

Easttown Township

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, May 03, 2021

The Regular Meeting took place via an Authorized Telecommunication Device (GoToWebinar). Supervisors present included Marc Heppe, (Chair), Betsy Fadem (Vice Chair), Michael Wacey, Beth D'Antonio and Jim Oram. Also attending were Eugene Briggs (Township Manager), Dave Obzud (Chief of Police), Don Curley (Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works), Bill DeFeo (Finance Director), Andrew Rau (Township Solicitor), and Rob Schnorr (Emergency Management Coordinator).

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Heppe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He announced that the meeting is being recorded.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Louisa D'Antonio, a third grader at Devon Elementary, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Emergency Management Coordinator COVID-19 Update** – Mr. Schnorr gave an update on Township and County COVID-19 cases and noted numbers are trending downward. The scheduling link for vaccinations is www.chesterpaprod.service-now.com/vam and those without internet should call to register: 610-344-6225. Mr. Schnorr reported that 65% of eligible people in the County have had their 1st shots. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment.
4. **Board Motions, Presentations, and Resolutions**
 - A. **Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant Project** – Mr. Curley summarized this project's design, bid and install phases. The project will implement a fiber optic cable and an adaptive signal control system at several intersections along Lancaster Avenue in an effort to monitor real time traffic, reduce congestion and increase safety. Mr. Matt Kosuch of McMahon Associates, the Township Traffic Engineer, presented the technical details of the project, discussed the possibility of including battery backups as part of the project scope and answered questions from the Board. The bulk of the cost of this project will be paid with the funds received through the ARLE grant that the Township was awarded in 2018.
 - B. **Devon Station Multimodal Access Study Presentation** – Derek Lombardi, Senior Planner at the Office of Smart Growth and Andrew Svekla, Manager, Office of Smart Growth from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) gave an overview of the study results and answered questions from the Board. The Study developed concepts to improve walking and biking access to the Devon Train Station. It also recommends land use strategies that complement the station. These improvements require coordination between the Township, the County, and PennDOT, SEPTA as well as other partners. It pinpointed 4 focus areas in which to prioritize improvements: the station's south parking lot, North Waterloo Road, Lancaster Avenue and Berkley Road. The study offers planning

guidance for creating a more walkable and bikeable station area in the years ahead. The Study is available on the Township website.

- C. Consideration to Place Trex Recycling Bins at the Library** – Cara Rash, Chair of Easttown’s Environmental Advisory Council, gave an overview of the Trex Recycling Bin Program and the benefit of having these bins in our community. The EAC is recommending the replacement of two bins at the Easttown Library. Mrs. Rash explained that a volunteer who has been collecting the materials from the Trex bins in Tredyffrin has volunteered to include the Easttown bins in his collection route. Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mr. Oram made a motion that the Board of Supervisors take the recommendation of the Environmental Advisory Council and approve the placement of two Trex collection bins in the vestibule at the Easttown Library. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Fadem who recommended a third bin be placed in the Township lobby. Mr. Oram amended the motion to include an additional bin to be placed in the Township lobby. Mrs. Fadem seconded the amended motion. The Board discussed the benefits of these bins. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for a vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- D. Consideration of Resolution 2021-13 Regarding Submission of Community Development Block Grant Application** – Mr. Curley explained that the Township has applied for this grant for three (3) consecutive years seeking monies to cover the costs of paving the streets in the Village of Berwyn. To be able to submit the application, the Township must first pass this Resolution. The Township only has one segment of road remaining in the Village that needs paving and qualifies. Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadem made a motion that the Board adopt Resolution 2021-13 authorizing the submission of a Community Block Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wacey. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- E. Consideration to Award Street Repair Contract** – Mr. Curley summarized that the Township issued an RFP for street repairs and received two bids. It was determined that Charlestown Paving and Excavating was the one responsive bidder. Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadem made a motion to execute an agreement with Charlestown Paving & Excavating for street repairs and general road maintenance for 2021. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- F. Consideration to Convert the Handball Wall to a Basketball Court at Johnson Park** – Tom Toscani, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, reviewed the plan to convert the handball court at Johnson Park to a mini basketball court for younger children. The project also includes the replacement of the wood surfaces on the existing bench. Erik Olstein, who proposed the project as his Eagle Scout Project, was in attendance along with his father, Steve Olstein, Erik’s father will be assisting with the project. Mr. Heppe called for a motion to convert the current handball court to a basketball court for young children and put some sealant on the existing surface. Mr. Oram made the motion and Mrs. D’Antonio seconded it. The Board discussed the scope of the project including the materials list, the execution of the project, and safety. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for a motion. The motion carried 3-2 with Mr. Wacey and Mrs. Fadem voting nay.
- G. Consideration of Board of Supervisors Policy #134 Granting of Exceptions to Board Policies** – Mrs. Fadem explained that the Policy Committee made

some clarifications to this Policy based on comments made at a prior Board of Supervisors meeting. Mrs. Fadern made a motion to approve the second reading of Policy #134, "Granting of Exceptions to Board Policies." Mr. Oram seconded the motion. The Board discussed the Policy. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for a vote. The motion carried 5-0.

H. Consideration of Board of Supervisors Policy #135 Township Conflict of Interest Policy – Mr. Wacey gave a summary of the updates to this Policy from the last discussion. The Board discussed specifics including the threshold for gift limits, what qualifies as a conflict of interest, disclosures and enforcement. Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadern made a motion to approve the first reading of Board of Supervisors Policy #135, Township Conflict of Interest Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oram. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for a vote. The motion carried 4-0 as Mr. Oram was temporarily unavailable and did not vote.

5. Departmental Reports

- A. Manager** – Mr. Briggs summarized the details of his report and the Board discussed those details.
- B. Public Works** – Mr. Curley summarized the details of his report and the Board discussed those details.

6. Regular Township Business

- A. Consideration of the April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Oram made a motion to adopt the April 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Mrs. Fadern seconded the motion and noted changes to the ECAC liaison discussion, specifically to clarify the 3 phases of the fee analysis project as follows: 1) high level fee analysis to determine that our Township fees cover costs; 2) sampling of other township fees compared to ours; 3) deep dive into fees related to residential and building permits. ECAC believes that by doing this deep dive into the individual building fees, there may be a communication piece to help new applicants understand the realm of fees they may incur. Mrs. Fadern will work with Mrs. Norris to make sure the changes are accurately reflected. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The minutes were approved 5-0 with the noted revisions.
- B. Authorize the Payment of Bills \$383,373.13; a total of Warrants (\$234,047.56), and Payroll (\$149,325.57) date ending May 03, 2021** – Mr. Heppe called for a motion. Mrs. Fadern made a motion to authorize the payment of bills in the amount of \$383,373.13, a total of warrants of \$234,047.56 and payroll in the amount of \$149,325.57 for date ending May 03, 2021. Mr. Oram seconded the motion. The Board of Supervisors discussed the bills and questioned Mr. DeFeo and the staff about specific expenditures. Mr. Heppe called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Heppe called for the vote. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Other Business

- A.** Mr. Wacey announced that Primary Election Day is May 18th and encouraged everyone to vote.
- B.** Mr. Wacey discussed the conflict of interest which arose at a recent Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Briggs is communicating with the Township Authorities, Boards and Commissions (ABCs) who employ the services of a solicitor on how to avoid this situation moving forward.

8. Announcements

Mr. Heppe read the following announcements: The Township building is open weekdays to the general public by appointment only and exclusively accommodates access by high risk members of the public between the hours of 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM.

The following virtual meetings are scheduled:

- Planning Commission, May 4th:
Workshop at 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM
- Easttown Citizens Advisory Committee, May 10th at 6:15 PM
- Easttown Municipal Authority, May 11th at 7:00 PM
- Historical Commission, May 12th at 7:00 PM
- Board of Supervisors, May 17th at 7:00 PM

Please visit the Township website at www.easttown.org to find information on how to view and participate in each of the meetings.

We also encourage you to visit the website for up to date information on all Township activities.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris
Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager

Commented [EB1]: Cut and paste actual announcements from the BOS Agenda Packet.