

EAST BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg, PA, 17837
April 27, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State's stay-at-home order and the advocating for the practice of social distancing, the Township Board used a virtual meeting format that allowed for Township elected and appointed officials and members of the public to participate in the work session meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The change for the meeting "location" was advertised in a local newspaper and meeting registration and options for submitting public comments were provided on the Township website. Prior to the meeting, members of the public were invited to submit questions to any Township elected or appointed official via phone or email. During the meeting, the public was instructed to use the "Raise Hand" feature or the "Q&A" portal in the virtual meeting or they were instructed to send a text message or email to the Township Manager.

Chairman Schumacher called the Board of Supervisors Meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Those present: Chairman Matt Schumacher; Vice Chairman Char Gray; Supervisor James Knight; Township Manager, Stacey Kifolo; Solicitor Peter Matson; and Secretary/Treasurer, Jolene Helwig.

Members of the public participating via the virtual meeting format: Matt Farrand (Standard Journal); Eric Scicchitano (Daily Item); Gregory Chamra; Judith Marvin; Marilyn Murphy; Nancy Steckel; Ryan Shabahang; Victor Udo; Jeffrey Shrader; and Fred Warren.

Chairman Schumacher reported that the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission (BVRPC) Board meeting for and Central Susquehanna Fire and Emergency Services (CSFES) Board meeting for April were cancelled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Schumacher stated that he did not have an update on the WCEC negotiation with West Chillisquaque Township.

Vice Chairman Gray reported that she will follow up on the BVRPC meeting scheduled for May 13th. Gray reported that a few BVRA board members have been meeting with the executive director to discuss how to proceed with business due to the state shutdown. The gymnastic program is offering Zoom classes to keep kids in shape. BVRA will be discussing summer programs and the pool schedule in the near future, as activities are scheduled to begin June 8th.

For the first segment of public comment, attendees were asked to limit comments to matters on the agenda.

No comments or questions were submitted by online attendees.

Motion by Supervisor Knight and seconded by Chairman Schumacher to approve the April 13, 2020 meeting minutes as distributed.

Schumacher-y, Gray-abstained, Knight-y; Motion Carried.

The Board of Supervisors review and discussion of the proposed solar ordinance, revised and redrafted as of April 23, 2020 by Makenzie Stover (CKCOG) Zoning Officer and Solicitor Peter Matson, resulted in the board directing Solicitor Matson to make a few changes to the draft that will be released for public review. The Board of Supervisors authorized Solicitor Matson to advertise for the zoning ordinance amendment public hearing to be held on June 8, 2020. A copy of the amendment will be posted on the township website and copies may be obtained by contacting the Township or the Central Keystone COG.

Motion by Chairman Schumacher and seconded by Vice Chairman Gray to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Union County Conservation District for the joint promotion of the conservation of natural resources within the Township, on lands both public and private, for the

purpose of preventing soil erosion and sedimentation of streams promoting stormwater management, issuing general permits for stream encroachments, managing agricultural security areas, and promoting health, safety, and welfare of the residents of EBT.
Schumacher-y, Gray-y, Knight-y; Motion Carried

Motion by Chairman Schumacher and seconded by Vice Chairman Gray to approve Resolution 03-2020 to ratify the initial COVID-19 Municipal Emergency Declaration dated March 19, 2020; each of the extensions to the declaration, dated March 26, 2020, April 2, 2020 and April 9, 2020; and authorize the declaration to extend through May 8, 2020.
Schumacher-y, Gray-y, Knight-y; Motion Carried

Township Manager Kifolo reported that Governor Wolf signed SB841, which among other things provides property tax relief by allowing taxing districts to extend the discount period thorough August 31st, and/or to waive late fees and penalties, essentially extending the face value, for property taxes paid between September 1st and December 31, 2020. The Board of Supervisor must pass a resolution by May 20th. The Union County Commissioners are requesting input from all municipalities. Township Manager Kifolo noted that taxpayers who have paid in April and those potential payees in May would be paying at the face value. By extending the discount period, returns would need to be processed for all April and May payees. Kifolo noted that the probable scenario by the County would be to leave the discount as expiring March 31st, and extending the face value through December 31st, essentially eliminating the penalty period. Each Board member noted that Kifolo should convey to the County Commissioners, their support for leave the discount as expiring March 31st and extending the face value through December 31st.

During the April 13th regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Schumacher had asked that the Board be provided with financial information for the Board to consider issuing 2020 tax rebates for East Buffalo Township property taxes. Manager Kifolo provided projections for revenue reductions based on overall economic and employment downturns, as well as a projected 20% reduction of real estate revenue. The total projected impact is a decrease of approximately (\$1.14M) compared to the original general fund budget. The Board of Supervisors asked that Township Manager Kifolo draft a mailer that could be sent to all property owners should the Board approve a tax rebate. The Board will discuss the matter during the scheduled May 11, 2020 meeting.

Chairman Schumacher announced that the Board of Supervisors would be holding an executive session immediately following the work session to discuss on-going litigation.

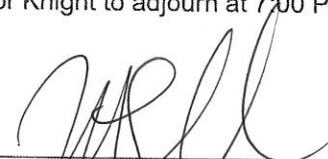
For the second segment of public comment, attendees were welcomed to comment on matters that were discussed during the meeting or topics not appearing on the agenda.

No comments or questions were submitted by online attendees.

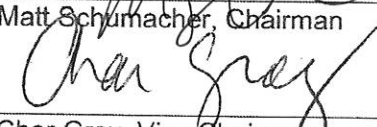
Motion by Vice Chairman Gray and seconded by Supervisor Knight to adjourn at 7:00 PM.




Jolene D. Helwig, Secretary



Matt Schumacher, Chairman



Char Gray, Vice Chairman



James Knight, Supervisor