

Kennett Township Investigation Update

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 | 7:00 pm

Scudder Stevens, Chair:

Good evening, Everyone.

As you know, the Kennett Township Board of Supervisors made a commitment to keep everyone as informed as possible into the two investigations currently underway in Kennett Township by the Chester County District Attorney's Office and a forensic auditor hired by the Township.

These investigations are looking into some suspicious transactions on Township accounts which came to light in late April of this year. As you know, all Township employees (including the Supervisors) have been asked by the District Attorney not to discuss any details which might jeopardize the investigations, and we have been following those instructions.

That said, in keeping with our commitment to communicate what we can, we have a few items to report tonight.

First, on the progress of the investigations

As you will recall from our last update on Wednesday, June 5, I read a brief joint statement from the investigators (meaning the Chester County District Attorney's Office and our forensic auditors) that said that the investigation was in the final stages of securing records and documents from both internal and external sources and the investigators were in the process of analyzing and qualifying those documents, a process which will continue for a period of some months.

That is still the case. Tonight however, I would like to add that the Interview phase has also now begun.

I regret that I cannot be more specific and cannot provide any more details than that at the present time, under direction from the District Attorney's Office. I also cannot speculate or discuss who is being interviewed, the subjects covered, or how long the Interview phase may take.

As we are able, we will provide further updates. I appreciate your understanding as we work to fully support the investigation and not to do or say anything which might jeopardize it.

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Second, a Township Operations Update

We continue to work diligently to ensure that the government of Kennett Township proceeds without interruption. I would like to briefly highlight three items:

- **First, our new interim Township Manager, Alison Rudolph,** joined our staff about two weeks ago. I'd like to introduce her to you (applause). She'll be giving us a report a bit later. Alison has begun the process of thoroughly reviewing all of our Township policies and procedures to identify areas that can be improved, made more efficient and effective in keeping with best practices, and made more secure. You will be hearing more about these efforts in future meetings.

Alison is also preparing for the Budget Process (which is quite extensive) and which will begin in late summer of this year.

- **Second, in response to our ads, we have begun receiving applications for the permanent Township Manager position.** Beginning in early July, we will begin reviewing those applications and narrowing the list.

Later in tonight's meeting, we will hear from David Woglom. Dave is the Associate Director for Public Service at the Meyner Center at Lafayette College for the Study of State and Local Government. He has 27 years' experience in municipal management in southeastern Pennsylvania, including 20 years as the Borough Manager in Quakertown.

The Meyner Center provides independent and unbiased, professional guidance in choosing both the procedure for recruiting township managers and other municipal department heads and in the ultimate selection of the best candidate available.

The Meyner Center has an excellent reputation among municipal governments for their knowledge, expertise and professionalism.

Kennett Township has retained The Meyner Center to advise us on both the recruiting and selection processes for hiring a new Township Manager.

You will hear from Dave a bit later on and he will be glad to answer questions at that time.

- **Last, on behalf of Richard Leff, Whitney Hoffman and myself, I would like to thank all our Township staff and all the residents of Kennett Township** for their support and encouragement as we work to navigate our way through this difficult process.

Kennett Township Board of Supervisors

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