



Board of Supervisors Minutes

October 20, 2021 | 7:01 | Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Present: Whitney S. Hoffman, Vice Chair; Scudder G. Stevens, Supervisor; Eden R. Ratliff, Township Manager; Amy Heinrich, Finance & HR Director; Diane Hicks, Planning & Zoning Director; Roger Lysle, Public Works Director; Matt Gordon, Chief of Police; Dave Sander, Solicitor

1. Call to Order

Chair Richard Leff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and explained how this hybrid meeting would be conducted. Stevens expressed his appreciation for the Township finding a way to conduct a hybrid meeting considering recent equipment failure in the Public Meeting Room.

2. Township Investigation and Resolution Update

There was no update to report.

3. Executive Session Announcements

Solicitor Sander announced that the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session on October 15, 2021 to discuss a matter of litigation.

4. Old Business

There was no old business.

5. New Business

a. Consider October 20th Bill Voucher

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4991)

Motion presented by Hoffman to approve the October 20th Bill Voucher in the amount of \$62,755.56 and to approve transfers in the amount of \$5,485.20. Stevens seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

b. Consider Cedar Mill Culvert Rehab Bid Award

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4984)

Ratliff gave an overview of this project on Davenport Road which was put out to bid at the direction of the Board on September 15th. Lysle said the five bids they received were all within the price range they expected. Ratliff said the Township engineer reviewed this and recommended the low bidder, Flyway Excavating, Inc.

Discussion:

- Stevens asked if anyone knew of Flyway Excavating and if they had a reputation for quality work. Lysle said Flyway did the Anson B. Nixon streambank restoration last summer and they have a long list of references.
- Stevens commented that he was surprised to see the amounts of the bids range from \$185,000 to \$300,000. Lysle said amounts depend on whether a company is planning to subcontract work verses do it themselves. Availability of materials also can impact the price. He added that some bids are simply for companies to keep their name out there.

Motion presented by Stevens to award the Cedar Mill Culvert Rehabilitation Project to Flyway Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$185,843.00, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute the agreement, subject to the receipt of the required documents. Hoffman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

- Leff asked more about the range of bids that came in. Leff, Ratliff and Lysle continued this discussion.
- Leff asked about the required documents mentioned in the motion. Ratliff said bidding documents and bonding documents, all which Solicitor Sander reviews.
- Tammy Cairns (133 Davenport Road) asked if there was a place to see the plans. Lysle offered to arrange to show her, adding that the plans were available at the Township office. He then proceeded to explain the work that would be done. Discussion continued about the exact location of the drainpipe, with Lysle stating it was the lower side from the streambank in the middle to the Borough line.
- Leff asked if passed, when would the work start and would there be any traffic interruptions. Lysle said the equipment has to be off the road so traffic will be able to get through, but there may be a lane restriction during working hours. The timeline depends on material availability, but Lysle predicted they would start sometime in January or February.
- Lysle said that they will be passing out letters to the residents now that it has been awarded.

c. Consider Enterprise Rent-A-Car Escrow Release No. 5

www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4929

Motion presented by Hoffman to approve the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Escrow Release No. 5 via their Letter of Credit in the amount of \$178,861.90 per the AECOM letter dated October 7, 2021. Stevens seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Discussion:

- Stevens seconded this due to the review and approval of the Township engineers, on which he relies completely.
- Leff noted there is \$66,000 remaining in the escrow after this release, meaning things should be nearing completion. Hoffman reported that the building looks as though it is getting close to being completed.

6. Budget Discussions

www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4986

Heinrich reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings to discuss the 2022 Budget process. The link above contains full details for tonight's discussion plus the slides presented during the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS: Request of \$973K, up \$242K or 33% from 2021 Budget and \$164K over full-year 2021 forecast

Discussion:

- Heinrich explained the Public Works Department Operating Expense budget request regarding staffing, major general fund items, capital expenses, and paving projects.
- Leff asked how much of the increase is due to the part-time employee moving to full-time. Heinrich said it is a 20 hour per week increase, or about \$24,000.
- Hoffman asked if the roads were cracking sooner than they used to. Lysle said that while today five years is about average, roads do not last as long as they used to. There was discussion of the impacts of global warming and the materials used now.
- Stevens asked for clarification on the paving numbers presented by Heinrich on slides six and seven of the attached document. She explained that the last line on slide seven minus the estimated \$312K from the Liquid Fuels grants equals the \$150K shown on slide six.
- Hoffman asked if steps two and three of paving needed to happen in the same year. Lysle said no and discussion continued between Leff and Lysle about the different combinations of completing these paving projects. Lysle stated his preference would be to at least complete the widening of both Burrows Run Road and Rosedale Road as they are both heavily used by busses and large trucks.
- Leff asked if it was advantageous to wait a year after widening before leveling in terms of the road settling. Lysle said there really is not any settling and that it is not good to wait longer than a year.

- Heinrich asked if these two roads were the last of the ongoing widening plan for the main arteries in the Township. Lysle said yes, though there are still some secondary roads that are 19-20' and proceeded to list them.
- Hoffman asked how much of the increased staff time and overtime was due to the severe weather. Lysle said that weather accounted for most of the overtime.
- Peter Doehring (5 Nine Gates Road) stated that he feels this budget process masks accelerated costs here in Kennett because we are not comparing this to the actual or projected 2020 budget, saying that all these costs run the risk of increasing exponentially with a lack of a two year comparison. He also commented on the tendency to put off major capital investments for a period of years, acknowledging the increased costs due to scarcity of products, but he said the danger is putting these off for years. He then gave examples of budget items that were cut in 2021. He said that because there is no long-term plan for investing in capital improvements, kicking these important repairs further down the road is masking the true potential cost of them. He said that we will be unable to make the investments in roads, sewer systems, trails and this budget leaves us falling further behind. Heinrich commented that Doehring's comments were unappreciated as she has been reporting that they are working on a Capital Plan and spoke briefly about the history of what the Finance team inherited. She and Ratliff desired to start this process last year, but that was overruled due to pressure to not increase taxes. She asked if Doehring could be more collaborative rather than combative.
- Jeremy Abelson (3 Nine Gates Road) stated that he is a neighbor of Doehring and has never known him to be combative. Although he does not know the budget director, he said he did not appreciate the rise in negative tension and comments from her, that they were inappropriate. Discussion continued between he and Heinrich.
- Leff also recapped the history of the lack of Capital Plan up to this point, the efforts that are being made to establish one that is in accordance with the laws, and acknowledged citizens' rights to ask questions and get answers.
- Ratliff agreed with Doehring on the importance of a Capital Plan and long-term planning and said that is exactly what they are trying to build this year. Ultimately the majority of the budget needs to reflect investments to maintain the important infrastructure of the Township.

POLICE: Request of \$2M, up \$140K or 8% from 2021 Budget

Discussion:

- Heinrich summarized the Police Department's requests, available in the link above starting on page eight.
- Leff pointed out the example of the staff recommendation to put money aside in efforts to establish a Capital Fund.
- Leff asked if the Chief had any additional comments. Gordon said that he, Heinrich, and Ratliff have already reviewed this and he feels this is the best result for 2022.
- Hoffman asked if Gordon has talked with neighboring municipalities to see if the KTPD could help with some of their needs to help defray some costs. Gordon explained the current mutual aid agreement that is currently in place. He, Stevens, and Ratliff spoke to Pennsbury earlier in the year, but they are not interested in moving away from the State Police at this time. There is a potential that the KTPD could assist them with traffic needs, which is still being discussed. He is unaware of any other surrounding municipalities looking for additional police protection, but if they are, he is happy to discuss this with them.
- Henry Schlimme (9 Black Rock Road) asked via Zoom chat, "Does the police contract have a minimum staffing requirement? Is there a reason they do not run short vs paying out for OT while they are short staffed?" Gordon said there is not minimum staffing in the contract and added that they are a small, new department still growing into their own. There is one more year left on the contract (2022) and he predicts that this will be addressed with the Police Union when that contract is up. He also noted the strides the Supervisors made last year in helping with some of the manpower issues, but they are still working towards a future vision of two officers on duty per shift.
- Leff commented that when they can look at the police report from the past year, that will help inform staffing needs. Gordon said he only expects to get busier as there will be ~1,000 residents added in new developments plus the relaxation of some of the COVID-19 measures.
- Peter Doehring (5 Nine Gates Road) again mentioned the benefits of having a two-year look-back period, as according to his calculations, this budget request represents a 34% increase. He said this comment is not intended to raise any questions about the ability of our Police Department, as he is very grateful to them for their services. Heinrich added that the document available online from the link above includes the two-year look-back.

TOWNSHIP BUILDING: Request of \$165K, up \$18K or 12% from 2021 Budget

Discussion:

- Heinrich detailed the reasons for this request, which can be seen on pages 10 and 11 of the link above.
- Leff said he thinks all would appreciate an upgrade to the equipment for the ability to run Zoom and hybrid meetings in a more user-friendly way.
- Diane McGovern (345 E. Hillendale Road) asked if there was a request to put an addition onto the Township building. Ratliff said that we are not there yet, that right now the focus is on what options exist to maintain the current building and what options exist to make more efficient use of this space. McGovern said that the Historical Commission is interested in utilizing the Pines/Fussell House, so she wanted to put that on the table for Township-used space. Ratliff said that the Historical Commission submitted a large budget request that included the Pines which will be presented at an upcoming meeting.
- Diane H. Fourney (103 Meadow View Lane) asked what the age of the Kennett Township building was. Ratliff said it was built in 2003. Heinrich added that the design of the building did not consider commercial usage as it was built more like a house. Hoffman said that the average life span of residential HVAC systems is 15-20 years, so it is not overly surprising that we are beginning to have some of these issues.
- Geoff Gamble (560 Chandler Mill Road) suggested we look at surrounding township buildings – cost, age, mistakes – as we study ours, which seems to already be a white elephant. Leff said there are probably not a lot that look like ours, but the needs would be evaluated before any substantial changes are made to this building or perhaps another space altogether. Heinrich added that there is no definitive plan, but we do not want to make repairs without looking at the big picture and making sure they are done right.

COMMUNITY & COMMITTEES: Discussed the Library Capital Contribution (\$121K for six years) and the budget requests from Historic Kennett Square – \$20K (HKS), Kennett Area Community Service – \$20K (KACS), Kennett Area Senior Center – \$2.5K, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance – \$2K (BRCA), Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership – \$950 (CWMP), Kennett Area Park and Recreation Board – \$17.5K (KAPRB), Kennett Area Park Authority – \$68,250 (KAPA), Chescobus SCCOOT – \$5K (TMACC), Deer Management Committee – \$500, and the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway Commission – \$600 (BVSBC).

Discussion:

- KACS: Leff said that it makes sense to help KACS out to some degree given that COVID-19 has not fully gone away. He asked where the \$5,000 recommendation from the staff came from as opposed to their request of \$20,000. Heinrich said it was based on feedback she had gotten from the Supervisors individually who said they were not ready to assume an annual contribution of the full \$20,000. She also said their requests did not quite align with their surplus, which is not meant as a critical statement as she is aware there is always more work to be done.
- KACS: Hoffman said they are looking for a new building and would likely be starting their own capital fund. Heinrich said that it would be helpful for a conversation with KACS to understand the need behind their ask.
- KACS: Michael Guttman (14 Nine Gates Road) asked if expanding Emergent Abundance Farming Collective, who currently grow food on one acre of Spar Hill, would be another way the Township could support KACS. Leff said he would be happy to, and Hoffman said that suggestion was a great.
- BRCA: Leff said the membership makes sense, but he is not as certain about the campaign donation.
- BRCA: Ratliff asked Stevens how long Kennett Township has been a member of the BRCA. Stevens said longer than 12 years. Ratliff commented on how much of a good partner they have been, especially in helping with the MS4 initiatives and projects. Discussion continued about the multiple ways they help. Lysle said Kennett Township has been working with them for 25 or 30 years.
- BRCA: Stevens said when it comes to budgets, the question is how the money is used and this organization does a better job than we could with it. He feels they should get everything we can give them. Leff agreed that it is a good organization, and he has no problem with the membership fee.
- CWMP: Stevens asked if they were only asking for \$950. Heinrich said yes.
- KAPRB: Stevens said that out of the 20+ years the Township has contributed, he has worked with them 11. They have always provided a specific plan for their request but this year, he does not have that perspective. He said he supports this group as it is one of the only places to get active recreation, but he would like them to come and talk to the Supervisors about what they need the money for. Hoffman agreed. Heinrich said that the KAPRB did submit their detailed proposal and she can forward it to the Supervisors; this is just meant to boil down all the requests for the public meeting. Ratliff said we can invite someone from KAPRB to come and present at a future meeting.

- KAPRB: Leff asked about the 30% of Kennett Township residents, what percentage of their budget is funded by Kennett Township, and what are their other sources of funding are. COVID-19 impacts were discussed.
- KAPA: Leff said the request looks to be about a 5% increase over 2021 and asked what reasons they gave for the increase.
- KAPA: Mark Rybarczyk (108 Viburnum Drive) explained that they have seen an increase of about 10% in their operating expenses from increased hours of staff plus the upcoming expense of taking care of their many ash trees.
- KAPA: Stevens said his understanding was that they only had one part time employee and the rest of the work was done by volunteers, and if that was still true, he commended KAPA on their efficient use of their funds. Ratliff asked Rybarczyk if there were paid public works-like staff and Rybarczyk said yes and detailed KAPA's paid staff.
- KAPA: Hoffman asked if they received any in-kind services from either the Borough of Kennett Square or Kennett Township. Rybarczyk said no but knows both have provided matching grant requests in the past.
- KAPA: Elizabeth Curtis Swain (213 S Fairview Road) and Heinrich discussed grant programs and projects that that been completed together for MS4 credits. Swain added that KAPA does rely heavily on in-kind services from other volunteers.
- KAPA: Ratliff reported that the Township's Public Works Department plows KAPA's driveway and parking lots during the winter months as an in-kind contribution.
- KAPA: Leff commented on the soccer fields that will be completed soon and Hoffman commented on her continuing efforts to try to bring WiFi to Anson B. Nixon Park.
- KAPA: Peter Doehring (5 Nine Gates Road) expressed his disappointment that KAPA only recently received their payments from the Township that were budgeted to be quarterly payments. He asked if what was paid was for 2021 or 2020. Rybarczyk answered that KAPA has received everything to date for 2021. Leff asked if the timing of the payment caused any problems for KAPA and Rybarczyk said that while the preference would have been to receive the payments quarterly, KAPA was not put in any financial hardship by getting the entire year's payment at once a few weeks ago. He also spoke to the reason for the delayed payments, that they needed to work out which fund they were coming from.
- KAPRB: Michael Guttman (14 Nine Gates Road) asked if the Kennett Area Park & Recreation Board could be looked at differently due to the fact Pennock Park offers parking, picnicking, and port-a-potties for the Parrish Trail and what is to come on Chandler Mill Road. He asked if discussions could be had to justify spending more with KAPRB to make Pennock Park more officially a trail head for the Greenway. Leff said it was a great idea once parts of the Greenway get underway. Guttman said we are already using it as such because of the Parrish Trail and Leff said this should be discussed with the Trails and Sidewalks Committee and KAPRB, to see what their long-term plans look like for improving the park. Heinrich commented on the work the Township's Public Works Department has done to help beautify the Parrish Trail.
- SCCOOT: Leff asked how many Kennett Township residents or businesses use it and how many stops there are in Kennett Township. Hoffman said there are no stops in Kennett Township. Discussion continued around the stops for the SCCOOT Bus.
- SCCOOT: Ratliff spoke of an informal committee he was a part of through the Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (SCCON) where they discussed marketing and trying to increase usage and bus stops in the Township. This committee became inactive due to COVID-19.
- SCCOOT: Leff said he would need more information about the ridership before deciding to increase the amount from 2021. Hoffman agreed.
- SCCOOT: Stevens commented that without a car and without public transportation it is challenging to get to grocery stores and doctors, a problem he feels the entire nation struggles with. He thinks SCCOOT needs to be supported, reminisced about the rail service to Wilmington, and was aghast the meetings Ratliff talked about saw no progress, regardless of the reason why. He said people not being able to get around is a very serious problem that needs to be addressed.
- SCCOOT: Leff agreed but wanted to know how much SCCOOT helps Kennett Township residents with that problem. Stevens said that he was frustrated that it appeared SCCOOT did not help much. Ratliff challenged that saying more information was needed and that there is currently a micro transit study underway with the Borough and TMAAC.
- SCCOOT: Bo Wright, Executive Director of HKS, elaborated on the micro transit study and offered to send more information to the Supervisors that shows four stops in Kennett Township plus ridership data. He explained the difference between the micro transit study and SCCOOT and said he does not believe SCCOOT

is meant to address the problems that Stevens referred to but rather meets a specific need of getting from Oxford to West Chester, for example.

- SCCOOT: Michael Guttman (14 Nine Gates Road) pointed out that all the different transportation alternatives should integrate with the Township’s Active Transportation Plan, which is also related to the Greenway, potentially bringing more people to the Greenway making it that much more useful. Leff commented on the desire of the Board to add sidewalks so people can walk safely.
- Deer Management: Hoffman commented that a lot of residents are concerned about the increasing size of the deer herd and anything the Township can do to help manage the deer population is a good idea. Heinrich explained how this committee submits receipts for their budgeted funds.
- Deer Management: Stevens asked if they spent the \$250 last year and what they are planning on spending \$500 on this year. Heinrich said they did not buy anything new this year as they used what they had for signs. That stock is now running low, so they anticipate needing more for that. Ratliff said that the nominal amount of \$500 is not a scientific amount, but the chair believes they will need more signs and supplies for 2022. Stevens agreed that the amount in comparison to the overall budget is de minimis, but suggested giving \$250 rather than inflating the budget with \$500 – with the understanding that if more is needed, they can likely still get it. Ratliff said that would likely not be a problem with the chair.
- Deer Management: Karen Marshall (21 South Ridge Drive) asked via Zoom chat, “What are the goals of the committee?” Ratliff said it is a very small operation of a couple of hunters, not an official Township committee, that is primarily focused on Spar Hill and Lord Howe to manage the deer herd in an organized manner. Marshall thanked Ratliff for the clarification that this committee does not address the needs of the Township, but rather only a few properties. Ratliff added that there is a desire to expand their operations, but there has not been time on either side to dig into.
- BVSBC: Karen Marshall (21 South Ridge Drive) commented that the existence of the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway prevents the Harriet Tubman Scenic Byway from coming up Route 52 due to a bureaucratic technicality of PennDOT, which does not allow two byways to coexist on the same road. Stevens asked for more details at a later time as he agrees that it is a problem and if it is a bureaucratic issue, he feels Kennett Township should help resolve it. Hoffman and Leff agreed.
- Diane McGovern (345 E. Hillendale Road) asked where the money from Lisa Moore’s restitution goes in the budget. Ratliff explained that it is a 2021 revenue item but is listed separately in the budget as Heinrich’s Department Head Report shows in detail online (link below). He added that the Board has not yet decided what will happen with those funds as they are still working on what each fund balance should be.

7. Department Head Reports

a. Eden Ratliff – Administration

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4997)

Ratliff presented his monthly report available at the link above which addressed a discrepancy in sewer flows from Kennett Township into Kennett Borough, discussed the PennDOT Route 52 paving project that is almost complete with ‘sharrows’ expected to be added by the end of the year, shared updates on the Route 1 and Cedarcroft project, and invited everyone to join Historic Kennett Square for their State of the Square event on October 27th where they would unveil their new name and brand promise.

Discussion:

- Stevens asked what I and I stood for. Ratliff answered inflow and infiltration, or stormwater and groundwater that enters into the sewer system.
- Stevens commented on the importance of regional relationships and recounted the work he did to improve the relationship between East Marlborough Township and Kennett Township Supervisors, which allowed for the joint Route 1 and Cedarcroft project.

b. Amy Heinrich – Finance & HR

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4987)

Heinrich referenced her 23-page full financial package available on the website (at the link above), which addressed the recovery financials including the certified check for \$1.27M that Heinrich delivered to the bank for deposit. She then briefly explained fund accounting and said that while that check went into the General Fund, the Board has not yet decided how to allocate the money based on liabilities confirmed by the auditors on amounts stolen from the Open Space Fund and the Sewer Fund, plus a few other areas.

Discussion:

- Stevens asked if the ~\$3.8M of assets in the Open Space Fund was from taxes that have come in. Heinrich said that ~\$1.78 is accumulated from taxes and ~\$2M is from the loan we drew down.
- Stevens asked if the \$767,108 amount was what the forensic auditor said was stolen from the Open Space Fund. Heinrich said no, they did not do a granular inter-fund analysis. They confirmed that all the money left the Township via the General Fund while noting it moved between the Funds. The painstaking initiative of untangling the web of how that money moved and from which Fund is one of the tasks Heinrich has been working through. Stevens then said that the work she and her team did shows \$543,986 stolen from the Sewer Fund. Heinrich confirmed.
- Stevens and Heinrich continued to discuss specific numbers from her report available in the above link.
- Peter Doehring (5 Nine Gates Road) asked how much we got from the American Recovery Act. She said ~\$400,000 and explained how she showed that one-time amount in the financials, how it does not impact the forecasting or budget, and that it will take two years to get the full amount.

c. Diane Hicks – Planning & Zoning

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4988)

Hicks reported that the Planning Commission reviewed four Land Subdivision Development Plans: Eagle Energy Systems Marijuana Dispensary, Palita Automotive, and two Minor Subdivision Plans. None of them have received approval yet. She provided updates on the proposed convenience store, medical building, and restaurant use at 802 E. Baltimore Pike in East Marlborough Township. She also provided updates on the Zoning Hearing Board Applications 515 and 516, both of which have been continued. The Historical Commission performed a site visit on October 1st to assess a proposal from Exelon to the Board of Supervisors that will be coming at a later date. There were 19 Building/Zoning permits and 3 Rental permits issued in the month of September. More details are available from her report in the link above.

Discussion:

- Leff noted the larger than normal Building/Zoning permit on her report was from the apartments that are going in near Wayward Beverage.

d. Roger Lysle – Public Works

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4989)

Lysle shared his monthly report, available at the link above, that detailed recent paving, line painting, crosswalk painting, and mowing completed in the past month as well as an update on the Chandler Mill Road one-lane pilot, upcoming drainpipe replacement on Bucktoe Road, and an update on the yard waste pile and metal recycling.

Discussion:

- There was a discussion surrounding the predictions for winter weather and Lysle noted that salt prices have skyrocketed this year just as blacktop has.

e. Matt Gordon – Kennett Township Police Department

(www.kennett.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/4990)

Chief Gordon shared the contents of his report, available in the above link, that listed 615 incidents (YTD 6,541), 3 criminal arrests, 18 traffic citations, 7 traffic warnings and 11 reportable/non-reportable crashes. His report also included guidelines for trick-or-treating for Halloween on Sunday, October 31st from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Discussion:

- Leff asked about the Emergency Services information provided on pages six through eight of his report, specifically the Police Department's role in responding to the ALS and BLS calls. Gordon explained that the police are dispatched to every incident requiring a first responder including fire and EMS. He said that due to the fact we are a 24/7 Police Department, often the police arrive first. The officers are trained in first aid and CPR and their vehicles contain AEDs so they can start treating people before ambulances arrive.
- Stevens said that BLS is usually the prominent use of EMS services, and that Gordon's reports also show that. Stevens asked Gordon if he agreed with that, and Gordon did.
- Ratliff asked if the ALS/BLS calls in Gordon's report were dispatched as displayed, or if what the report showed was the outcome. Gordon said how they were dispatched. Ratliff then explained the difference between a call's outcome verses how it was dispatched with statistics and examples. Stevens agreed with Ratliff and said that it is unknown whether the calls in Gordon's report were upgraded or downgraded.

- AJ McCarthy (Fire Chief at Longwood Fire Company) reported statistics on the actual usage of ALS and BLS across the region, saying ALS was higher than BLS.

8. Public Comment

Discussion

- John Wilkens (138 Round Hill Road) said that as we get out of the financial valley this place has been in, the people of the Township should be very pleased with the detail and careful planning that has gone into the budget process. He also said it is nice that Township sponsored food is given to people in need in our area, and called it the garden of Eden. Ratliff thanked Wilkens but said that is not the official name of the garden.
- Geoff Gamble (560 Chandler Mill Road) alerted Hoffman that one of her political signs had been destroyed but that he was going to replace it with one that had been put on his property. Hoffman thanked him, commented that they both have enthusiastic supporters, and thanked him for keeping their race spirited yet kind. Leff said that he tries to keep only Township business at this meeting but allowed this comment.
- Peter Doehring (5 Nine Gates Road) presented comments over claims made in Hoffman's recent mailings to Kennett Area Democrats that he felt were misleading and misrepresenting of the Supervisors. After a discussion over whether or not it was appropriate to discuss this between Leff and Solicitor Sander, Doehring went on to quote Hoffman's mailers about uncovering the fraud but said that it was the failure of the Supervisors that allowed the fraud to occur and that it was uncovered because the bank flagged suspicious transactions. His second comment was about claims in Hoffman's October 18th mailing that stated the merger between Kennett Fire Company and Longwood Fire Company improved response times to up to six minutes and lead to savings to the Regional Commission to over \$250,000. Doehring said he is unaware of any other public record that support those claims, but he is aware of the new budget requests that show increased costs, not decreased costs. He asked that Hoffman's assertions be supported by documentation to substantiate them.
- Diane McGovern (345 E. Hillendale Road) asked if someone could explain the position of Constable on the ballot for the upcoming election. Ratliff said the Constable is an elected position that works with the District Magistrate to help serve warrants and deal with landlord/tenant issues. Stevens added that the Constable is like a Sheriff who works with the District Justices rather than at the common pleas level and is a quasi-law enforcement position.
- Diane McGovern (345 E. Hillendale Road) also asked regarding the Lisa Moore case if Brian Gore was ever going to be prosecuted for accepting the stolen goods of medical benefits. Ratliff said the District Attorney's office has only filed charges against Lisa Moore.

9. Adjournment

Motion presented by Stevens to adjourn. Hoffman seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eden R. Ratliff
Township Secretary

*Meeting was advertised January 6, 2021 and the agenda posted online and posted physically October 19, 2021.
Copies of the agenda were made available for public in attendance.*