

Williams Township Board of Supervisors
May 21, 2021

The special meeting of the Williams Township Board of Supervisors, 655 Cider Press Road, Easton, PA 18042 was held on the above date virtually on “gotomeeting.com” and called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairperson Mark Ernst. Others present were Vice Chairperson Michael Bryant, Supervisor Raymond Abert, Township Solicitor Jonathan Reiss, Township Manager Mikal Sabatine, Public Works Director Michael Strawn and Assistant Township Manager Melody Ernst.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. June Public Meeting Discussion – Jonathan stated that the Emergency Declaration has been extended for an additional ninety days. If the Township chooses to continue to have virtual meetings, it can do that under Act 15. The Act states as long as there is a Declaration of Emergency in place, virtual meetings can still be held. Mark stated he has no objection to virtual or live meeting, but does not want to wear a mask for a live meeting. Ray stated he would like to get back to live meetings and is comfortable without wearing a mask and has no objection to those that would or would not like to wear one. Michael stated he is not comfortable going with live meetings and no masks because of his personal situation. He further stated that if masks are not worn, then he would prefer staying virtual. He stated that if at some point his situation would change then he would strongly suggest live meetings, but feels as a Township the Board has a mission statement to protect the health and welfare of the Township residents. George stated from what he gathers the extension of the Emergency mandate has changed nothing. He further stated that the gyms, Walmart, Giant, Home Depot and Lowes, masks are optional. Mark made a motion to resume meetings live in June with the masks being optional for residents, staff and professionals and not to have the Constables enforce whether they are vaccinated or not, second by Ray. Mark stated because of Michael’s situation, Mikal can position a chair so that he is socially distanced from everyone. Jonathan stated that Michael always has the option to attend the meeting via the telephone as long as everyone can hear him. There being no further comments, motion carried 2-1. Michael opposed. Mark asked Mikal to make special arrangements for Michael.

2. Verizon Easement – Stouts Valley Park – Resolution 2021-16 – Mark asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Resolution. Michael stated that if the pole is not owned by the Township and PennDOT needs to move the pole, then they should pay for it. Mikal stated that the Township needs it remove the pole in order for the Township to secure the Right-of-Way for PennDOT. Mikal further stated that the \$10,262.14 is an estimate and if the cost is less than that the Township will receive a credit. Jonathan stated that he thought at the May 12th meeting the cost was approved and today we are authorizing to sign the new lease. Mikal stated that is correct. Mark stated this Easement must be done for the completion of the Melchor Tract project. Mikal commented that the Township will not be able to acquire the HOP or close out the NPDES without it. Ray made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-16, second by Michael. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

Other Business - None

Supervisor Remarks

Ray explained the process to remove the pole and feels it is not an excess amount to do that. Michael asked if the relocation of the pole was thought about early on in the project. Jonathan stated it became an issue during the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) application. Mike stated that we already have an HOP for the park as it stood before but when we upgraded the HOP to a higher volume driveway, it kicked in the new easements and regulations and then the removal of the pole.

Ray commented that the motion that was made for the meetings, does that also authorize the other committees to go live? There was a short discussion to stay consistent with all boards and leave it up to them whether or not they want to wear a mask. Ray made a motion that all Boards and Committees start live meetings June 1st, second by Mark. There being no comments, motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melody A. Ernst, Asst. Manager/Secretary
Williams Township Board of Supervisors