

**East Pikeland Township  
Board of Supervisors Meeting  
February 6, 2018**

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at the Township Building, 1158 Rapps Dam Road, Kimberton. Present were Chairman Ron Graham, Vice Chairman Rusty Strauss, Supervisor Ben Campbell and Township Manager Kim Moretti.

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**Presentation**

VFW Post 1564 of Phoenixville presented a check for \$11,000 to Chief Wilson and Sargent Heyman of the Police Department. This donation will be used to purchase a surveillance system to be installed at the township building to create a “safe zone” for the exchange of goods or custody exchange. Additional portable cameras will allow the department to monitor other locations in the township where there has been criminal activity.

**Minutes**

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to approve the January 2, 2018 Reorganization minutes and the January 2, 2018 Board of Supervisors minutes. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion, but asked that a date typo be corrected. With no further comments the minutes were unanimously approved, as amended.

**Correspondence**

Mrs. Moretti explained several items of correspondence:

A letter was received from PennDOT in response to the township’s request to consider installing lighting on the Rapps Dam Covered Bridge in order to make it safer for pedestrian or bicycle crossings. While Rapps Dam is a township road, the bridge is owned and maintained by PennDOT. PennDOT’s response was that pedestrian use of the bridge should not be encouraged or promoted. However, if the township wishes to pursue a lighting project it would have to go through a process of studies and reviews. PennDOT suggested that anyone trying to access the French Creek Trailhead should drive to the parking area and walk from there.

A notice was received from Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. and Phoenixville Borough about a joint filing with the PA Utility Commission for the sale of the Phoenixville water system within East Pikeland Township boundaries. That water system is located along Schuylkill Road from Township Line Road to the Burger King and includes the Covered Bridge Crossing townhome community as well as the commercial properties along Schuylkill Road. The water system and fire hydrants will be owned and maintained by Aqua when the sale is finalized.

A letter was received from Senator Andy Dinniman providing an update on the Congressional Redistricting process.

A letter was received from residents Thomas and Marie Sholl of Merlin Road asking the Board of Supervisors to support the Altair Eco Village proposal.

### **Department Reports**

Public Works – Al Cushman gave an overview of Public Works Department activities for 2017, including major and minor projects, snow removal statistics, recycling yard statistics and training programs that the crew participated in.

Township Manager – Mrs. Moretti gave an overview of 2017 activities for the Administrative department. She reported that the General Fund ended the year with a net income of just over \$277,000. The balance of all funds at the end of December was \$11.5M. During January she prepared for the annual financial audit, pension reports, year-end reports for various State agencies, tax forms and budget reports. In January a Planning Meeting with the Board of Supervisors and volunteers was held in order to discuss priority projects for 2018. Mrs. Moretti is investigating grant opportunities for several projects, including how to get funding to conduct a feasibility study for the Route 23 /Township Line Road intersection.

Mrs. Moretti announced that there will be a public open house on February 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Technical College High School on the Phoenixville Multi-Modal Study. This is an opportunity for the public to provide input on transportation issues in the region.

Police Department – Chief Wilson provided statistics for January 2018: Officers responded to 209 complaints, including: 6 thefts, 2 DUIs, 7 misdemeanor/felony arrests, and 18 accidents. They issued 23 traffic citations. The Citizen’s Policy Academy concluded in January and will be repeated in the spring. The response from participants was very positive. The one item that participants would like to see included is a “ride along” with a police officer. Mrs. Moretti will inquire with our insurance company about the liability of such an activity. Also during January, officers participated in a Cub Scouts “Stranger Danger” program and in “Coffee with a Cop” training. They are planning a future public program on identify theft.

Open Space Report – Michelle Rubin reported on open space highlights from 2017, namely the conservation of the 101 acre Bryn Coed property. For 2018 the OSC will focus on formally preserving township-owned land, protecting land adjacent to the Kimberton Fairgrounds and KYAL, preserving the Wagner property on Schuylkill Road and partnering with the Park & Rec Board to acquire land for parks and trails. She reported that, to date, 1,137 acres have been preserved in East Pikeland Township, equating to 20% of the township.

Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee – Rusty Strauss reported that the PRPC reorganized in January with Jon Ewald from Phoenixville Borough Council serving as Chairman and Rusty will continue as Vice Chairman. At the meeting, a representative from CCPC gave an update on the Phoenixville Region Multi-Modal Study and Mark Connelly of the Phoenixville Green Team provided an update on the proposed Devault trail. The main project for 2018 continues to be the update of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

Carol Thompson asked what authority the PRPC has? Mr. Strauss responded that they review all proposed ordinances to confirm consistency with the regional plan and they review development plans in an advisory capacity. Plans are reviewed from a regional perspective, but not in detail relative to engineering, stormwater management, and other development details.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

Joel Bartlett provided an update on the Altair EcoVillage project. He reported that the Kimberton Village Business Association and Phoenixville Green Team have endorsed the project; that they have 9 committed buyers; and that they are working with the Planning Commission on differences in the proposed ordinance, namely density. They welcome anyone to participate in their educational programs that they host to learn more about the project and other environmental issues.

John Pittock, also involved in the Altair project, understands that neighbors have concerns about the project being something new and different. He asked that people be open-minded to this plan that is based on a more conservative use of resources and sustainability.

Cathy Frisco asked what could be done to combat litter along the roadways. Mrs. Moretti responded that she will look into the PennDOT Adopt a Highway program and provide information to Mrs. Frisco. She welcomed Mrs. Frisco to create a citizen's group to conduct a trash pick-up with support by the township.

Tom Toole asked how much real estate transfer tax the township anticipates receiving in 2018 from the Kimberton Glen project. Mrs. Moretti responded that the 2018 budget estimates about \$350,000 for all transfer taxes, not just the Toll project. Mr. Graham responded that the township will see an increase in tax collections due to new development and that he would like to see a further reduction or elimination of the local real estate tax in the future in response to the additional revenue from development.

### **Announcements**

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,  
*Kimberly Moretti, Township Manager*