



801 Burrows Run Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING via ZOOM MINUTES

August 5, 2020
7:02 p.m.

Present: Dr. Richard L. Leff, Chairman; Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice Chair; Scudder G. Stevens, Supervisor; Eden R. Ratliff, Township Manager; Amy Heinrich, Finance/HR Director; Roger Lysle, Public Works Director; Matt Gordon, Acting Chief of Police; Dave Sander, Solicitor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Leff called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and explained how the meetings are conducted. He then gave a brief COVID-19 update.

Hoffman commented on the reports of people not wearing masks and social distancing at athletic practices and stressed the importance of remaining vigilant with wearing masks and staying socially distant, but not emotionally distant, to keep Kennett's number low and increase chances of things returning to normal.

Stevens reiterated the fact that while social distance of six feet apart is needed, what is more accurate is that people need to remain socially close while remotely distant. It is important to keep in touch with loved ones as loneliness is what can lead people into the dark.

2. TOWNSHIP RECOVERY UPDATE

Ratliff had no significant update to offer as this is a slow process that takes time but ensured everyone that the Township is staying in close communications with the District Attorney's office. He also reminded everyone of the \$1 million surety bond that was recently recovered and stated that other options are still being pursued with the help of legal counsel Blank Rome. As updates become available, they will be communicated with the Township.

3. KIRA FLOERSHEIM, DISTRICT SCHEDULER & CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE FOR REP. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

Kira Floersheim works in the West Chester office of U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan. This is a newer office, having been in office for a little over a year and a half. Floersheim serves as a Constituent Advocate in educational matters such as student loans as well as a District Scheduler for Houlahan. Her presentation highlighted ways they can help, especially considering the pandemic. Currently, the number one case work for their office is missing stimulus checks and Floersheim explained how Houlahan's office can help with that. They also offer grant letter support, congressional accommodations, military academy nominations, public achievements, flag requests and tours of the capital building (in normal, non COVID-19 times). In terms of constituent services, they have closed almost 1,400 cases and returned over \$3.52 million of taxpayer dollars to the district which came from tax refunds that were in

limbo and veteran benefits. Floersheim further detailed the virtual events and projects ran by their office and offered a legislative update. She wrapped up by encouraging those who have not yet filled out their Census 2020 form to do so by visiting www.my2020census.gov, calling 844-330-2020 (for English speakers) or 844-468-2020 (for Spanish speakers).

Discussion:

- Stevens reiterated the importance of completing the Census as the counting will stop one month earlier by order of the President, which could have a dramatic effect on a certain economic group within the community.
- Leff asked if Floersheim could summarize the requirements for someone to receive a stimulus check. She answered that any tax paying citizen from 2018 or 2019 or anyone who is on any form of Social Security should have received a stimulus check. For those who filed as individuals, the amount would have been \$1200 (as long as they made under \$75,000 annually). For married couples who filed jointly, the amount would have been \$2400 plus an additional \$500 for each dependent they claimed (as long as they made under \$150,000 annually). She encouraged anyone with questions on qualifying to reach out to their office for assistance.
- Hoffman thanked Floersheim as her family has personally been in contact with their office and been helped by their office. Hoffman then asked about employment opportunities for testing and tracing. Floersheim said that one of the obstacles they are facing is that the bills that will create these positions are still just bills and until action is taken in the Senate and passed onto the President to sign, they will remain just bills. She encouraged Hoffman to continue to check the state and local county levels for any paid or volunteer opportunities to help (www.chesco.org and www.pa.gov).
- Stevens commented that he is pleased Houlahan has reached out to Kennett Township in the past and again tonight and he wanted Floersheim to report back to Houlahan well wishes and appreciation for her strong efforts on behalf of the residents of Kennett Township as well as her broader constituency.

4. MEETING MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Motion presented by Hoffman to adopt the June 17, 2020 Board Meeting minutes. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

Discussion:

- There was no discussion.

(During Kira Floersheim’s presentation, someone on the Zoom call interfered with the PowerPoint presentation by adding inappropriate words to the screen. After attempting a second time, the meeting continued with no PowerPoint/screen sharing. Stevens asked Chief Matt Gordon if there was anything to be done and he said he would follow up with Gretchen Flack, the Zoom meeting host, after the meeting. Ratliff added that we will also add a complaint to Zoom and pursue all avenues possible to trace that user.)

5. OLD BUSINESS (ACTION ITEMS)

- a. **Ratify Resolution 2020-12 for Waywood Lane Right of Way**
(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4166)

Ratliff introduced this old business item that was originally brought before the Board and discussed at length at the June 17th Board of Supervisors meeting. There was no motion made, however, at that meeting.

Motion presented by Hoffman to adopt Resolution 2020-12, a Resolution of Kennett Township accepting the dedication of a portion of the ultimate right-of-way of Waywood Lane, repealing all inconsistent resolutions or parts thereof and providing a severability clause and an effective date. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously after the following discussion.

Discussion:

- Sanders confirmed that the only issue with this was that no motion was made on June 17th, therefore the 3-0 vote in favor that was cast did not count.
- Stevens asked that his comments from the June 17th minutes that were adopted tonight be incorporated into this meeting (from June 17th: Stevens asked to clarify that this is not Ways Lane, but rather Waywood Lane. Hicks confirmed that it is Waywood Lane.)
- Leff asked if any of the wording has changed in this Resolution, to which Sanders replied only the date of enactment will change from a prior date to today's date.

6. NEW BUSINESS (ACTION ITEMS)

a. Consider the August 5, 2020 Bill Voucher in the amount of \$164,207.99

www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4167

Motion presented by Hoffman to approve the August 5, 2020 Bill Voucher in the amount of \$164,207.99. Total transfers equal \$30,758.80. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- Stevens thanked Heinrich and the staff for pulling together this cover page and the detailed statement that follows as he finds it very helpful. He added that he looks forward to seeing on a regular/monthly basis financial statements about the Township's operating budget and income and expenses now that there is a new accounting system. Heinrich commented that they did a year-to-date at the end of May and would have another one at next month's meeting, as they are still in the middle of the 2019 audit. The new General Ledger system will be in place in the fall, so it is not quite there yet, but it is coming.

b. Consider Waiver Request for 823 Starvegut Lane

www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4168

Motion presented by Stevens to approve the requested waivers from Sections 199-30, 199-304 through 199-310, and Articles IV through VII of the Stormwater Management Ordinance all in regard to 823 Starvegut Lane concerning grading and erosion control permit. Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously after the following discussion.

Discussion:

- Leff commented that the request seems clear.
- Stevens commented that this is not simply a casual waiving of requirements, rather there are specific reasons that the waivers are appropriate as detailed in AECOM's letter dated July 13, 2020. It is because of that letter that he felt comfortable in making the motion and supporting it.
- Hoffman added that AECOM did a thorough review.

c. Consider Waiver Request for 320 Kennett Pike

www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4168

Motion presented by Stevens to approve requested waivers from Sections 199-106.B of the Stormwater Management Ordinance all with regard to 320 Kennett Pike, Chadds Ford, PA and particularly Mattock School of Music. Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously after the following discussion.

Discussion:

- Stevens repeated his comment from the previous waiver request, that after looking to the explanation and development of the issues by AECOM and in reliance on their advice, he made the motion and plans to vote in favor of it.
- Leff added that based on the engineer's letter at the end of construction, there will be less impervious coverage than before, so the disturbance is temporary.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Leff thanked Matt Gordon and Roger Lysle and everyone from the Township with their response to the storms in making sure the roads and people were safe.
- Leff introduced for discussion the Black Lives Matter movement. At the next meeting, he would like to present a Resolution that could perhaps change how some things are approached in Kennett Township. He acknowledged that there is not a large African American population in the Township but thinks it is time to look at this issue through a different lens. He asked Ratliff to do some outreach to the community before the next meeting to solicit their thoughts and feedback on things Kennett Township might be able to do differently. Ratliff agreed to do so.
- Stevens added that he knows of some feedback already form the community and he hopes they will be able to attend the next meeting to add their specific thoughts and concerns.
- Stevens complimented Officer Simmons on helping a young citizen in the Borough out of a dangerous situation as Stevens had received a thank you note from the boy's father. Stevens shared the note with the Manager, the other Supervisors and Gordon and wanted to let everyone know that this is the level of excellent service we have grown to expect from Kennett Township. Gordon thanked Stevens for passing the letter on and explained some other difficult circumstances in Officer Simmons's life recently and said that he was not surprised by how well she and the other members of this Police Department work.
- Stevens said it is important to pass along the good work the Police do, and Hoffman agreed adding that the Kennett Township Police Department makes them proud every day.
- Leff asked Gordon to explain what they do for officers who go through a tough situation. Gordon said that psychological emergencies are probably going to grow in our community, and this has been discussed at the regional level as well as between he and the Manager. He and the Manager are currently in talks to bring in someone to help the psychological needs of not only the public, but the officers as well. Ratliff added that there will be more discussions in the coming months about this as they recognize that they are going to have to be creative in addressing these challenges in the community.
- Carlos Rodriguez (118 Race Street) shared that he and his friends wanted to bring the idea of a skateboard park to the Board, perhaps where some abandoned factories are in Kennett. He added that currently, the closest skate park is 28 minutes away and not desirable due to the time it takes round trip and the cost for gas.
- Stevens explained the Board's past focus has been on open spaces for passive activities and asked if Mr. Rodriguez is suggesting that they address their vision of open space to include active recreation such as skateboards. He thanked Rodriquez and his friends for speaking up for this and said this was a good challenge for the Board and he looks forward to discussing it with the other Board members. Stevens also encouraged Rodriquez to join them for these conversations.
- Hoffman added that she is aware of this need from her own children who skate and suggested that perhaps a committee could be put together to investigate locations, costs, etc. It was confirmed that his email address was shared via Zoom chat so that this conversation can continue.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion presented by Hoffman to adjourn. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with no discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eden R. Ratliff
Township Secretary