

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Independence Township was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 by teleconference. A number was posted at the regular meeting site, township office and township web site for any individual that wished to participate in the meeting. The meeting was held in this manner due to the COVID-19 restrictions put in place by the Governor. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Chairman Daniel McLaughlin and we had no pledge of allegiance due to the meeting being conducted by teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present on the call were Supervisors Daniel McLaughlin, Wayne Potts & John Fratangeli; Solicitor J. Julius Bolock; Police Lieutenant, John Villa and Secretary Debra Shaffer.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on Agenda items.

MINUTES

The Minutes of April 8, 2020 Meeting were approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report, including payment of bills and payroll, was approved with a motion by D. McLaughlin and second by John Fratangeli. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Police, Fire and Road Department monthly reports were accepted with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**RESOLUTION 5 OF 2020 – PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS**

D. McLaughlin made the motion to adopt Resolution 5 of 2020 which waives any fees or penalties associated with the late payment of the Township tax imposed on the assessed value of real estate, provided that tax is paid in its entirety by December 31, 2020. W. Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

MAILING OF SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

J. Fratangeli made a motion to authorize the mailing of the Summer 2020 Newsletter. W Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following public announcements were made:

- Primary Election is now to be held Tuesday, June 2nd at the Community Center
- Recycle Weekend Friday, June 5th and Sat., June 6th
- Next Regular Supervisors Meeting – Wednesday June 10, 2020
- Office Closed – Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day

PUBLIC COMMENT

Following are the people who spoke and the subject of their comments:

Terrie Baumgardner from Clean Air Council spoke regarding the Council's recommendations that we revise the Solar Ordinance that we passed last month to make it easier for solar energy to move into the Township. She stated that the Council was pleased that we passed the ordinance and hoped that other townships would follow. There were two issues that Council wanted us to review and hopefully revised. The first was that the requirement for every solar energy system to have an approved building/zoning permit and the six supporting requirements (A-F) was too burdensome. They suggested we use the sample provided that the City of Philadelphia uses. Secondly, the definition of off-site user in the public solar system definition needed clarified further. Finally, along those same lines that public facilities be permitted as a use by right in industrial districts. Chairman McLaughlin thanked Ms. Baumgardner for her comments and said the Board would take them under advisement.

Resident, Steve Legnine of 477 Service Creek Road spoke regarding the flooding issue that he was having with respect to his property. The Board was given his photos and comments prior to the meeting to review. Mr. Legnine commented that the issue he is having with his property he believed was as a result of the Shell pipeline runoff from neighboring properties flowing onto Service Creek Road and flooding it which spills over onto his property. Supervisor Potts explained to him that this was a state road and the township does not have the authority to do anything with respect to fixing this issue that he would need to contact PennDOT. He stated that he is not getting any resolution and has contacted PennDOT. Chairman McLaughlin told him that if his neighbors received money for a right-of-way and they received benefits of the pipeline coming through then he should not have to bear the issues it is causing and should contact them directly. Engineer, James Durkin, spoke and told him that the pipeline has an open permit with DEP regarding flooding and that he could contact them with respect to this issue. He said that he already went that route and thanked him for the suggestion. Chairman McLaughlin told Mr. Legnine that the Township would file a concern with PennDOT with respect to their drainage issue.

Resident Rachel Meyers spoke and commented that after hearing of all of the erosion and flooding issues with the pipelines, she appreciated hearing about solar moving into the township.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by D. McLaughlin.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Shaffer, Secretary/Treasurer