

**East Pikeland Township  
Board of Supervisors Meeting  
December 4, 2018**

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on December 4, 2018 at the Township Building, 1158 Rapps Dam Road, Kimberton. Present were Chairman Ron Graham, Vice Chairman Rusty Strauss, Supervisor Ben Campbell and Manager Kim Moretti.

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. following a Public Hearing on a proposed zoning amendment.

**Minutes**

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve the November 13, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Department Reports**

Township Manager – Mrs. Moretti reported that the administrative staff attended several workshops during the month of November with topics on zoning, open space, stormwater and GIS. She then gave an update on the traffic calming project for Kimberton Road. The Police Department had gathered speed data on Kimberton Road in the vicinity of Kimberton Whole Foods. The data indicates that more than 88% of vehicles on the road are travelling under 30mph, and therefore excessive speed does not appear to be a problem in this area. The traffic engineer reviewed the concept of a raised speed table and suggested that any traffic calming project should be designed as part of an overall pedestrian accommodation plan in order to identify the optimal location for the pedestrian crossing. In summary, a traffic calming device should be incorporated into a comprehensive pedestrian circulation plan for the Village and include ADA accommodations. In the meantime, a more visible pedestrian crosswalk with accurate signage could prove to be very effective.

Public Works – Posted

Police Department – Chief Wilson provided November 2018 statistics: 237 complaints, including 2 DUIs, 1 assault, 2 thefts (with arrests), 7 felony/misdemeanors, 23 accidents and 26 traffic citations. Officers participated in several training programs including Critical Incident Training with a table-top exercise, and simulated laser firearms training. Mr. Campbell commented that the police responded to a medical emergency at his neighbor's house and handled it very professionally.

Kimberton Fire Company Report – Posted

Planning Commission Report – John Schott reported that the Planning Commission is continuing to review draft chapters of the regional comprehensive plan. They have reviewed and discussed two minor sketch plans including a two-lot subdivision and a zoning hearing application for a property on Route 113. Mr. Graham asked the outcome of the zoning hearing application and John reported that the applicant withdrew the request for a variance.

Environmental Advisory Committee – Dennis Ray reported on EAC activities:

### 2018 EAC Summary

- Earth Day Road Clean Up (April 22)
- Township-sponsored shred event (May 5)
- Table at Kimberton Park Party (June 16)
- Sponsored a Guided Bird Walk (June 30)
- Table at Kimberton Fair (July)
- Started a monthly EAC E-newsletter
- The Community Park and Recreation Survey showed that residents are interested in environmental workshops and expert-led outdoor activities.

### 2019 Plans

- Host an EAC gathering for regional EACs in early 2019
- Ready for 100 initiative
- Township Sustainability Plan
- Bird Town USA
- Partner with Park and Recreation Board on activities/events
- Continue to educate and reach people via social media, website,
- Events: Road Clean Up, Spring Bird Walk, Fall Owl Prowl

Zach Rubinich described the Audubon Society “Bird Town” program that the EAC hopes to join in 2019. There is no cost to the township for the first year when the township would Pledge to become a Bird Town and then conduct activities to meet the criteria. After the first year the cost is \$450 per year. Zach then explained the benefits of becoming a Bird Town.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to enact **ORDINANCE NO. 186**, amending Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances by adopting regulations for construction, maintenance and repair of sidewalks. Mr. Strauss seconded the Motion.

Doug Fitzsimons asked if this ordinance addresses where sidewalks will be constructed. Mr. Graham responded that it does not; it is to address maintenance and repair.

There being no further questions, the Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to TABLE enactment of Ordinance No. 187, which would amend the 2002 Zoning Ordinance relative to Article XIII until the February Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Strauss seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Graham explained that a public hearing was held earlier in the evening, but issues were raised that required tabling enactment.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **RESOLUTION 2018-16**, setting the tax-rate for East Pikeland Township at .22 mills for Fiscal Year 2019. Mr. Campbell seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

Carolyn Thompson asked if the tax rate is an increase, decrease or no change. Mr. Graham responded that this is a 50% reduction in the local real estate tax and that anticipated an increase in revenues due to new construction and township fiscal management has allowed the township to take this step.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **RESOLUTION 2018-17**, adopting the Township Budget for Fiscal Year 2019. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Doug Fitzsimons asked what the big expenditures are for 2019. Mr. Graham responded that the Police Department will continue to be the largest expense, making up over 40% of the General Fund. The overall General Fund budget is a bit over \$3 million dollars.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve **RESOLUTION 2018-18**, approving the sale of the Valley Creek Trunk Sewer system per the terms and conditions set forth in the Asset Purchase and Settlement Agreement and the Wastewater Conveyance Agreement. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dennis Ray asked for an explanation of this action. Mrs. Moretti explained that the Valley Creek Trunk line in Tredyffrin Township has had three major failures in recent years resulting in fines against the township by DEP. Tredyffrin then decided to sell the trunk line so they would no longer be responsible. Sewage waste from several other townships also flow through the trunk line which ultimately ends up at the Valley Forge Sewer plant for processing. Since East Pikeland Township is a member of the Valley Forge Sewer Authority, we are a party to the agreement to sell the trunk line.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to accept a letter of resignation from Susette Wilson, effective December 30, 2018. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to hire Susette Wilson as Chief of Police, effective January 1, 2019. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Discussion**

Merlin Hills Stormwater Issue – Jim Martin and Dan Myers of Central Drive were present to discuss an on-going stormwater issue that impacts their properties, specifically a storm basin in the Merlin Hills Subdivision that has not been maintained in almost 40 years. Dan Myers provided a history of the issue which led to further discussion.

Mr. Graham responded that he is very familiar with the Merlin Hills storm basin issue since his own property is also adjacent to one of the basins in the development.

The township engineer, Ed Latshaw, had conducted a site visit to the basin and made suggestions for maintenance. The Board suggested that the Public Works Department determine how much of the work they will be able to do, and obtain a cost estimate for what they cannot do, in order to make the basin operational. It was noted that the basin is now a privately owned lot, as it was purchased at tax sale several years ago by someone living in New York. The property owner has been notified of the problem, but has been unresponsive. Since the property owner has been unresponsive, the township will do the work and place a lien on the property.

Jim Martin and Dan Myers asked the township to commit to an on-going maintenance plan for the basin.

**Public Comment**

None

**Announcements**

None

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Submitted by,  
*Kimberly Moretti, Township Manager*