litigation.
4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Mr. Gene Dolan of Indian Creek Way asked why PennDOT surveyors for the Bristol Road Extension were looking at the intersection of Indian Creek Way and Park Avenue. Ms. Bradley stated that while no major work was currently proposed for the intersection, the project might involve minor widening or striping. No plans had been drawn up yet.

Ms. Maryanne McBrearty of Dolly Lane asked the Board for an update on 113 Dolly Lane. Mr. Nelson stated that the Township had filed the necessary paperwork with the Court and was waiting for the homeowner to be served notice by the Court. He stated the Township had received permission from the homeowner to clean up the trash and mow the grass. Ms. Bradley added that the Township was in the process of obtaining estimates for cleanup and grass cutting.

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1. Minutes of Meeting of May 18, 2020:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Hood, and approved on a vote of four to one (Ms. McCabe opposed), to accept the May 18, 2020 Minutes as written.

5.2. Minutes of Meeting of June 1, 2020:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mrs. Jones, and unanimously approved to accept the June 1, 2020 Minutes as written.

6. Departmental Reports:

6.1. Code Department Report for May 2020: Ms. Bradley presented the Code Department Report for May 2020.

6.2. Police Department Report for May 2020: Ms. Bradley presented the Police Department Report for May 2020.

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Mrs. Jones stated that she was happy with Chief Scafidi's statement about George Floyd and the issues affecting our country.

6.3. Public Works Department Report for May 2020: Ms. Bradley presented the Public Works Department Report for May 2020.

7. Consideration of Old Business: There was no Old Business at this time.

8. Consideration of New Business:

8.1. Debt Refinancing Award: Ms. Bradley stated that the Township had received several favorable proposals from various banks and introduced Jamie Schlesinger of PFM Financial Advisors, who joined the meeting via Zoom, to present the proposals. Mr. Schlesinger stated that he was pleased with the proposals he received, and J.P. Morgan Chase submitted the most favorable proposal, with a fixed interest rate of 1.24% and the option to prepay or refinance in February 2026 (Option B of the Chase proposal). The proposal would provide the Township with \$304,307 cash to put toward capital projects and would still save the Township \$38,532 in debt service over the life of the loan. The bond market would not yield an equitable proposal.

Ms. Bradley pointed out that this refinancing would consolidate older variable debt with Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority as well as the fixed debt from First National Bank of Newtown. Staff supported Mr. Schlesinger's recommendation.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Hood, seconded by Mrs. Haun, and unanimously approved, to accept the J.P. Morgan Chase proposal Option B at a rate of 1.24%, and authorized Mr. Jones to execute all associated documents.

8.2. Authorize Advertisement of General Obligation Debt Ordinance: Mr. Nelson stated that a special Board Meeting was needed on June 22, 2020, to adopt the General Obligation Debt Ordinance. He stated that the Meeting would be advertised to be held via Zoom. Ms. Bradley added that no action was needed by the Board at this time and that the advertisement for the Special Meeting would be placed to inform residents.

9. Consent Agenda:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Ms. McCabe, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda item: Payment Application #6 for Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. for the Traffic Signal System at County Line Road and New Britain Boulevard for \$27,615.06, leaving zero dollars remaining. The release is recommended pending receipt of Consent of Surety, Operations Insurance for two years, and 15% Maintenance Bond.

10. Board of Supervisors' Comments: Mrs. Haun stated that she bought cookies from the Milk House for our Police Officers to thank them for their hard work.

Ms. McCabe stated that she received a letter from Beth Taylor praising Chief Scafidi and the New Britain Township Police Department for their excellent work.

Mrs. Jones thanked residents in attendance for wearing masks and social distancing during the meeting.

11. Township Administration Comments:

11.1. Service Awards: Ms. Bradley stated that she was pleased to request execution of three Service Awards for employees: Thirty-Year Service Award to William May of the Public Works Department, Ten-Year Service Award to Police Officer Brian Jones, and Five-Year Service Award to Louis Gentner, IV also of the Public Works Department. The Board thanked them for their service.

11.2. DeLan Zoning Hearing: Ms. Bradley stated that on Thursday, June 18, the Zoning Hearing Board would consider during a virtual meeting the application and/or appeal of Gregory and Michelle DeLan, 159 King Road, TMP #26-004-098-001, in the WS Watershed District. The applicant proposed the construction of an inground swimming pool and related improvements and sought variances for impervious surface ratio. Interested parties were encouraged to attend. The Board took no action on this application.

11.3. Health Insurance RSF Reopened: Ms. Bradley stated that the Delaware Valley Health Trust (DVHT) had adopted a policy to reopen the Rate Stabilization Fund determinations for 2020, to allow members to take any remaining funds to assist in the economic hardships presented by the COVID-19 crisis. The goal was to allow municipalities to offset some of their lost revenues by reducing expense costs. She was presenting the option to the Board but was recommending at this time that those funds remain untouched for possible use in 2021.

11.4. July 6 Meeting Status: Ms. Bradley asked that the Board consider cancellation of the Board of Supervisors' Meeting of July 6, as per longstanding policy of one meeting per summer month.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mrs. Jones, and carried unanimously, to cancel the Board of Supervisors Meeting scheduled for July 6.

12. Solicitor and Engineer Comments: Mr. Nelson stated that the Board would soon be receiving a draft Omnibus Ordinance for their consideration. These were typically done once a year or so when Staff found problems with existing ordinances. He stated the ordinance would update the sign ordinance, make assorted corrections, and loosen some of the impervious restrictions in the Watershed District. The goal was to have a draft ordinance in front of the Planning Commission by the beginning of July, with enactment sometime in September.

Ms. McCabe asked if loosening impervious restrictions would have any impact on stormwater facilities. Mr. Nelson stated that the stormwater was overdesigned in the development phase. The loosening would allow property owners to enhance their properties. Currently, the developers use up nearly all the allowable impervious, forcing homeowners to request variances.

There were no Engineer Comments at this time.

13. Other Business: There was no Other Business at this time.

14. Public Comment: Mr. Jim Frantz of Dolly Lane asked Mr. Nelson for a time frame for resolution of the 113 Dolly Lane property issues. Mr. Nelson stated that the legal process would take longer due to COVID-19 and courts being closed, but he was hopeful for a hearing by the end of July or beginning of August but could not guarantee that to be the case. Ms. Bradley added that the Township was in the process of obtaining quotes for the work. Once a price was finalized, cleaning would begin.

Mr. Frantz asked if the Township would consider putting up no parking signs along 116 Dolly Lane, where a row of arbor vitae blocked the line of sight. Ms. Bradley stated that this was in the process of being done but was put on hold due to COVID. Mr. Nelson added that for signs to be enforceable, the Township would need to enact an ordinance. That process could take a month or two.

Ms. Kelly Kauffman of Dolly Lane asked the Board to provide notice to neighbors of advancements made on the 113 Dolly timeline. Mr. Nelson stated that all the neighbors would receive a notification when a Court date was set. He would need residents to attend the hearing, to put a face to the effect this property had on the community.

Ms. McBrearty asked if the vegetation was going to be removed. Ms. Bradley stated that the removal of the vegetation was included in the request for a quote.

Ms. McBrearty asked if the Township was going to address the rodent and animal issues. Mr. Nelson stated that the Township only had permission to clean up the trash and vegetation at this time. Ms. Bradley said that the Township was seeking a quote for extermination services to be ready to act as soon as permission was given by the Court or the homeowner. She added that the trash and vegetation would need to be cleaned up before any exterminator would address the rodents and other animals on the property.

15. Payment of Bills:

15.1. Bills List dated June 4, 2020 for \$12,319.34:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Ms. McCabe, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated June 4, 2020 for \$12,319.34.

15.2. Bills List dated June 9, 2020 for \$137,195.34:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Haun seconded by Ms. McCabe, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated June 9, 2020 for \$137,195.34.

15.3. Bills List dated June 11, 2020 for \$81,819.04:

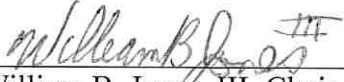
MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Hood seconded by Mrs. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated June 11, 2020 for \$81,819.04.

16. Adjournment:

MOTION: There being no further business or comment, a motion was made by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Hood, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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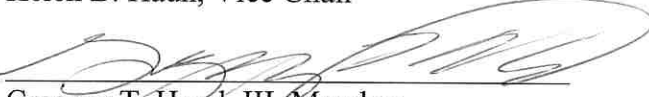
NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



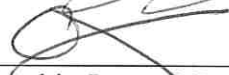
William B. Jones, III, Chair



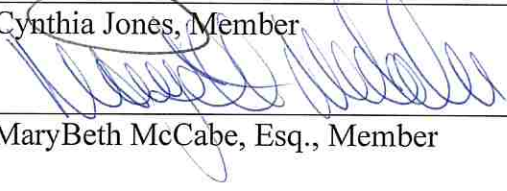
Helen B. Haun, Vice Chair




Gregory T. Hood, III, Member



Cynthia Jones, Member



MaryBeth McCabe, Esq., Member

Attest: 

Eileen M. Bradley
Secretary/Manager

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