

December 23, 2019
Scotland, PA 17254
Regular Meeting

The Greene Township Board of Supervisors held their Regular Meeting on Monday, December 23, 2019 at the Township Municipal Building, 1145 Garver Lane, Scotland, PA.

Present:

Todd E. Burns

Travis L. Brookens

Shawn M. Corwell

Gregory Lambert

Daniel Bachman

Diann Weller

Welton Fischer

Visitors: See list

The Chairman called the Meeting to order at approximately 12:00 Noon. He welcomed all those in attendance, noted the "sign-in" sheet and asked that all visitors in attendance to sign in if they hadn't already done so, and also noted the meeting was being recorded for accuracy purposes.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 10, 2019 shall stand approved and become part of the official record.

There was no public comment at this time.

Township Supervisor and Director of Parks and Recreation Travis Brookens presented a cost proposal from YSM Landscape Architects regarding sketch work for the creation of tennis courts on the top side of the Township Park property. In addition, another proposal for sketch work for a basin to the rear of the adult facilities for a former stormwater basin; basically now in grass and fill; looking to create some other recreation facilities, possibly playground and/or other active play area. He stated there are actually two (2) proposals for the tennis courts; total cost for completed drawings - \$14,300 (site construction documents - \$9,800; bidding services - \$4,500; construction administration - \$T&E; construction observation - \$T&E); lump sum for all services regarding basin work - \$2,200. Supervisor Corwell commented the Township has used YSM in the past; have done good work for the Township; inquired as to the sketch plan mentioned. Supervisor Brookens stated that would be for the tennis courts and would be developed and then put out to bid, Page 3 details what is included. Following review and consideration, on a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Todd E. Burns, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to accept the cost proposal for tennis courts design for sketch plan services from YSM Landscape Architects as presented in the amount of \$16,500.

The Chairman noted the Franklin County Drug Task Force serves Greene Township and all of Franklin County. They are contemplating the purchase of new vehicles for their operations and are reaching out to municipalities for special donations to make said purchase. He stated upon review of the Township's current year-end budget, there are some funds remaining and feels the Task Force is very worthwhile, therefore, he would recommend a special donation of \$10,000 to the Task Force towards the purchase. He stated the Township also provides an annual donation based on per capita but this is above and beyond what the Township annually provides. He stated the Task Force does a tremendous job in the Township and have worked very closely throughout the year and all years. The service they provide to residents is high quality and have always assisted the Township when requested to do so.

Supervisor Corwell agreed with the Chairman the Task Force is doing a great job; when Township has contacted them, they have always responded; may not see them but they are there doing a great job. Supervisor Brookens stated he also agreed as well and it is a good partnership noting their participation with the Home Run Derby at the (Township) Park during summer; would definitely agree to continue working with them and promoting their operations; definitely making a difference. On a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to provide a special donation to the Franklin County Drug Task Force in the amount of \$10,000.

The Township Solicitor presented information regarding a request to the Township to approve the Township Solicitor to sign on behalf of the Township the "PILOT" (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Agreement with SpiriTrust Lutheran for Luther Ridge property. He explained the program was approved by the State Legislature so that those organizations who are exempt from paying taxes would still make some type of donation to participating municipalities in the event a property tax is imposed by that municipality. He stated this was begun in 2000 at which time he was serving as Solicitor to the Township and the County. He had signed in that capacity at that time and stated it is limited to real estate taxes only. The original extension was for a period of five (5) years and he was instrumental in handling the matter at that time. He has since retired from the County but still serving the Township and the Township has not been a direct party to the agreement because the Township does not impose a realty tax. He was asked why the Township was listed on the documents and stated the Township was advised to sign the agreement in the event that if the Township would impose a tax it would receive a small portion of funds paid; School District receives greater percentage with County receiving far less portion. He pointed out, however, that if the Township did not sign and a tax were imposed the Township would receive no funds. The Chairman inquired if the County and School District were a party to this and the Solicitor stated they were and when the Chairman asked if either entities had approved and signed to extend, the Solicitor stated he did not have signatures at present but was assured by the County's Solicitor they were in agreement and both entities are expected to sign. The Chairman wondered why the Township would not receive any funds even though they have no property tax because Luther Ridge and others like them are receiving essential services, such as fire. The Solicitor stated the PILOT program is voluntary and funds received are divided among taxing districts to use. The Chairman then asked where the funds go if not given to Township. The Solicitor stated that Menno Haven makes a donation to the Borough from time to time for services received, i.e. essential. Supervisor Brookens noted that Luther Ridge does not receive any services of the County or School District; have no children going to school; no County services being provided; Township provides fire service to Luther Ridge at basically no cost. Supervisor Corwell stated he agreed with Supervisor Brookens noting too that local (Fire and EMS Departments) provide services; hundreds of these types of calls and not receiving any compensation of any kind; also did not see County or School District providing assistance. The Chairman agreed the School District is not running fire calls or EMS calls and neither is County; Township is picking up the "tab" for all these calls. A suggestion was offered the Township should consider approaching the School District and County to assist in the cost of these services. Supervisor Brookens stated he did not see entering into this agreement but if and when the Township would impose a property tax they could consider this (entering into agreement). The Solicitor reiterated to the Board that if the Township would enact a property tax while participating in the agreement, they would receive proceeds, however, if the Board would not enter into the agreement and then later decided to impose a tax, the Township would not receive any proceeds. The Chairman noted that when the Board

would be discussing Item #11 on this Agenda, there is no property tax to be imposed and then only another four (4) years until consideration of entering into the agreement will be presented. Supervisor Brookens deferred to Supervisor Corwell regarding the on-going fire service study being performed noting that Luther Ridge would be exempt and Supervisor Corwell noted again that neither the County nor School District are providing essential services while the Township is still providing these services. The Solicitor noted the bulk of tax revenue goes to the School District and they receive funds whenever they can noting his experience when he served as Solicitor for the County in the past. Following lengthy discussion and review, on a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted not to enter into or re-sign the PILOT Agreement with SpiriTrust for Luther Ridge property.

The Township Engineer presented three (3) individual “Deeds of Dedication and Release of Streets” from properties comprised of Falling Spring IV, LP, and BRC Properties, LP, for the continuation of Fifth Avenue Extended which has been received by the Township as part of the North Chambersburg Improvements Project; in addition, striving to obtain grant funding from the State and completion of Parkwood Drive to Walker Road. Both FS IV and BRC are providing the real estate through these Deeds and Releases. He further noted there is only one more property from the Gablers necessary to complete that road when the funding is available. This also strengthens the Township’s case when the Township proceeds to procure more grant funding; best to already have the properties when applying for funds. The Chairman stated he agreed with the Engineer’s comments; important to have these Deeds in hand as the Township continues to seek funding when and if funds become available. Following review and consideration, on a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to accept the Deeds of Dedication and Release of Streets from properties comprised of Falling Spring IV, LP and BRC Properties, LP for the continuation of Fifth Avenue Extended as presented. The Solicitor recommended a formal Resolution be prepared and made an integral part of these Deeds; the Chairman agreed.

The Township Engineer presented a request for refund of plan review escrow submitted for Brownsville Church of God 2-lot Final Subdivision/Lot Addition Plan, Project #19-008; very minor subdivision along New Lane; former 50-foot right-of-way; lot addition to adjoining properties; original escrow of \$1,500 was received by the Township; \$585.50 was expended in fees; no retainage required; Engineer recommended release of full remaining refund in the amount of \$914.50; check to be made payable to William A. Brindle Associates. Following review and consideration, on a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to grant the request for refund of plan review escrow for Brownsville Church of God 2-lot Final Subdivision/Lot Addition Plan, Project #19-008, in the amount of \$914.50 with check to be made payable to William A. Brindle Associates.

The Township Engineer presented a request for refund of plan review escrow submitted for Stonesifer 4-lot Final Subdivision/Lot Addition Plan, Project #19-012; subdivision was approved October (2019); property located at end of Frecon Road, Jacobs property; four (4) properties involved to create lot additions enabling lots to be more useful; original escrow of \$1,500 received by the Township; \$272 expended in fees; no retainage required; Engineer recommended release of full remaining refund in the amount of \$1,228; check to be made payable to Benjamin A. Stonesifer. Following review and consideration, on a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously

voted to grant the request for refund of plan review escrow for Stonesifer 4-lot Final Subdivision/Lot Addition Plan, Project #19-012, in the amount of \$1,228 with check to be made payable to Benjamin A. Stonesifer.

There were no Subdivision and/or Land Development Plans to be presented at this Meeting.

The Chairman presented the Proposed *Greene Township 2020 Final Budget* and noted the Township's 2020 Preliminary Budget had been approved and was put on display for public review and comment for thirty (30) days and there were no comments received to his knowledge. He stated there were several minor changes made from the Preliminary to the Final Budget; several line items were adjusted slightly due to receiving more exact cost figures for 2020 (i.e. insurances, etc); overall revenues have not changed; Final General Fund Budget for 2020 stands at \$5.256 million. He stated this will be the 40th year the Township will not be implementing a property tax; testifies that this Board and previous Boards have done their best in managing the budget over the years; residents can expect to continue receiving the same services in the coming year especially with respect to winter maintenance, curbside collection of leaves and brush, pick up of Christmas trees, Bulk Days, all services provided to residents. There being no further comments regarding the Proposed Budget, on a motion by Travis L. Brookens, seconded by Shawn M. Corwell, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the *Greene Township 2020 Final Budget* as presented.

The Township Solicitor had no further comments to offer at this Meeting.

On a motion by Shawn M. Corwell, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the payment of invoices as follows: Check Numbers 28182 through 28209, three credit card payments, and two direct deposits, inclusive, to be paid from the General Fund; Check Numbers 3591 through 3593, inclusive, to be paid from the Liquid Fuels Fund; and, one direct deposit payment, inclusive, to be paid from the Electric Light Fund.

There being no further business to be presented at this Meeting, the Chairman adjourned at approximately 12:37 P. M., and wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary