

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
1580 PAOLI PIKE
TUESDAY, April 4, 2023
FINAL MINUTES**

Note: This meeting was held in person at the East Goshen Township Board Room.

Present: Chairman John Hertzog; Vice Chairman Mike Lynch; Members: Cody Bright, David Shuey, Michele Truitt; Township Manager Derek Davis; Senior Staff Accountant Chris Boylan; Goshen Fire Company Executive Director Grant Everhart; Goshen Fire Company President Ted Harrison; Attorney Mark Thompson, Lamb McErlane; Erich Meyer (Conservancy).

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

John called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and Cody led the Pledge of Allegiance.

David called for a moment of silence for all of those who go in harm's way to protect us; our police, firemen, EMTs, and those in the military.

John announced that the meeting is being livestreamed on YouTube.

Chairman's Report:

John mentioned there was a great turnout for the Easter Egg event and he thanked Jason Lang for organizing it. John also reminded residents that the Goshen Fire Company will hold the flower sale from Friday – Sunday, April 7-9.

Emergency Services Reports: None

Public Hearing: None

Financial Report: None

Approval of Minutes: None

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Chris Boylan presented the March 30, 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Cody made a motion to accept the receipts and approve the expenditures as presented in the Expenditure Register and as summarized in the March 30, 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Michele seconded.

Russ Frank, 452 Gateswood, asked if the sewer rate increase caused more residents to be delinquent. Chris responded that she does not believe the rate increase is the cause because many residents were delinquent prior to the rate increase.

Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Consider board position on Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) application for 901 Sorrell Hill Drive.

Derek stated the property owner is seeking a dimensional variance in order to construct a new pool.

Mike suggested that the Board assume a neutral position and allow the ZHB to decide.

David questioned if the HOA owns the open space behind the property and that area appears to be wetland and wondered if that area cannot be developed. Duane confirmed.

Michele feels the property owner did their due diligence.

Mike made a motion that the Board take a neutral position and allow the ZHB to decide.

David seconded.

Motion carried 4-1, Michele opposed.

Mike asked Michele why she voted that way since the Board has no jurisdiction. Mike stated that the ZHB is a quasi-judicial body. Michele stands by her vote because she feels the property owner did their due diligence and the Board should have recommended this application. Cody asked for clarification on this process. Derek explained.

Consider ordinance to allow for a tax credit for both personal income and real estate taxes for qualified volunteered first responders.

Derek explained that Goshen Fire Company is advocating for municipalities to put these two ordinances in place. The first ordinance is to provide a tax credit to "qualified volunteers" of a first responder organization. This would apply a credit for 100% of township real estate tax and up to a max of \$500 credit towards earned income taxes.

Mike feels this is a good effort to encourage volunteer first responders. Grant explained the volunteer must live in the township home, not use it as a rental. Currently there are 24 homeowners, totaling 38 residents.

John asked if this would be difficult to notify the County and Keystone of these credits. Michele asked if Grant is amenable to sample wording. John asked if the credit was taxable income. Solicitor Mark Thompson responded there is no tax implication.

David views this as a short-term tax break helping the long-term issue of volunteerism.

Cody asked if this has been explored for other fire company volunteers. Grant responded that the sample does account for administrative staff as well.

Mike thinks this will be a good recruiting tool.

Russ Frank, 452 Gateswood, questioned why the Township raised taxes and now will consider giving breaks to some residents. Michele responded that volunteerism is dwindling. Russ asked if this includes fire police as well. Grant confirmed.

Cody made a motion to authorize the Township Manager and Township Solicitor to advertise an ordinance to amend Chapter 211 Section 4 of the East Goshen Code to allow for earned income and real estate tax credit to qualifying volunteers.

Michele seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consider ordinance to allow fire companies within the jurisdiction of East Goshen to seek reimbursement from insurance companies for hazardous abatement incidents.

Grant explained that Fire Companies could seek reimbursement from insurance companies based on recovering the reasonable costs of emergency rescue tools, equipment and materials; hazardous material abatement tools, equipment and materials; and personnel hours involving any hazardous material, environmental, fire safety and/or rescue incident or operation. A third party will bill the insurance companies directly for cost recovery. The third party takes a percentage of what they collect.

David asked if there is supplemental insurance coverage for this type of homeowner loss. Cody asked Grant how much revenue the Fire Company missed out previously, relative to this effort. Grant stated approx. 50 calls in East Goshen Township last year, estimating \$500/call.

Cody made a motion to authorize the Township Manager and Township Solicitor to advertise an ordinance recognizing the authority of volunteer fire companies to seek reimbursement from insurance companies for hazardous abatement incidents, environmental incidents, and fire safety and rescue responses.

David seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Stormwater O&M Agreement for 1151 North Chester Road. Consider Stormwater O&M Agreement 330 Springhouse Lane.

Michele made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the stormwater management operation and maintenance agreement for the new addition located at 1151 North Chester Road.

Mike offered a friendly amendment to combine both O&M Agreements. Michele agreed.

Michele made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the stormwater management operation and maintenance agreement for the new addition located at 1151 North Chester Road and the stormwater management operation and maintenance agreement for the in-ground pool and patio located at 330 Spring House Lane.

David seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Possible change-of-date or cancellation of the May 16th and July 4th Board meetings.

Cody made a motion to cancel both the May 16th and the July 4th Board meetings.

Michele seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Tree Pruning and Tree Removal Bid.

Derek stated bids were opened on March 27, 2023 and we received two responses.

David asked if this is for a specific number of trees. Derek responded this bid is based on per-hour and historical service and may not reach the max of \$29,300.

Cody made a motion to award the bid to Travis Orner Tree Services in the amount up to \$29,300.

Mike seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Any Other Matter:

David commented that there was a swatting incident at the PA Leadership Charter School in East Goshen Township. The caller claimed there was an active shooter at the school. Police responded immediately and cleared the school. Five other schools in Bucks County received similar calls as well.

Standing Issues/Projects:

Milltown Dam Project – Derek stated DCNR has everything they need. The bid process will begin once the documents are received.

Hershey's Mill Estates Sewer Line Replacement – substantially completed.

Milltown Pocket Park – Derek stated equipment costs are between \$13-14K. Nate is preparing a proposal for the 4/18 meeting for the Board to approve the initial surveying and engineering of the site.

John commented that he understands the equipment is in stock and was ordered for someone who turned it down, so we were able to buy it. Derek added that is why we were able to purchase so cheap.

Cody thanked Michele, John, and Jason for their work on this project.

Any Other Matter:

Mike added that 4/22 is *Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day*. He encouraged residents to participate by collecting roadside litter.

Derek mentioned the Sustainability Expo would be held on 4/15.

Michele added on 4/22, there would be a tree planting and proclamation that we are subscribing for Tree City status with that tree planting effort. Conservancy had a very successful watershed event.

Michele stated thoughts and prayers are with Dave Ware in the loss of his father.

Public Comment: None

Liaison Reports: None

Correspondence: None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Cody motioned to adjourn at 8:01PM.

David seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Boylan
Recording Secretary

Attached: March 30, 2023 Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT		March 16, 2023 - March 30, 2023	
RECEIPTS AND BILLS			
GENERAL FUND			
Real Estate Tax	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$164,273.20
Earned Income Tax	\$80,400.00	Electronic Pmts:	
Local Service Tax	\$9,100.00	Debt Service	\$1,389.98
Transfer Tax	\$0.00	Payroll	\$153,582.78
<i>General Fund Interest Earned</i>	\$19,399.67		
Total Other Revenue	\$30,017.43		
Total General Fund Receipts:	\$138,917.10	Total Expenditures:	\$319,245.96
STATE LIQUID FUELS FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$1.98		
Total State Liquid Fuels Receipts:	\$1.98	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$25,221.06
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$16,899.57		
Total Capital Reserve Fund Receipts:	\$16,899.57	Total Expenditures:	\$25,221.06
TRANSPORTATION FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$1,807.40		
Total Transportation Fund Receipts:	\$1,807.40	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
SEWER OPERATING FUND			
Receipts	\$45,439.58	Accounts Payable	\$211,496.80
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$1,748.16	Electronic Pmts:	
		Debt Service	\$20,656.39
Total Sewer Operating Fund Receipts:	\$47,187.74	Total Expenditures:	\$232,153.19
REFUSE FUND			
Receipts	\$12,648.97	Accounts Payable	\$81,979.67
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$782.20		
Total Refuse Fund Receipts:	\$13,431.17	Total Expenditures:	\$81,979.67
BOND FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$8,340.16		
Total Bond Fund Receipts:	\$8,340.16	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$7,173.40		
Total Sewer Capital Reserve Fund Receipts:	\$7,173.40	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
OPERATING RESERVE FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$6,007.85		
Total Operating Reserve Fund Receipts:	\$6,007.85	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$5,959.88		
Total Infrastructure Sustainability Fund Receipts:	\$5,959.88	Total Expenditures:	\$0.00
ARPA - COVID RELIEF FUND			
Receipts	\$0.00	Accounts Payable	\$345,876.40
<i>Interest Earned</i>	\$3,595.42		
Total ARPA - COVID Relief Fund Receipts:	\$3,595.42	Total Expenditures:	\$345,876.40