

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 19, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Butler Township Board of Commissioners was held on December 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Butler Township Municipal Building, 290 S. Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001. The following Commissioners were present: President Dave Zarnick, Vice-Pres. Sam Zurzolo, Commissioner Joe Wiest, Commissioner Jim Lokhaiser and Commissioner Ed Natali.

Also present were Manager Tom Knights, Solicitor Rebecca Black, Dir. of Finance Cheryl McNeill, Zoning Officer Jesse Hines, Chief of Police John Hays, Dir. of Public Works Dave Meeder, Dir. of Emergency Services Scott Frederick and Engineer Dan Deiseroth.

President Dave Zarnick called the meeting to order followed by a moment of silence and pledge to the American Flag.

President Zarnick stated that anyone recording the meeting is required to state their name. Eddie Trazzini, Butler Eagle and Ryan Saeler, Butler Radio Group recorded the meeting.

President Dave Zarnick requested Departmental Reports:

- **Public Works Director, Dave Meeder**- no updates
- **Emergency Services Director, Scott Frederick** – No updates
- **Chief of Police, John Hays** – All contributions from the “No Shave November” project will be donated to Children’s Advocacy Center December 20, 2022.
- **Director of Finance, Cheryl McNeill** – No updates
- **Solicitor**- No Updates
- **Engineering** – No updates
- **Zoning Officer, Jesse Hines** – No Updates
- **Manager**- No Updates

President Dave Zarnick requested Commissioners’ Reports:

- **Commissioner Natali**- thanks everyone for support as he finishes his first year in office and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas
- **Commissioner Lokhaiser**- Butler County Chamber and Leadership Butler County held 2nd annual Santa and Grinch photo day at Preston Park on December 10, 2022. Great turnout for the community and thanks Butler County Chamber Director, Jordan Grady for cooperation. Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.
- **Commissioner Zurzolo** – Thanks everyone for attending this meeting and wishes

everyone a Merry Christmas.

- **Commissioner Wiest** – Reminds everyone to please be careful driving in the winter weather and to be mindful during storms.
- **President Zarnick**- Wishes everyone safe and happy holidays.

President Zarnick asks if there is any public comment or question on the agenda, there was none.

President Zarnick announces Public Zoning hearing at 7 p.m.

New Business:

- **Zoning Officer, Jesse Hines** – presented the Interstate Pipe Supply 90-day extension
 - Motion by Commis. Natali to grant Interstate Pipe Supply 90-day extension.
 - Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Jesse Hines** presented Highfield Trails bond reduction request. 4th request for bond reduction.
 - Motion by Commis. Natali to reduce Highfield Trails bond from \$1,125,936.79 to \$1,020,454.99.
 - Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Township Manager, Tom Knights** – presented contract negotiations for Public Works Department. Requests approval for 5- year contract for Public Works.
 - Motion by Pres. Zarnick to approve 5-year contract for Public Works.
 - Second by Commis. Natali. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – presented contract negotiations for Police Clerks. Requests approval for 4-year contract for Police Clerks.
 - Motion by Pres. Zarnick to approve 4-year contract for Police Clerks.
 - Second by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – presented the 2023 budget. General fund budget is \$9,411,600 and represents a \$1,462,708 decrease from 2022, offset by \$400,000 contribution to General Fund from American Rescue Act for increase in Road Resurfacing Project. \$650,000

transfer from Capital Reserve to make a 2023 payment to the County Infrastructure Bank. Highlights: \$200k are going to go to General Fund Expenses to replace road dept. and police vehicles; \$938k in road resurfacing and stormwater traffic signals; \$1.2M in all insurances; no changes in budget beyond what was changes in November. Requests approval for 2023 budget.

- Pres. Zarnick asks for comment from Dir. Of Finance, Cheryl McNeill- states revenue is expected to stay level with no tax increase. 12th year without increase.
 - Motion by Pres. Zarnick to approve 2023 budget.
 - Second by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights**- presented actuarial valuation of Police Pension Contribution. Requests approval for contribution.
 - Motion by Commis. Zurzolo
 - Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – presented non-uniformed employee contribution plan resolution. Requests approval of contributions of 3%.
 - Motion by Pres. Zarnick
 - Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – presented real estate tax resolution as no changes being made. Gen fund will remain 7.64 mils; fire protection- 2 mils; debt service- 1.61 mils; per capita- \$5. Requests motion to approve real estate resolution.
 - Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser
 - Second by Commis. Natali. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – presents no changes in Act 511 tax. Requests approval.
 - Motion by Commis. Natali
 - Second by Commis. Lokhaiser. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – presents financial audits. Appoints Maher Duessel as independent examiner of 2022 finances. Requests Approval.

- Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser
- Second by Commis. Natali. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Tom Knights** – Presents list of 2023 meeting schedule with no yearly changes other than holiday changes. Requests approval for advertising.
 - Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser.
 - Second by Commis. Natali. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.
- **Director of Finance, Cheryl McNeill**- presents the bills for December and requests approval.
 - Motion by Commis. Lokhaiser
 - Second by Pres. Zarnick. The vote was Natali: Yes; Lokhaiser: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Recognitions:

Pres. Zarnick thanks everyone for joining and announces special recognitions for Township First Responders. Summary of actions taken by Dir. Public Safety Scott Frederick, Butler Township Officers, William Dobson and Rachel Dividio. Special Recognitions made by Butler Township Commissioners, PA Senator Scott Hutchinson, PA State Representative Marci Mustello, Butler County Commissioner Leslie Osche and Life Flight Director, Nico Soler.

Township Chief of Police, John Hays gave recognition of first responders and mentioned his pride in our first responders. Recognition ceremony ends.

Zoning Hearing:

Solicitor Rebecca Black calls Public Zoning Meeting with announcements made in Butler Eagle December 5 and December 12, 2022. Requests that anyone testifying or speaking during this public Zoning hearing, please stand. Zoning Officer Jesse Hines stands.

- **Zoning Officer, Jesse Hines**- Presents explanation of proposed amendments to zoning ordinance.
 - Regulation of solar panels- currently restricted to the street side of the home. Proposal would remove that restriction and allow solar panels to be placed on side of home facing the street. Stated that 5 boards in 2022 were granted exceptions to existing ordinance. 44b4 amends to allow.
 - Access Management Corridor- each lot is regulated with number of driveways permitted. Does not say “existing lot”. Requests change to say, “existing and future lots”.

7:10 records close by Solicitor, Rebecca Black.

- Motion to adopt by Pres. Zarnick
- Second by Commis. Zurzolo. The vote was Natali: Yes; Wiest: Yes; Zurzolo: Yes; Zarnick: Yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Tom Knights- letter received from Mr. and Mrs. Menchyk regarding leaf collection this year.

Pres. Zarnick asked for Public Comment or questions from media.

- Ryan Saeler, Butler Radio- changes from pervious bargaining agreements
 - Tom Knights explained it's a 5-year agreement and revision to pension plan from defined benefit to defined contribution. Effects 12 members. For Police Clerks, 2 employees with no substantial changes.

Pres. Zarnick wishes happy holidays and requests approval to adjourn meeting.

- Motion to adjourn by Commis. Lokhaiser
- Second by Commis. Natali. All approve.

Regular Meeting adjourns at 7:13 PM