

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*In order to ensure public safety during the COVID-19 crisis, the September 8, 2020 meeting was held by audio and video conferencing via a Zoom Virtual Webinar and shown live on YouTube on the Derry Township YouTube page.*

Chairman Abruzzo called the September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township of Derry Board of Supervisors to order at 7:03 p.m. via video conferencing with a Zoom Virtual Webinar through the on-line Meeting Room. He advised that all public meetings are recorded for providing accurate notes. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a roll call was performed. He stated there was a 6 p.m. executive session of the Board tonight where legal matters was discussed until 6:37 p.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**SUPERVISORS**

E. Christopher Abruzzo, Chairman  
 Natalie L. Nutt, Vice Chairwoman  
 Carter E. Wyckoff, Secretary  
 Richard D. Zmuda  
 Susan M. Cort

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Christopher Christman, Township Manager  
 Peter Nelson, Township Solicitor  
 Chuck Emerick, Director of Community Development  
 Thomas Clark, Director of Public Works  
 Chief Garth Warner, Police Department  
 Dave Sassaman, Hershey Volunteer Fire Department  
 Matthew Mandia, Director of Parks and Recreation  
 Cheryl Lontz, Manager of Payroll & Employee Benefits  
 Laura O'Grady, Director of Hershey Public Library  
 Lauren Zumbrun, Economic Development Manager  
 Michael Wood, HRG Engineer  
 Brian Blahusch, IT Director  
 Julie Echterling, Recorder

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bill Fisher, 1354 Shopes Church Road, is a 25-year resident. He spoke about calling Derry Dispatch over the years and the positive difference it makes for the Community. He called recently when there was a break in and the Police were there almost immediately and caught the thief. He asked if they considered merging with Lower Dauphin to help with the costs. He asked them to work to keep this service.

Mr. Rich Gamble, 39 Hockersville Road, asked what it costs the Township to move to the County for the Dispatch Center. He said you cannot put a number on a life because it cannot be replaced. He asked if it is worth the risk.

Mr. Andy Andrews, 404 Hockersville Road, noted this is a tourist town. He spoke about a local farmer who said people get upset about a 10-cent increase on the price of milk but will pay 75 cents more for ice cream. He noted those on vacation should pay for services and could help. He asked the tourists to be charged to help with the costs of the dispatchers.

Mr. Rick Gilbert, 740 Brooke Drive, spoke about the differences between the County and the Township's dispatch center. He does not believe people understand how important it is to have dispatchers who know the area and know what is needed. He spoke of the value they offer over the County and asked

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY**  
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**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

why they do not just use the reserve funds because it will not be a large portion of the reserves. He asked for the reason for not using the reserve fund.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Vice Chairwoman Nutt made a motion to adopt the minutes for the August 25, 2020 Board of Supervisors Public Hearing. Supervisor Cort seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.** Supervisor Cort made a motion to adopt the minutes for the August 25, 2020 Board of Supervisors Public Meeting. Supervisor Zmuda seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICE-TRANSFERRED TO DAUPHIN COUNTY:**

Mr. Christman stated Stephen Libhart, Director of Dauphin County Department of Public Safety will be available for the discussion tonight to answer any questions. He provided a presentation to the Board and below are the points he discussed:

- The COVID-19 has had a direct impact on the Township with the collection of Amusement and Parking Taxes. In FY2020, the Township budgeted \$2.3 million with a little over \$101,000 collected as of July.
- Administration has been evaluating all departments, positions and services making cuts across the budget. By December, Township staff will have been reduced by 27% and services modified to help close the impending revenue gap that will exceed \$1.6 million.
- Police emergency dispatch services currently operates with 5 full-time and 4 part-time employees with operational costs of \$550,000 per year.
- Dauphin County Department of Public Safety is the mandated 911 operations center for our County. They are the first dually accredited 911 agency in our Commonwealth. Two of Three Emergency Dispatch Services (Fire & EMS) for Derry Township are already being dispatched by Dauphin County 911 and they have done so for over 20 years with success.
- He discussed the current and proposed process for all 911 calls.
- Taxpayers are paying twice for this duplication – once to Dauphin County and once to Derry Township.
- All 911 tariffs collected from Derry Township residents through wireless and landline phone bills are distributed to Dauphin County 911 to offset County expenses and not the Township.
- Changes include all Emergency Calls for service (Police, Fire & EMS) emanating within the boundaries of Derry Township being managed by Dauphin County 911.
  - In addition, CSO dispatch will be managed by Dauphin County 911
  - Public Works Call Outs will be managed by Dauphin County 911
  - Dauphin County will continue to assist with all major events in Derry Township
- Things staying the same include the Local Non-Emergency Number (717-534-2202) which will remain in operation Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on weekends 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. After hours non-emergency calls will be managed by Dauphin County 911 • Residents & guests will continue to dial 911 for emergency assistance.

Chairwoman Nutt asked if County taxes will increase for residents with the moving of the 911 calls to the County. Mr. Libhart stated they have brought in two municipalities including Harrisburg City with

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

no tax increases. He noted that the Tariffs do go to the 911 call centers but the County supplements the costs of the Center. Supervisor Cort asked if they were ready to handle the calls and how would the transition work. Mr. Libhart spoke about an easier transition since the Township is already using the CAD system. He noted they have already been exposed to their events over the years and would need 45-60 days to be setup. She asked about the level of service and safety. He stated safety is their number one priority for all. They answer each call and understand the caller's emergency and try to provide services even when it is not a real emergency.

Chairman Abruzzo asked about the level of service and the uniqueness of the Township and concerns heard about Dauphin County being short staffed. Mr. Liphart stated they are familiar with their Township as they already handle the EMS and Fire calls. He spoke about the process. He stated they are short staffed, about six below complement. He spoke about minimum numbers required for shifts and how they call someone if they go below the minimum. Chairman Abruzzo asked about the non-emergency number available for residents. Mr. Christman stated it would be available for residents and spoke about the hours. He noted if an emergency call comes into this number, it will be referred to 911 Dauphin County dispatch.

Vice Chairwoman Nutt asked about the displaced dispatch workers and if Dauphin County could consider them. Mr. Liphart stated they have 5-6 vacancies and would encourage them to apply since they have the experience with Derry Township. Supervisor Cort asked that if this moves forward, there will be a need to educate the public. Chief Warner and Mr. Liphart spoke about educating the public on the new process.

Supervisor Zmuda made a motion to authorize the transfer of Derry Township Police Emergency Dispatch Services to the Dauphin County Department of Public Safety effective on or before November 09, 2020. Vice Chairwoman Nutt seconded the motion. The Board spoke about this being a hard decision and not taken lightly and how so many are dealing with the fallout of the COVID situation. They appreciated everyone's hard work. They support the Police as they have added four new officers earlier this year. **Motion passed 5-0.**

**GUARANTEED REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2020-MUNICIPAL COMPLEX:**

Mr. Christman spoke about the opportunity to refinance a portion of the 2015 bonds, issued by the ICDA, for the municipal complex. This refinancing will result in a net reduction of debt service payments for FY2020 in the amount of \$726,000. Approximately \$1,600,000 of debt service will be extended from 2031 to 2040. The present value cost for this transaction is approximately \$150,000. Mr. Verdelli spoke about the process and how this would save the Township money as it is paid out of the General Fund. Mr. Tim Horstman spoke about the process with the ordinance and required information for the refinancing.

Supervisor Cort made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-06 authorizing the refunding of Township Revenue Bonds, Series of 2015. Chairman Abruzzo seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION 2020-04-1527 EAST CARACAS:**

Mr. Emerick stated there was a public hearing on August 25, 2020 for the conditional use application for 1527 East Caracas Avenue filed by Lisa Nguyen. The application proposes to establish a Single-Family

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

conversion on the property. The Derry Township Planning Commission recommended the conditional use at their August meeting.

Vice Chairwoman Nutt made a motion to adopt Conditional Use Application 2020-04. Supervisor Cort seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**SEWER EASEMENT FOR FORCE MAIN FROM 2132 SWATARA CREEK ROAD:**

Mr. Emerick spoke about Mr. Miller's property at 2132 Swatara Creek Road, which was served by on-lot water and on-lot sewer facilities likely installed when the home was built in 1963. Due to a failing septic system, Mr. Miller approached DTMA seeking connection to the public sanitary sewer system located across Swatara Creek Road approximately 200 feet from the home, on lands owned by Derry Township. Due to the grades between the home and the public sanitary sewer system, it was determined that the only viable way to connect would be by installing a private force main. This connection required Mr. Miller to obtain a highway occupancy permit to cross the State road, a General Permit to cross the creek, and a permit from DTMA to connect to the sewer main. On February 6, 2020, DTMA had provided Mr. Miller with a sample easement to have completed. Due to the urgency of the need, DTMA allowed the connection prior to having the easement executed. The Township recently received the legal description and plan to complete the easement document.

Solicitor Nelson spoke about asking for a financial security in case there are issues with the grinder/pump. He stated they typically see securities of \$2,500-\$5,000 on these. He spoke about this unique situation and if the homeowner were to not take care of it, it could become the Township's responsibility. The Board discussed options of securities and the fact this was done on Township property without prior knowledge.

Chairman Abruzzo made a motion to **TABLE** action on the easement agreement for Mr. Miller's property at 2132 Swatara Creek Road. Supervisor Zmuda seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**ANNUAL PIAA CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL-CLOSE NORTH HOCKERSVILLE RD:**

Chief Warner shared that the Annual PIAA Cross Country Invitational is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 on the grounds of the Hershey Entertainment Complex. The design of the course has runners crossing North Hockersville Road two times during each race. For the safety of the runners and spectators, Hershey Entertainment Complex Safety & Security has requested the closure of North Hockersville Road. As part of the closure they will place the appropriate road closure signs and barricades and will also man each closure point. If approved, there will also be a variable message board placed on North Hockersville Road 5 days in advance of the event to warn motorists who routinely use this roadway.

Supervisor Cort made a motion to approve the request to close North Hockersville Road from Old West Chocolate Avenue to Hersheypark Drive from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2020 for the Annual PIAA Cross Country Invitational being held on the grounds of the Hershey Entertainment Complex. Vice Chairwoman Nutt seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**PERFORMANCE SECURITY-PLAT 1297-ENGLEWOOD BARN:**

Supervisor Zmuda made a motion authorizing the release of \$313,868.00 from the financial security provided in the form of PNC Bank Letter of Credit No. 18130969-00-000 for the Stormwater

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

Management Plan for the Pennsylvania State University Milton S. Hershey Medical Center NMR Building Renovation and Addition, S-2018-017, resulting in a new balance of \$39,121.00. Vice Chairwoman Nutt seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**FINANCIAL SECURITIES:**

Supervisor Cort made a motion to accept the following cash securities:

Cash financial security in the amount of \$16,907.00 and enter into the Agreement to Provide Financial Security with Kenneth Kremer for the Stormwater Management Site Plan for Kremer Residence, S-2020-017. AND

Cash financial security in the amount of \$8,298.00 and enter into the Agreement to Provide Financial Security with Virginia A. Lowe for the Final Stormwater Management Plan for the John E. Antonuk and Virginia A. Lowe Living Trust for 453 Chestnut Avenue, S-2020-019. Vice Chairwoman Nutt seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**CORRESPONDENCE BOARD/COMMITTEE INFORMATION:**

Supervisor Cort spoke about the next All Things Diversity Zoom meeting on September 23, 2020 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. She stated they have received pledges of \$2.7 million for the Capital Campaign for the Recreation Center. She stated they are looking at naming opportunities with the new design and are looking at grants. Supervisor Wyckoff showed the Board the image being used now for all storm drains in the effort to map out all the storm drains in the Township.

**REPORTS:**

<u>Police:</u>	<p>Chief Warner spoke about what an emotional issue this has been for the Police and community regarding the dispatch center. He spoke about the hard work and dedication provided by the dispatchers over the many years they have served. He understands it was a hard decision and appreciates the opportunity to discuss the issue.</p> <p>He will be working out details on how Halloween and trick or treat can work this fall. He hopes to have more details available at the next meeting. Chairman Abruzzo stated the Board would like to see this happen to allow normal activities for all the children this fall.</p>
<u>Fire:</u>	<p>Mr. Sassaman stated they received 61 calls in August. He spoke about September being national preparedness month. He spoke about the barn fire off Route 743 and how it will probably continue to burn for another day.</p>
<u>Library</u>	<p>Mrs. O'Grady stated the summer reading program is done. Anna Wang won the reading contest by reading over 14,000 minutes over the summer. She spoke about a grant that will provide \$10,000 to purchase laptops and hotspots to loan to visitors of the library.</p>
<u>Recreation</u>	<p>Mr. Mandia stated they will have a drive-in movie and trunk or treat on October 24. They are working out the details.</p> <p>He stated they have received 3 of the 5 contractors' credits for the redesign of the Recreation Center. With the bleachers and the credits, there is a \$675,000 to \$700,000 reduction in costs. As soon as they have the numbers from the other 2 contractors, he will provide an updated number.</p>

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

<u>Economic Development</u>	Mrs. Zumbrun stated the Saturday markets on Chocolate will continue through the entire month of September.
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**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE and PAYROLL:**

Supervisor Cort made a motion to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$939,758.87 and payroll of \$301,712.30. Supervisor Zmuda seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

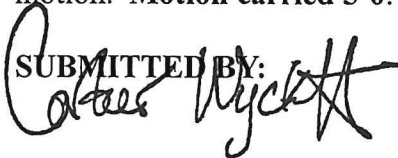
Mr. John Foley, 238 Mine Road, spoke about how critical and virtual the dispatch service is in Derry Township. He sent an email to the Board about the reports done in 2013 and 2016 and asked what has changed in Public Safety since then. He spoke about the efforts put in after Tropical Storm Lee and the issues the Township had during this crisis. He spoke about the Hershey Entities Emergency Team and the radio frequencies put into place to handle a crisis, which will be changed by this move. He is concerned about the next crisis for the Township with this change. He asked what other options are out there. He asked about using the reserve fund and pushing back on nonpayment of the Pilot payments. He stated when things open back up, the Township will be challenged with the increases of tourists and traffic. He feels this was a rushed and scripted decision and asked about the proposed public meeting discussed last meeting which did not occur. He is concerned with the video cameras that are monitored by the Derry Dispatch, which Dauphin County will not monitor. He is disappointed by the vote of the Board. He will always support the Police and Public Safety and understands the importance of the Dispatch Center.

Mrs. Cindy Jones, 600 Waltonville Road, spoke about the Board patting themselves on the back for this decision. She asked them about the years the Board has ignored those who came before them asking them about being fiscally conservative. She doesn't believe all of this can be blamed on COVID. She stated there are many examples where the residents have asked for saving for a rainy day. An example is when the residents were ignored when asked about the Library. It was voted down, but the Township built it anyway. It is not just the building costs to consider, but also the on-going maintenance costs. She spoke about the Recreation Center which was a rushed vote last December just before the two new members of the Board were sworn in. She spoke about years and years of decisions being made prior to meetings with scripted meetings and then trying to educate the public and give excuses.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Supervisor Cort made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Supervisor Zmuda seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

SUBMITTED BY:



Carter E. Wyckoff  
Township Secretary