

**East Pikeland Township  
Board of Supervisors Meeting  
June 4, 2019**

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on June 4, 2019 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.

**Minutes**

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve the May 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Department Reports**

Township Manager – Kim Moretti reported that during the month of May the township held settlement on the Crouse property – an open space purchase of 115 acres off of Spring City Road. She submitted a grant application to the Department of Justice for bullet-proof vests for 3 police officers and worked with the township engineer and solicitor on pipeline issues. She is setting up a public meeting on the Adelpia pipeline for residents impacted by the project to interface with pipeline representatives. Mrs. Moretti announced upcoming events at Kimberton Park – Yoga in the Park on Thursday evenings at 6pm and a Summer Concert Series on June 20<sup>th</sup> with the band “Middle Class.”

John Kettelle of Pond View Lane asked how to obtain more information about the pipeline. Mrs. Moretti responded that a public meeting will be held and that he will be notified.

Public Works – Report from Al Cushman was posted. Mr. Strauss, after reviewing the report, asked about parking lot repairs being made. Mrs. Moretti responded that the “Village Lot” on Prizer Road is being re-graded and striped with lines to create parking spaces. Mr. Strauss also asked what type of vegetation control the department is doing along guardrails. Mrs. Moretti responded that some areas are mowed, some hand cut and some are sprayed with approved pesticides.

Police Department – Sgt. Joe Heyman provided statistics for May: 259 complaints, including 5 DUIs, 2 drug arrests, 2 thefts, 2 burglaries, and 12 felony/misdemeanor arrests. There were 9 accidents and 21 traffic citations issued. Officers Wilson and McCole participated in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training; Officer Flood participated in Active Threat Scenario Training and Officers Flood and Paris participated in Drug Intervention training. Officer Flood and McCole represented the township in the Phoenixville Dogwood Festival Parade.

West End Ambulance – Cpt. Osborne reported that they responded to 78 calls in East Pikeland Township in May accounting for 41% of their call volume. So far in 2019 they are 90 responses higher than the same time period in 2018. Mr. Strauss asked how many calls are for the assisted

living facilities in East Pikeland Township. Cpt. Osborne will provide that information next month.

For EMS Week in May the West End Ambulance provided a mini CPR and Stop the Bleed program at the Colonial Theater. They will be participating in an active shooter drill at the Renaissance Academy on June 8<sup>th</sup> and will be holding a car seat installation program later this summer.

Mr. Graham asked what the typical response time is for ambulance calls. Cpt. Osborne said it is 3-4 minutes depending on distance.

Planning Commission – John Colarusso reported that the Planning Commission has reviewed some minor plans and are working on a Low Impact Development project.

Carole Thompson asked John to define Low Impact Development. He responded that it is development that has less of an impact on the land, stormwater, environment, schools... It is development that allows the township to grown without a big impact.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Campbell made a *MOTION to approve Escrow Release No. 3 for Kimberton Glen, Phase 2 Conventional Lots, in the amount of \$418,711.89*, as recommended by the township engineer. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a *MOTION to re-appoint Kimberly Venzie of Buckley Brion law firm to serve as Alternate Solicitor to the Zoning Hearing Board*. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to accept the resignation of Rusty Strauss from the Planning Commission, effective June 1, 2019*. Mr. Graham seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Rusty explained that he has served on the Planning Commission for 15 years and feels it is time to give other residents an opportunity to volunteer. He will continue to attend Planning Commission meetings and serve as a liaison for the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to appoint Ezra Brett to the Planning Commission, with term expiring 12/31/21*. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a *MOTION to approve hiring Dillon Weaver as a part-time Police Officer beginning 6/1/19*. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made *MOTION to authorize Kimberton Fire Police to assist Limerick Township at their fireworks display on July 4, 2019*. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **Presentation**

Mr. Graham gave a PowerPoint presentation on the LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance) program that he had also presented to the Finance Committee of the Phoenixville Area School District. The LERTA ordinance was adopted in 2010 and will need to be reauthorized in 2020. He explained that the LERTA program is a tax incentive for development of the 724/23 corridor and without it property owners and developers will be less inclined to improve derelict properties. He provided the example of the 400 Westside project, which has taken advantage of the LERTA to redevelop a derelict, contaminated property. Without the LERTA that property would have gone undeveloped, unimproved.

Carole Thompson asked if PASD has to approve the LERTA? Mr. Graham responded that they do and that the LERTA was first proposed ten years ago when PASD came to the municipalities (Phoenixville Borough, Schuylkill Township and East Pikeland Township) looking for help to increase rateables for the school district. East Pikeland Township implemented the LERTA with the intent to have less of an impact on schools while still bringing in tax rateables and cleaning up properties. This goal has been met with 400 Westside, which has only 7 school age children in the 171 unit apartment complex.

Luke Crisafulli of Seven Stars Road asked if the school district offered any objections to the LERTA. Mr. Graham responded that the school board has voiced some opposition to extending the LERTA program and Mr. Graham's presentation goal was to educate the school board members about the LERTA benefits. Some school board members feel that the program only benefits corporations or developers and they fail to see the difference it could make to the 724 corridor.

Mr. Graham suggested that township residents could help by appealing to the PASD School Board to continue the LERTA program before it comes up for renewal in 2020. Residents could attend school board meetings or send letters. Mrs. Moretti can provide a draft letter for residents to use when contacting the school board. The LERTA presentation will be posted on the township website.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Announcements**

Mr. Strauss announced that all three Supervisors were present for the Crouse Property Settlement on May 14, 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Submitted by,  
*Kimberly Moretti, Township Manager*