

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING HELD
March 16, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Butler Township Board of Commissioners was held on March 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Butler Township Municipal Building, 290 S. Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001. The following Commissioners were present: Pres. Dave Zarnick, Commis. Joe Wiest, Commis. James Lokhaiser, Jr. and Commis. Fred Vero. Pres. Zarnick called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Also present were Manager Tom Knights, Assistant Manager Cheryl McNeill, Zoning Officer Jesse Hines, Solicitor Rebecca Black, Chief of Police John Hays, Engineer Dan Deiseroth, and Student Rep. Alex Kurnava.

Pres. Zarnick stated that anyone taping the meeting is required to state their name and address at the beginning of the meeting. Ryan Saeler, Butler Radio Network, recorded the meeting.

Pres. Zarnick asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting, there being none the minutes will stand as presented.

Pres. Zarnick stated that he is asking Township residents to remain patient and stay calm during these times as we're dealing with the virus and its effects and to avoid large gatherings, bingos, community centers, fish fries, etc. Additionally, Pres. Zarnick stated that anyone sick should stay home, cover coughs and sneezes with inside of elbow, wash your hands and limit close contact with others as much as possible. He also stated that Butler Township will be canceling meetings that can wait. Residents are to call rather than coming in, so we can try and answer your questions by phone. The website will be updated with information from the PA Dept. of Health.

Pres. Zarnick stated that on Friday, March 12th, he placed a call to the Lt. Governor John Fetterman, himself, and Jim Pinei, president of Local UAW 3303. They spoke for 15 minutes making the governor's office aware of the jobs on the line and the possible effected community. He asked to have the governor place a call to the White House asking for support in helping close the loopholes. The Lt. Governor stated that he would inform the governor and the defendant governor would be the contact for this issue.

Pres. Zarnick stated that he received an email from Walmart stating they will be putting a kiosk in there to collect drugs. The Great American Cleanup will also be delayed until May. The County Commissioners will be claiming March 22nd-March 28th of this year as a food security and food justice weekend.

Comm. Lokhaiser stated that we are now in the month of March so burning is now permitted in Butler Township. You're allowed to burn from sun up until 5:00 PM Monday-Saturday. He also received a letter from Lori Hinderletter stating that the library is now closed through March 29th. They will reevaluate at that time to see if it's going to stay closed or not.

Comm. Vero had nothing to report

Comm. Wiest reported that Andrew (Kip) Zulick has retired from the road department and wanted to thank him for all of his hard work and service. Zulick was an employee for 42 years.

Engineer Deisoroth had nothing to report

Zoning Officer Hines had nothing to report

Solicitor Black had nothing to report

Asst. Manager McNeill reported that Preston Park had their Prairie Burn today and that there are some good pictures on Facebook.

Chief Hays had nothing to report

Student Rep. Kurnava reported that Butler Area School District will let kids order breakfast and lunch during the closure. Anybody who signs up can start picking up meals tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th, and the meals will be given out Monday through Friday. The pickup will be at Center Avenue School or Emily Britton between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Delivery is offered for those who need it, and the only exception to this is that the person receiving must be under 18.

Pres. Zarnick asked for public comment on agenda items.

Dave Helsel, 100 Marion Drive, Meridian, asked about agenda item 6 and what the township's intent with the purchase of the property is.

Dustin Starr, Maher Duessel CPA's, reported on his audit presentation. He stated that they have no modifications from the standard audit report, no significant accounting policies, no new policies adopted during the year, and no sensitive estimates found within financial statements. He also stated that no difficulties were encountered in performing the audit. Starr then presented the next document, Form DCD, which is the audited financial statement. From DCD showed an overall positive change.

Zoning Officer Hines presented the Semes Subdivision. This is a lot consolidation plan. The house is located on 14 Evans City Rd, and they own the property directly beside it. They are going to consolidate these 2 parcels and they're going to have about 2.3 acres after the consolidation. Planning recommended for approval.

Motion by Commis. Vero to approve the Semes Subdivision, as presented. Second by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Zoning Officer Hines presented the Mattress Warehouse Bond Release. Their project is substantially complete. There are just a couple minor site items that they requested and a bond release. Everything is in line to accomplish that as long as they

post an 18 month maintenance bond. There is a letter from Gateway and we are recommending to move into maintenance bond.

Motion by Commis. Vero to authorize the Mattress Warehouse Bond Release, as presented. Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Zoning Officer Hines presented the Speedway Liquor License Transfer Public Hearing Date. The Speedway located at 400 Hanson Ave., would like to transfer a liquor license into Butler Township and petition the LCB to be allowed to serve beer and wine for onsite consumption. As previously done in the past, we're requested to have a public hearing. The next public meeting will be April 20th at 7:00 PM and that is when he recommended to have the public. According to their letter, they are transferring it from Winfield Township.

Motion by Commis. Vero to set the date and time for the public hearing for Speedway liquor license transfer for April 20th, 202 as presented. Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented information regarding the Authorization to Construct Pickleball Courts at the Township Recreation Park. Manager Knights stated that commissioners received an outline of costs associated with building pickle ball courts adjacent to the dek hockey rink at the previous agenda setting meeting. He also stated that due to the terrain, only 3 courts will fit and the cost estimate is \$50,406.26.

Motion by Commis. Vero authorize approval of construction for pickle ball courts at the Township Recreation Park. Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented the Authorization to Enter into a Sales Agreement with County of Butler CDC for Purchase of 18 acres of property. He reported that the township has been in conversation with the Butler County Community Development Corporation in regards to acquiring the remaining 18 acres of the Pullman Business Park to put in a program for recreation and sports. At this point in time, the township would be looking to enter into a sales agreement with the Butler County CDC.

Motion by Commis. Vero authorize approval of entering into a sales agreement with the County of Butler CDC for purchase of 18 acres of property along Hollywood Dr. and Armco Dr. Second by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented the Award for the Traffic Signal Upgrades Contract to Bronder Technical Services. Kyle Brown, traffic engineer, reviewed the traffic signal upgrade bids that we received at the last meeting and went ahead and released his letter recommending that we award the traffic signals upgrade contract to low bidder Bronder Technical Services in the amount of \$363,046.37.

Motion by Commis. Wiest to grant the award to Bronder Technical Services in the amount of \$363,046.37. Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented the Authorization to Extend an Offer of Employment to the Selected Candidate to fill a Vacancy in the Road Department. He stated that a series of interviews has been conducted and there is a selected candidate.

Motion by Commis. Wiest to extend the conditional offer of employment to the selected candidate to fill the vacancy at the Road Department. Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented information regarding the re-appointment of John Paul to a 6 Year Term on the Civil Service Commission. Knights stated that his term is up for the civil service commission and it is recommended that he be reappointed to another 6 year term.

Motion by Pres. Zarnick to re-appointment John Paul to the Civil Service Commission for a 6 year term.. Second by Commis. Vero. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented information regarding the Appointment of Richard Gigliotti from Civil Service Commission Alternate Member to Civil Service Commission Member for the remainder of his Appointed Term until 2022. Knights stated that Richard Gigliotti has been serving as the the first alternate so his recommendation is to appoint Mr. Gigliotti.

Motion by Comm. Lokhaiser to appoint Richard Gigliotti from Civil Service Commission Alternate Member to Civil Service Commission Member for the remainder of his appointed term until 2022. Seconded by Comm. Wiest. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Pres. Zarnick presented the authorization of "IZE on Food Security." He stated that he is making a motion that all of our township will participate in the food security week, March 22nd-29th, as long as it is ongoing at that time. If it is not, we will participate when it's re-introduced.

Motion by Pres. Zarnick to authorize "IZE on Food Security." Seconded by Comm. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Zoning Officer Hines presented the Authorization Resolution Opposing House Bill 349. He stated this bill would mandate municipalites who utilize 3rd-party inspection agencies to contract with multiple 3rd-party agencies, where now we have the option of just employing one.

Motion by Comm. Vero to authorize resolution opposing House Bill 349. Seconded by Comm. Lokhaiser. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented information regarding an agreement with Dlubak Glass to establish a glass recycling program. Dlubak Glass has offered to haul glass that we collect such as glass bottles and jars and will provide us with a dumpster that will be secured down at the stock yard. We will also have a hand actuated hopper here at the municipal building. There is no cost at the township to haul either way. The motion is to enter into that agreement.

Motion by Comm. Vero to authorize the agreement with Dlubak Glass to establish a glass recycling program in Butler Township. Seconded by Comm. Wiest. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Asst. Manager McNeill presented a non-agenda item regarding the appointment of Fred Vero and Jim Lokhaiser to the Friends of Preston Park Foundation Board.

Motion by Comm. Lokhaiser to appoint Fred Vero and Jim Lokhaiser to the Friends of Preston Park Foundation Board. Seconded by Comm. Wiest. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Asst. Manager McNeill presented the bills report and the following totals were noted: General Fund - \$176317.76; Highway Aid Fund - \$66,999.61; Park Development Fund - \$6788.85. Bills paid after the February bills report were noted: General Fund - \$21,763.64; Park Development Fund - \$90,250 (essentially is passed through because we received our first installment from DCED on grant); Payroll for February - \$283,448.76.

Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser to accept the bills as presented. Second by Commis. Wiest. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Manager Knights presented two items of correspondence.

The first item was a letter congratulating Butler Township as being recognized by Alleghany league of municipalities' banner community.

The second was from Jim Panei, President of UAW Local 3303, addressed to Pres. Zarnick, regarding AK Steel and Butler Works. He is asking the commissioners to send letters of support including closing the loopholes in section 232 to Gov. Tom Wolf, the PA Chamber of Commerce, PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development, along with several other congressmen.

Motion by Pres. Zarnick to send letters to representatives listed in Jim Panei's letter. Seconded by Comm. Vero. The vote was Vero: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; and Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Commis. Zarnick asked for public comment on any item of concern. Public comment was as follows:

Dave Heltzell of 100 Marion Dr, Meridian, thanked Manager Knights for finding a company that recycles glass, and also asked if township residents would be allowed to bring in bags to throw in the bin or if items had to be emptied directly into the dumpster.

Anne Coleman of 2165 Pierce Bluffs, Hermitage, PA, stated that she is a representative for Marcie Mustello's office and wanted to inform them that their office is currently open, even if their office gets closed to visitors. She also stated that several of their events have been cancelled/rescheduled, and that they have received several calls regarding business's that are allowed to stay open during the business shut down.

There were questions from the media.

Steve Ferris, Butler Eagle, asked questions in regards to building the pickleball courts; what kind of recreation facility will be going on Hollywood Dr; when the traffic signal upgrades will start, and the glass recycling event the township plans to host.

Ryan Saelor, Butler Radio Network, asked questions in regards to how many liquor licenses exist in the township, the timeline for the pickleball courts, and the possible recreation facility on Hollywood Dr.

Motion by Commis. Wiest to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m., second by Commis. Lokhaiser and carried unanimously.
