

MINUTES
September 8, 2020
Zoom Meeting of the Board of Supervisors
7:00 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of Milford Township Supervisors was called to order at 7 P.M. by Chairperson Penney Luhrs through a Zoom call, the meeting ID for which had been advertised in advance in the Pike County Dispatch. Also present were Vice-Chairman Gary M. Williams, Supervisor Rachel Hendricks, Thomas Farley (for the continuation of Planning Board meeting), and Secretary/Treasurer Shahana Shamim.

Gary M. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Rachel Hendricks seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Shahana reported that she had received \$111.13 from Code Inspections, \$400 from Zoning, \$400.00 from Liquor Control Board, and \$220.00 from Supervisors' donation. She also reported the account balances as \$33,239.77, \$113,721.60, \$24,336.09, \$7,044.53, and \$77,764.77 in NBT Bank, Wayne Bank (Investment), Wayne Bank (Payroll), PLGIT (General), and PLGIT (Liquid Fuels) respectively.

Roadmaster:

Gary M. Williams, the Roadmaster, reported that in the past two weeks, road crews finished mowing shoulders on Schocopee Road and Fire Tower Road. He added that \$132 was spent to fix fuel filters of trucks, and \$2,300 to repair the exhaust system of the Kodiak, which is 24 years old.

Zoning:

None

Public Participation #1:

None

Correspondence:

Shahana presented correspondences including Pike County Planning, Pike County Conservation District, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pike County Developmental Center, HRG, COSTARS, Solicitor, Civic Volunteer Award, Delaware Water Gap, Storm Water Solutions, Pike County Tax Administration, and Pike County Elections Office

Ms. Luhrs commented that the correspondence of "Growing a Stronger Pike County" from Pike County Conservation District was about two webinars, which would include guest speakers to talk about Comprehensive Planning. She asked the Secretary to send this correspondence to all Members of the Planning Commission. Ms. Hendricks said that she had asked Pike County Conservation District to record this webinar so that the officials who would be at work, could catch up later. Supervisors asked the Secretary to send the Franchise Agreement, which Jessica Yoder from Pike County Planning had asked for, in one of these correspondences. Ms. Hendricks said that the Comprehensive Plan Survey link was advertised

under legal notices, and that is not the way the Board asked to advertise the survey. Mr. DiLorenzo said that some residents informed him that they could not find the survey link on the Township website. Shahana said that she had moved the link to “Comprehensive Plan” under the “notices” section, as the home page had too many items. She said that she would bring the survey link back to the home page of the website. Mr. Williams asked Shahana to advertise the link again as a Display Ad. Mr. Stroyan asked her to call Mr. Tom Shepstone, the Planner, to learn about the best way to advertise the survey links, and suggested he may even have a press release we could send out. Ms. Hendricks asked Shahana to follow Milford Borough’s advertisement as an example for advertising the survey link.

Old Business:

- a. **Extension of emergency declaration for COVID-19:** Mr. Williams said that the Governor had extended the Emergency Declaration to December 4, 2020. Rachel Hendricks made a motion to extend the emergency declaration till December 7, 2020, as December 4th of 2020 was a Friday. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- b. **Continuation of Planning Board Meeting of August 25, 2020 – Act 537 Plan Draft:** Penney commented that the updated portion of the Act 537 Plan Draft showed that the OLDS Act was modified by Milford Borough. Rachel added that the updated portion also stated that the wrong Comprehensive Plan was added in the previous draft. Penney added that the OLDS reference this time included that it would be a five year -long study instead of implementing something. Rachel commented that the correspondence from HRG indicated that the Planning Commission was getting only 60 days and the Supervisors were getting only 30 days to review and comment on this Draft. She continued that HRG had also asked to approve this Draft through a Resolution, which would eliminate the need for a public hearing. While adopting this Draft through a resolution is easier and faster, and the pandemic allows us to allow only 25 people in a room, HRG does not have the final say in whether this draft has to be adopted without a public hearing. Mr. DiLorenzo added that this draft is 1,600 pages long, which is too long for a Municipality which has only about 1,500 people. Penney commented that Zoning Ordinances of all four Municipalities were added into that draft, and that is why the Draft looks so big.

Mr. Stroyan commented that the Act 537 Plan needed to be approved by the DEP before the Township could adopt it. He continued that the correspondences from HRG indicated that DEP had been asking for a meeting between the Delaware River Basin Commission, DEP, and all of the stakeholders since November of 2019, and this meeting had never been held. The time frame of 60 days, which was quite short for reviewing a 1,600 page-long Draft, was set by the Engineers. He suggested having Mr. Matthew Roberts, in Planning Board workshops to answer questions. Rachel added that Planning Commission discusses Zoning Amendment Proposals from DEPG and other applications in their regular meetings, and hence sixty days likely won’t be sufficient even if they use workshops to discuss this long Draft. Mr. Stroyan added that this Act 537 was for the entire Municipality, not just for the Sewer pipe, which is just a pass-through for this Township, and hence a resolution was not a proper way to adopt this draft. The Solicitor reminded that the OLDS Ordinance included that it would be a five-year long study. Rachel Hendricks made a motion to

send a letter back to HRG stating that the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors of Milford Township want to go forward with the adoption of Act 537 Plan through an Ordinance, which requires public hearings. She continued that workshops would be added for reviewing this draft plan, some updates might need to be made, and then the Township would communicate with HRG within the next 45 days. Penney seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Penney commented that a large portion of the Act 537 Plan constituted Zoning Ordinances of other Municipalities, and hence not reviewing those portions might make this job lighter. Peggy commented that Milford Township might be mentioned in adjoining Municipalities' Zoning Ordinances. Mr. Stroyan offered to do the footwork of getting a similar Regional Act 537 Plan for Mr. Matthew Roberts, as he thought including other Municipalities' ordinances into this Plan was not necessary.

New Business:

Bond Reduction for Shohola Dollar General: Supervisors said that the Zoning Officer was working on it, and hence this item needed to be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. DiLorenzo said that Sagamore has a well in Milford Township, and the Water Company is walking away from this well.

Public Participation:

Mr. Fred Weber expressed his appreciation about extending the time frame for reviewing the Draft of Act 537 Plan. He added that the Municipality of course should be able to decide about the length of the time frame for reviewing this Draft. Peggy Emanuel said that she had taken the survey of Milford Borough, and then she tried to take the Comprehensive Plan survey of Milford Township, but she got the notification that that survey was already done. Penney suggested taking the Milford Township survey with a different computer or iPad. Mr. Weber said that in 2006, only 192 people had taken this survey, which is an important tool for setting the goal. Mr. Stroyan said that proper advertisement is important for informing residents about the availability of this survey. Rachel asked for other Supervisors' permission for the Solicitor to review a draft she would work on for placing Ambulance Tax frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the Township website, as propaganda was spreading against the proposed ambulance tax increase. The Supervisors agreed to have the Solicitor review a FAQ draft for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that the marquis sign in front of the building would be changed to "Ambulance Tax Vote" or something similar once the Ambulance Tax FAQ page was ready on the website, to help inform the residents and answer their questions before they cast their ballots.

There was no other business or executive session needed. Penney Luhrs made a motion to pay the bills and adjourn, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously. Adjournment was at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahana Shamim

Secretary/Treasurer