



SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP & GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING – 3-21-2023

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

The Board of Supervisors of the Township of South Heidelberg met at the Municipal Building for the monthly workshop & general business meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Byrne at 9:00 AM, on March 21, 2023 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MEETING ATTENDEES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman, Thomas R. Byrne
Vice-Chairman, John N. Musante

TOWNSHIP STAFF & ADVISORS

Township Manager, Sean A. McKee
Police Chief, J. Matthew Hook
Public Works Manager, Bill Lanza
Township Solicitor, Andrew George, Esq.
Township Engineer, Scott Anderson

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald Spittler, Spittler's Towing RE: Towing Contract. Mr. Spittler stated he was in attendance to discuss towing contract and answer any questions. Mr. Spittler distributed a binder to the Board.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Mr. McKee referenced his report and provided the following updates:

Grant Updates. Mr. McKee provided updates on grants including that the Township has been awarded the CFA Multimodal Grant relating to the Krick Lane Extension in the amount of \$250,000 and the Berks LSA Grant for Police Car in the amount of \$71,000. Mr. McKee stated that the CFA Multimodal was very competitive and although the Township did not receive the full ask of \$1.5M that the grant award is a step in the right direction. Mr. McKee stated that the PennDOT Multimodal grant will award in June/July 2023 and that grant will hopefully fund the remainder of the Krick Lane Extension. Mr. McKee stated he is working on several upcoming grants relating to police vests, police equipment and public works equipment and will be requesting authorization to submit those grants in the upcoming months.

McKee asked the Board if there were any questions. No comment from the Board.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Chief Hook referenced his report and provided the following updates:

Towing Contract. Chief Hook stated he has been working with Solicitor George concerning the Towing Contract renewal. There was discussion on the parameters of the contract and refining the current format. Chief Hook and Solicitor George stated they would work on any revisions and hopefully have something for the upcoming meeting for review and approval.

Detective Workload. Chief Hook stated that Detective Heiden has been very busy with cases and that he has also set up quarterly sessions relating to subjects like fraud prevention. Chief Hook stated that these sessions will be held each quarter rotating among the municipalities served by the SHPD.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Quarterly Meeting with Municipalities. Chief Hook stated that he along with his staff held a quarterly meeting for municipal leaders on March 20, 2023 at the Township Building. Chief Hook provided a copy of the presentation to the Board in email and stated the meeting was productive and positive. Chairman Byrne stated the presentation was well done and informative and felt the meeting went well. Chairman Byrne stated the information presented was comprehensive and provided details and information in a format that was professional and beyond anything he has seen submitted in the past. Mr. McKee stated the presentation and information provided information and insight and that he had gained further insight specifically into department operations.

Chief Hook asked the Board if there were any questions. No comment from the Board.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lanza referenced his report and provided the following updates.

Sign Replacement. Mr. Lanza stated that he and the public works team has completed all traffic sign replacements in the Township with over 70 signs including posts being replaced as a result of the sign inspection and rating that was completed in 2022.

Snow Fencing. Mr. Lanza stated with milder weather ahead the public works team will begin to take down the snow fencing and has been conducting some prep work for the street sweeper by using the brush to clear intersections.

Pre-Road Projects Work. Mr. Lanza stated the public works team has been working on road prep and other work around the roadways that are set for road repair and paving this year. Mr. Lanza stated when the hot mix plants open up he will begin to schedule the pipe replacement work to be done on Sportsman Road and also will begin other road milling work on Sportsman and other roadways.

Mr. Lanza asked if the Board had any questions. No comment from the Board.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT

Township Engineer Scott Anderson referenced his report and provided the following updates:

2023 Road Projects. Mr. Anderson stated that the 2023 Road Projects bids were opened and tabulated and referenced the tabulation sheet provided to the Board. Mr. Anderson stated that the lowest bid is H&K Group in the amount of \$647,384. Mr. Anderson stated that the price includes West Cocalico Township's portion and the amount South Heidelberg Township would pay as part of the bid is approximately \$490k.

Popeye's Lot 5 Waivers & Preliminary/Final Plan. Mr. Anderson stated that the Preliminary/Final plan for Popeye's on Lot 5 of the Members First Subdivision was reviewed and approval is recommended. Mr. Anderson stated the Planning Commission reviewed the plan as part of its March meeting and recommended approval to include approval of several waivers with approvals conditioned upon meeting the conditions of the review letter.

Stor4You Lot 4 Preliminary/Final Plan. Mr. Anderson stated that Stor4You continues to move forward and submitted a revised Preliminary/Final Plan however further revisions are needed and no action will need to be taken until those revisions are submitted and reviewed.

SG America Escrow Release Request. Mr. Anderson stated that SG America has requested an Escrow Release. Mr. Anderson stated a review letter and spreadsheet dated March 16, 2023 is attached in his packet with a recommendation to authorize a release of \$182,542.50

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR REPORT

Mr. George reference his report and provided the following updates.

Krick Lane Extension. Mr. George that work continues on the Krick Lane Extension and recently an Access Agreement was needed as requested by Mr. Noss and his counsel relating to some work needed on his property. Mr. George stated he was able to quickly resolve the request for an agreement and keep things moving.

Towing Contract. Mr. George stated his office has reviewed the existing Tow Contract which initially was a 3 year term. Mr. George stated he will work with Chief Hook to finalize the language in the contract and will hopefully have a draft to the Board for review for the April meeting.

Fastbridge Fiber/Issues. Mr. George that Fastbridge is a new company that has been extending fiber lines in neighboring municipalities. Mr. George stated the company has created some issues in those municipalities. Mr. Lanza stated that he spoke with Spring Township and the issues were significant and required Spring Township to designate a public works person to video the work as it was being done due to damage caused on prior work. Mr. McKee stated that the Township needs to proactively reach out to Fastbridge to setup a meeting to discuss our expectations and also revise the Road Cut Ordinance accordingly and review that with Fastbridge so they are aware of expectations from South Heidelberg and abide by our ordinances and processes.

Mr. George asked if there were any questions and requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation. The Board had no questions.

RECREATION BOARD

Mrs. Billingsley was not present. Mr. McKee stated the annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 1st starting at 2:00PM as Richard E. Hummel South Mountain Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Boulanger RE: Lower Heidelberg PD. Mr. Boulanger asked if there was any interest from Lower Heidelberg Township in providing them with our police services due to our proximity to each other. Mr. McKee stated that it was made clear by a current Lower Heidelberg Township Supervisor that Lower Heidelberg is not interested in police services from South Heidelberg.

Mike Davis, RE: Several Items. Mr. Davis references a Reading Eagle article regarding Police Hiring and issues with hiring Officers. Chief Hook stated that the number of candidates has significantly decreased over the past several years. Mr. McKee stated that the Police Academy graduates has decreased as well making it difficult to find quality candidates. Chief Hook stated that Detective Heiden has visited the various Police Academies to attempt to find candidates and that the SHPD has also been successful in recruiting existing officers from other departments, namely the Reading PD. Mr. Davis also asked about retention of Officers and Chief Hook stated he is working with Mr. McKee and the Board on various actions to retain existing Officers.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 10:19 am was made by Mrs. Billingsley seconded Mr. Musante and carried unanimously by the Board.


Tiffany L. Billingsley, Secretary/Treasurer