

Lower Milford Township

Lehigh County, Pennsylvania

Board of Supervisors

July 16, 2020 Regular Meeting In-person and Virtual via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Donna Wright, Chair; Ellen Koplin, Vice-Chair; John Quigley, Supervisor Mark Cappuccio, Esq., Solicitor; Stacy Smith, Treasurer/Acting Secretary and 7 members of the public, Additional members of the public participated virtually.

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM by Chair Wright and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Quigley began with a motion to terminate to the current Treasurer Smith due to that Quigley quotes

“I object to the presence of Stacy Smith because of her verbal threats to the Lower Milford Township manager’s African American family. Such behavior is completely unacceptable and the fact that this action is not only tolerated by Supervisors Koplin and Wright but rewarded is despicable” Koplin seconded the motion for purposes of discussion. Wright called for vote, Quigley voted aye, Koplin voted nay, motion did not carry.

Chair Wright read a statement prepared for the purposes of responding to the allegations made by Quigley when he accused the Bookkeeper of committing an act of racism and the Township of condoning the alleged racism.

Solicitor Cappuccio responded to a statement made at the previous meeting. At no point did Mr. Cooperman mention there were racial or discriminatory threats towards him or his family. Cappuccio repeated on several occasions throughout the meeting that personnel matters could not be discussed in in public forum. And statements have been made only in response to these allegations.

Motion by Koplin to approve the minutes for June 18, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Wright with the addition that Quigley’s reasons for abstention be added. Abstention by Quigley due to his beliefs that the bookkeeper lacks in skills required and, in his opinion, made racial threats against former manager. His abstention for these reasons will carry throughout the meeting. 2 Aye 1 abstention Motion carried.

The Treasurers Report was read by Wright:

• General Fund	\$	1,102,320.24
• Historical Registry Fund		5,734.50
• Rec & Open Space Fund		7,103.26
• Sewer Fund		37,505.36
• Capital Reserve Fund		33,033.59
• Fire Fund		317,644.28
• Highway Capital Improvement		322,546.78

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- State Liquid Fuels Tax Account 282,957.34
- Developers Escrow (Non-Township) Funds 43,173.37

Motion to approve Treasurers report made by Koplin Seconded by Wright, with Quigley abstaining for reasons previously stated. 2 ayes 1 Abstention Motion carried.

Motion made by Quigley to authorize paying the July 2020 bills Koplin seconded 3 Ayes motion carried

Wright announced the Zoning Report

Wright announced the Public Works report.

Wright announced the Secretary's Report

Wright announced the Macungie Ambulance Report

Under Old Business:

Koplin prepared Financial Outlook for 2021 which indicates the impact on Township finances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wright suggested to have a workshop meeting in August to further discuss the Pandemic impact on finances and how that would affect other planned projects.

All Supervisors agreed to meet for a Workshop August 6, 2020.

Adoption of Ordinances #110-#113 could not be made due to a glitch in the advertisement. These items will be moved to next meeting after the proper advertising has been placed.

Koplin made a motion to approve Ordinance #106 Nuisance ordinance as is written for advertising. Wright seconded. 2 ayes, 1 abstention Quigley abstained for reasons previously stated. Motion carried.

Under New Business:

Discussion of Sewage planning module for 3156 Cassel Road has been tabled to following meeting.

Docket # 20-05 Appeal of Jason V. Flexer and Randi Lea Flexer seeking a Special Exception for residential conversion. The Board concurred that they would not take a position on the appeal.

Docket # 20-06 Appeal of Theodore and Lois Zapach in response to the Zoning Officer's enforcement notice. A motion was made by Koplin for Atty. Cappuccio to attend Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by Wright. All approved motion carried.

Docket # 20-07 Appeal of Bruce C. Tressler seeking a variance for non-confirming structure. The board concurred that they would not take a position on the appeal.

Discussion took place on this years Fall Festival. Koplín made a motion to cancel this years Festival due to the safety concerns revolving around COVID-19. Wright seconded the motion. 2 Ayes 1 abstention. Quigley abstained for reasons previously stated. Motion carried

Discussion took place on moving our Township credit card account from Bank of America to Embassy Bank. Having a local Bank would be better suited for our needs. Koplín made the motion for the move, which was seconded by Wright. Quigley strongly objected to the Treasurer having use of a Township card, even though some payments can only be made via credit card. 2 Ayes 1 abstention. Quigley abstaining for reasons previously stated. Motion carried

Wright requested an item to the agenda on security. Quigley had requested on multiple occasions to have a key to get into the Township building and into the office area. Wright has spoken to several municipalities and the majority of Supervisors do not have keys. And that all Supervisory business can be handled during normal business hours. Wright also pointed out that since Quigley refuses to sign anything this should not affect him. Wright feels as though only the staff, tax collector, and the cleaning person be holders of a key. This is to protect everyone. Koplín made a motion to approve that only the staff, tax collector, and cleaning person would have a key. Wright seconded the motion. 2 Aye 1 abstention Quigley abstained for reasons previously stated. Motion carried.

Comments were made by the public. One resident asked about the status on the open position. Supervisors have not made a decision on that subject and currently the Treasurer, Zoning Officer and the Public Works Director are doing a good job handling things as they come.

Our Lower Milford Fire Company is asking for residents to help support their local Fire Company by ordering a hoagie. Last day for orders will be August 9th.

Meeting Schedule is available on the township Website.

Motion was made by Koplín to adjourn the meeting Seconded by Wright. 2 Ayes 1 abstention. Quigley abstaining for reason previously stated. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy R. Smith
Acting Township Secretary