

**East Pikeland Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting
April 28, 2020**

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the April 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 and Public Works Director Al Cushman.

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

Minutes

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to approve the March 3, 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 no direct public interaction. All public meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future. All public events have been cancelled through the month of May. Mrs. Moretti reported that a grant application was submitted to PA DCNR for the open space on Ridge Road with the intent to build a dog park and community garden. In March she participated in a Valley Forge Sewer Authority meeting to further discuss sewer capacity; met with the township engineer to inspect the bridge on Kimberton Road which is in need of repair, and is working with the traffic engineer on the Route 724 sidewalk project. She also reported that PennDOT is going to use Highway Safety funding to make safety improvements at the intersection of Route 113 and Coldstream Road.

Public Works – Al Cushman reported on recent department activities, including: completion of MS4 outfall inspections, expansion of the parking lot in Kimberton Park near KYAL, improvement of the parking lot on Prizer Road, deliver of 105 loads of mulch or compost, and keeping the French Creek Trail clean based on the heavy usage during the Stay At Home order.

Police Department – Chief Wilson provided the March 2020 Police Department Statistics including: 175 complaints, 1 drug arrest, 1 DUI, 2 criminal mischief, 3 thefts, 2 felony/misdemeanor arrests, and they issued 4 traffic citations in keeping with social distancing. There were 10 accidents during the month. The Courts are closed until mid-May, the Citizens Police Academy was cancelled, and all other community outreach programs have been cancelled for the spring.

West End Ambulance – Asst. Chief. John Osborne reported that they responded to 57 ambulance calls in East Pikeland Township in March and that April calls were down from last year due to the

COVID-19 crisis. He then provided some statistics from the County for COVID-19 cases. The Vet Center in East Vincent Township has been particularly hard hit with over 20 deaths.

Valley Forge Sewer Authority – Bill LaPorte reported that VFSA is asking customers to be careful what they flush down the toilet as using the public sewer system to dispose of trash can lead to major repair problems. Bill also reported on VFSA activities within the French Creek basin including repairs to manholes along the French Creek.

Mr. Strauss asked that the information on what not to flush be added to the township website and Facebook page.

Kimberton Fire Company – Asst. Chief Doug Gable reported fire responses for March, including: 1 motor vehicle accident, 4 alarm calls and 6 miscellaneous calls. The volunteers are required to take safety precautions and wear personal protective equipment when in the station and on calls. There have been no positive virus cases at Kimberton Fire Co.

Old Business

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to approve Escrow Release No. 1 for Kimberton Glen, Phase 3 Conventional lots in the amount of \$599,984.51, as recommended by the township engineer. Mr. Strauss seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to approve Escrow Release No. 1 for Kimberton Glen, Phase 3 Active Adult lots in the amount of \$140,323.74, as recommended by the township engineer. Mr. Strauss seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to authorize special contribution to Kimberton Fire Company in the amount of \$50,000 toward the purchase of two pieces of fire-fighting equipment. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to ratify **RESOLUTION 2020-04**, authorizing an emergency declaration for the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to ratify **RESOLUTION 2020-05**, reauthorizing an emergency declaration for the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to ratify **RESOLUTION 2020-06**, reauthorizing an emergency declaration for the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **RESOLUTION 2020-07**, authorizing submission of a grant application to the PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **RESOLUTION 2020-08**, extending the period in which real estate taxes may be paid at the base rate by adopting a penalty rate of 0% through December 31, 2020. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham explained that this motion allows real estate taxes to be paid late this year without a penalty, if payment is made by the end of the year.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve tax exoneration in the amount of \$2.87 for the Phoenixville Area School District for tax parcel 26-3A-4. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to authorize a temporary posting of a 15-ton weight limitation on the Kimberton Road bridge. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to award 2020 Equipment Rental Contract to Advanced Pavement Group with a low bid of \$75,800. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **Agreement with PennDOT for a bus shelter** to be located within the PennDOT right-of-way at 270 Schuylkill Road as part of the Route 724 sidewalk project. Mr. Campbell seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Lisa Vorel, resident of 209 Clover Lane in the Kimberton Meadows subdivision expressed concerns by the Kimberton Meadows homeowners about the proposed use of the township's open space along Ridge Road adjacent to their development. According to Ms. Vorel the general feeling by the residents is that the proposed dog park and community garden will create noise and maintenance issues, cause their property values to depreciate, and become a nuisance allowing an "element" of people into their neighborhood that would not respect the homeowners. The HOA feels that since both of these uses are available in Phoenixville Borough that there is no need for them in East Pikeland Township. They would like to township to investigate other options for the land. She asked who would pay for the maintenance of these uses and would it require their taxes to be raised. Mr. Graham responded that everything the township does comes from taxes; so, yes the maintenance of the property would be paid with tax revenues.

Mrs. Moretti responded that the grant application, if approved by DCNR, is very specific about how the grant funds will be used – and that would be for a dog park and community garden; however they would only be built if the grant is approved. Residents of the township identified these uses as being desired in a township-wide park and recreation survey conducted in 2018.

Greg Wagner, resident of 307 Fawn Lane in the Kimberton Meadows subdivision expressed additional concerns about the proposed use of the open space on Ridge Road. He feels that security will be a concern if the walking trails within their community are used by the people visiting the dog park and community garden. He asked that the residents of Kimberton Meadows be allowed to

have more input on the uses and that the township consider moving these proposed uses to another property. Mr. Graham responded that there is not another property designated for these uses.

Mrs. Moretti suggested that IF the township does receive the grant funding from DCNR that a public meeting with the Kimberton Meadows HOA be held to present the plan for the property. At that time the residents can provide their input and concerns.

Doug Gable of Kimberton Fire Co. thanked the Board of Supervisors for approving a \$50,000 contribution towards the purchase of two new fire trucks. He asked the Board to consider an additional contribution since the loss of fire company fundraising activities will have a detrimental impact on their finances this year, especially if the Kimberton Fair is cancelled. Mr. Graham explained that the entire amount requested by the fire company was not approved at this time because of uncertainty about township revenues based on COVID-19 and the impact on the township's earned income tax revenues based on the high rate of unemployment.

Announcements

- Upcoming Meeting date changes
 - May 12, 2020 at 7pm. Virtual or live to be determined
 - June 9, 2020 at 7pm. Virtual or live to be determined

Mrs. Moretti acknowledged the work of resident John Colarusso to set up a “Little Food Pantry” at the Rapps Dam trailhead. The pantry encourages the public to “give what you can and take what you need” and has seen a lot of activity this past week.

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

Submitted by,

Kimberly Moretti
Township Manager