

**East Pikeland Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting
May 12, 2020**

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the May monthly meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom application via telephone and the internet. Present online were Chairman Ron Graham, Vice Chairman Rusty Strauss, Supervisor Ben Campbell and Township Manager Kim Moretti. Other township staff participating electronically included Chief Susette Wilson.

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

Minutes

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to approve the April 28, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Department Reports

Township Manager – Mrs. Moretti reported that through the COVID-19 Pandemic and related shutdown the township has continued to operate with limited public interaction. During April she participated in weekly PSATS Town Hall webinars and weekly phone conferences with State legislators about pandemic issues. In April the first of two grant applications for the proposed dog park was submitted to DCNR. Budget revisions are underway to account for the anticipated reduction in revenues due to the pandemic and high rate of unemployment. Public Works personnel will return to regular work schedule beginning May 18.

Police Department – Chief Wilson provided the April 2020 Police Department Statistics including: 161 complaints, 1 theft and 1 criminal mischief. They issued 0 traffic citations in keeping with social distancing. There has been an increase in domestic calls and in complaints about businesses violating the State order to remain closed. There were 8 accidents during the month. The Courts have begun video arraignments.

West End Ambulance – Asst. Chief. John Osborne reported that they responded to 58 ambulance calls in East Pikeland Township in April for a total of 246 calls in the township year-to-date. He announced that they have a shortage of paramedics at this time.

Kimberton Fire Company – Asst. Chief Doug Gable reported fire responses for April, including: 15 in East Pikeland Township and 13 in adjacent municipalities. The volunteers are following safety protocols and remain healthy. The County has begun antibody testing of first responders and their families.

Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee – Rusty Strauss reported that he was appointed to serve as PRPC chair for 2020 with Mark Donovan of Schuylkill Township serving as Vice Chair. Both West Vincent and Phoenixville have new representatives serving on PRPC. In February the committee reviewed the Phoenixville pipeline ordinance for consistency and sent a letter to the Chester County Board of Commissioners in support of the Vision Partnership Program that awards grants to municipalities for planning projects. A VPP grant has been awarded to PRPC to revise the regional comprehensive plan to include West Pikeland Township. A new Implementation Agreement has been signed by all original municipalities in order to allow West Pikeland to join the PRPC. The March and April meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19 and the next meeting will be virtual on May 27, followed by a workshop to discuss the comprehensive plan update.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **RESOLUTION 2020-09**, authorizing submission of a grant application to the PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development for a proposed dog park and community garden. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Several residents had comments about the proposed dog park/community garden project on Ridge Road. Mr. Graham explained that this is not a resolution to proceed with the project; simple a way to fund the project if it moves forward.

Bob Stevenson of 75 Ridge Road objected to the substantial development of open space in front of his property. He stated that he previously met with the Park & Rec Board in 2019 and delineated his objection to any recreational facilities on the township's open space on Ridge Road at that time. He also put his objections in writing to the township manager.

Concerns were also voiced by Kimberton Meadows residents Chrissy & Barry Hallman, Greg Wagner and Brian Murray, as well as written comments from Michael Layne of Ridge Road. Their concerns were about the impact of a dog park on their neighborhood and a preference for the land to remain as open space. They feel that the township has not communicated with them about this project and asked for more information about the park and recreation survey that was mentioned at the April Board of Supervisors meeting.

Greg Wagner stated that he would like his neighborhood to be specifically surveyed about this project. He also asked for more information on how the subdivision's private trails would connect to the trails proposed in this project.

John Schott stated that the township does a very good job of obtaining public input by reaching out in written publications and through social media. Unfortunately, the township cannot force people to listen to the message it is trying to communicate. It is up to residents to educate themselves.

John Colarusso commented that there are many articles that show that dog parks, trails and community gardens are the top amenities people are looking for when buying a home and that the Park and Rec Board should be applauded for bringing these uses to the township.

Chris Brignola, a life-long resident of the township, commented that the township does an excellent job of maintaining park and recreational facilities and the public should not be comparing township facilities with those located in Phoenixville. He pointed out that recreational needs of the township are increasing as the population increases and that while the residents of Kimberton Meadows would like to have this land as open space they should remember that their homes are located on what used to be farmland.

Dan Sidlo, President of the Kimberton Meadows HOA, stated that his neighbors have voiced both opposition and support of this project. He feels they should be more involved in the planning process.

Mr. Strauss reminded the residents that this is project is in the preliminary stages and will not proceed without grant funding. There is still time for the township to meet with the HOA to obtain their input.

Mr. Graham responded that anyone with concerns about this project attend a Park & Recreation Board meeting on the third Thursday of the month since they are the planning body for this project. The next meeting is Thursday, May 21st and will be a virtual meeting.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve a \$15,000 contribution to West End Ambulance. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Mr. Strauss reminded the audience that the Primary Election Day is coming up on June 2nd and that residents should watch for notices about voting location changes.

Mr. Campbell announced that the township building has new front entrance with a new security system put in place.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Submitted by,

Kimberly Moretti
Township Manager