

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2023**

A Regular Business Meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, December 4, 2023, 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 Stephanie Shortall, Members Gregory Hood, Cynthia M. Jones, and Marybeth McCabe, Esq. Also, present were Township Interim Manager John Granger, Township Engineer Craig Kennard, P.E., and Township Solicitor Sean Gresh.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Jones called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Jones led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Chair Comments:**
 - A. Mr. Jones stated the Board met in Executive Session before the meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.
4. **Action Items:** There were no action items at this time.
5. **Presentation Items:**
 - A. 2024 Final Budget: Mr. Granger stated that the 2024 Preliminary Budget provided for no tax increase, a 3.5% wage increase for township personnel and approximately \$1.9 million in investments to township facilities.
6. **Subdivision/ Land Development Projects:**
 - A. None at this time
7. **Zoning Hearing Board Applications**
 - A. 545 W Butler Avenue: Mr. Hood motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jones that the township should oppose this application. Mr. Gresh stated that the application identified two (2) variances. He recommended that the Board oppose the application. Following a discussion, the Board unanimously approved the motion to oppose the application.
 - B. 756 N Limekiln Pike: Mr. Gresh stated that the matter has been continued at the meeting to permit the township to reply to an issue that the applicant raised at the first hearing. He will continue the Board's decision to oppose the application.
7. **Information Items**
 - A. Departmental Updates
 - i. Administration: No report.
 - ii. Engineering:
 1. Zoning and Subdivision/Land Development amendments #1:
Mr. Kennard stated that his firm is following the direction of the Board to prepare a single omnibus amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. They will prepare four separate amendments to be discussed by the Board once there is consensus among the Board, he will prepare an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and an amendment to the Subdivision and Land Development. Both ordinances will need to be modified at some time.

He has prepared a proposed amendment to the Natural Resources, Buffer Planting & Specimen Tree regulations.

The proposals reflect comments that have been made over the years by the Board members and staff.

There was a brief discussion among Board members with respect to what constitutes a specimen tree and the issue of property rights versus protecting natural resources.

The Board had no further comments at this time. Mr. Kennard stated that the Board could forward comments directly to him. The Board would also have an opportunity to comment on this proposal when all the proposed amendments are reviewed by the Board in early 2024. Mr. Kennard stated that the next proposed amendments will address traffic and parking regulations.

- iii. Police: No action was taken at this time.
- iv. Public Works: No action was taken at this time.
- v. Parks & Recreation: No action was taken at this time.
- vi. Finance: No action was taken at this time.

B. Board Comments

- i. Mrs. Jones thanked Mr. Hood for his service to the township and wished him well. Ms. McCabe echoed Mrs. Jones comments and wished Mr. Hood well. Mrs. Shortall thanked Mr. Hood for mentoring her as supervisors as well as for his service to the township. Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Hood for his service as supervisor, for his ten years as a member of the Township Planning Commission and for his work on land preservation. Mr. Hood stated that his more than twenty years' service to the township has been very satisfying and that he will remain active in the community.
- ii. Ms. McCabe asked why this resolution was before the Board. Mr. Granger stated that the resolution specifically states what invoices can be paid prior to a Board meeting.
- iii. Mr. Gresh reviewed the history behind this matter and reviewed the law that enables the program. The township would be able to recoup court costs should any solicitor request a hearing.

8. Action Items

- A. Motion to consider payment of bills, dated December 1, 2023 in the amount of \$241,653.81.

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mrs. Shortall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the payment of bills dated December 1, 2023 in the amount of \$241,653.81.

- B. Motion to consider Resolution 2023-26: 2024 Final Budget

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mrs. Jones and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-26: 2024 Final Budget

- C. Motion to consider Resolution 2023-27: 2024 Tax Levy

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Shortall and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-27: 2024 Tax Levy.

D. Motion to consider Resolution 2023-28: 2024 Fund Balance Policy

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Shortall and seconded by Mrs. Jones and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-28: Fund Balance Policy.

E. Motion to consider Resolution 2023-29: 2024 First Responder Recruitment & Retention

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Hood and seconded by Mrs. Shortall and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-29: First Responder Recruitment & Retention.

F. Motion to consider accepting proposal from Hough Associates to collect Residential and Commercial Recycling Data and to prepare 904 Recycling Grant application for a three (3) year period (2023-2025)

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mrs. Jones and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposal from Hough Associates to collect Residential and Commercial Recycling Data and to prepare 904 Recycling Grant application for a three (3) year period (2023-2025).

G. Motion to consider accepting proposal from The Meyner Center for the study of State and Local Government to undertake a recruitment search for the position of Township Manager

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mrs. Jones and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposal from The Meyner Center for the study of State and Local Government to undertake a recruitment search for the position of Township Manager.

H. Motion to consider Resolution 2023-30: Authorizing payment of certain disbursements that may become due and payable prior to a regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Hood, seconded by Mrs. Shortall and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution 2023-30: Authorizing payment of certain disbursements that may become due and payable prior to a regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting.

I. Motion to consider approving the agreement with the Central Bucks School District to enforce violations of 75 Pa. C.A.A. Section 3345, captured using an automated stop signal arm enforcement system (Bus Patrol System)

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mr. Hood and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agreement with the Central Bucks School District to enforce violations of 75 Pa. C.A.A. Section 3345, captured using an automated stop signal arm enforcement system (Bus Patrol System).

- J. Motion to consider approving change order number 2 for the Neshaminy Trail project in the amount of \$108,989.95 do to unsuitable soils

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hood and unanimously carried, the Board approved change order number 2 for the Neshaminy Trail project in the amount of \$108,989.95 do to unsuitable soils.

- K. Motion to consider closing all Township offices at 12:00 PM, on Friday, December 22, 2023

MOTION: Upon motion by Ms. McCabe, seconded by Mrs. Shortall and unanimously carried, the Board approved closing all Township offices at 12:00 PM, on Friday, December 22, 2023.

- L. Motion to consider closing all Township offices at 1:00 PM, on Friday, December 29, 2023.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Shortall, seconded by Mrs. Jones and unanimously carried, the Board approved closing all Township offices at 1:00 PM, on Friday, December 29, 2023.

- M. Motion to consider the cancellation of the December 18, 2023, Business Meeting.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Hood, seconded by Mrs. Jones and unanimously carried, the Board approved cancellation of the December 18, 2023, Business Meeting.

9. Public Comment:

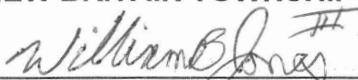
1. Mr. Fisher thanked Mr. Hood for his services to the township. He stated that the agenda for the meeting was not posted on the web. Brigette Kunikorn stated that the agenda should be posted on the website. She stated that the Board should respect the rights of property owners when proposing regulations.

7. **Announcements:** Mr. Jones announced that the Board's next meeting was on Tuesday, January 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. and called for a motion to adjourn.

8. Adjournment:

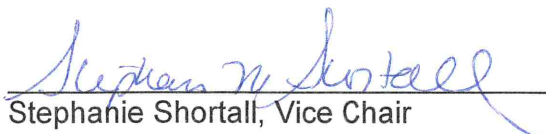
MOTION: There being no further business or comment, a motion was made by Mr. Hood, seconded by Ms. McCabe, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

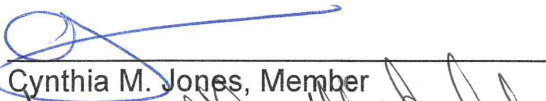


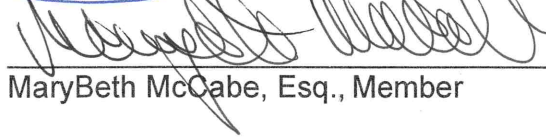
William B. Jones, III, Chair


170232


Stephanie Shortall, Vice Chair

Gregory T. Hood, Member


Cynthia M. Jones, Member


MaryBeth McCabe, Esq., Member

Attest: 

John Granger
Township Interim Manager



170232

