

**SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
10:00 a.m.**

**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 10, 2021 Non-Legislative Meeting of the South Strabane Township Board of Supervisors (“Board”) came to order at 10:01 a.m. in the Mae C. Reynolds Meeting Room of the Municipal Building (550 Washington Road, Washington, PA 15301).

The following were present:

Board of Supervisors: Bob Weber, Chair; Mark Murphy, Vice Chair; Bracken Burns; Russell Grego; and Richard Luketich.

Absent: None

Also Present: Brandon Stanick, Township Manager; Jim Sutter, Assistant to the Township Manager; Drew Hilk, Police Chief; Scott Reese, Fire Chief; Kevin Creagh (via Zoom), Township Engineer; and Dennis Makel, Township Solicitor.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Weber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Township Board of Supervisors allocates a period of time during this item for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Board of Supervisors on any matter. Each person addressing the Board of Supervisors is asked to limit their comments to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

There were no Public Comments.

**4. DISCUSSION REGARDING LOCAL PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

Township Manager Stanick began the discussion by giving an overview of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (“SPC”) and its next round of the short-term Transportation Improvement Program (“TIP”) plan to disburse federal transportation funding. The SPC will begin hearing presentations on projects to include in the 2023-26 cycle this Fall. Mr. Stanick, in consultation with Township Engineer Creagh and Public Works Director Grego, has picked out several projects to review with the Board with the goal of narrowing these options down to 2 or 3 projects to present to the SPC for consideration. Mr. Creagh then gave an overview of the projects to be considered.

Manifold Road Re-alignment

This project would consist of two parts. The first would be to straighten out and therefore improve the sight distance in the section between Berry Road and Interstate 79. The second part would involve making improvements to the intersection of Manifold Road and Berry Road. Mr. Creagh explained that this project would be relatively complex and involve right-of-way acquisition of several properties. Mr. Stanick noted that the Township has heard from multiple members of the public regarding the unsatisfactory status of the road.

#### Route 19/Davis School Road Realignment

Mr. Creagh demonstrated how the traffic coming from Davis School Road onto Route 19 sits askew. This causes visibility concerns and is therefore a hazard. The proposed improvements would involve extending the entrance to the intersection back to create a more traditional “T-intersection” before the road turns back to join back with and continue the current path of the roadway. Chair Weber indicated that they have had members of the public attending Board meetings raise concerns regarding this particular intersection.

#### Lakeview Road Widening

This project would involve the widening of the roadway 2-4 feet along the length in order to give it a more uniform width. This project is being proposed in anticipation of developments in that area of the Township. Public Work Director Grego indicated that this is currently a state road and that if this project is funded, they may want the Township to take it over.

#### Cameron Road/E. Beau Street Intersection

This project involves straightening out the approach from Cameron Road and therefore improving the sightlines for the intersection. Mr. Creagh mentioned that this is a very tricky intersection and that it may not be worth undertaking given the potential for unforeseen complications.

#### Zediker Station Road/National Pike Intersection

This project involves straightening out the approach from Zediker Station Road and therefore improving the sightlines for the intersection. Mr. Murphy, who has family that owns a business at this intersection, indicated that this intersection needs to be greatly improved. A discussion ensued on potential solutions.

Chair Weber asked Township Engineer Creagh about the procedure for applying these projects for TIP funding. He then gave a brief overview of the process. He stated the Board should narrow these proposed projects down to 2 or 3 to present.

Mr. Murphy proposed that the Manifold Road Re-alignment and Route 19/Davis School Road Re-alignments should be prioritized due to the amount of traffic at these locations. A discussion ensued and it was determined that these two projects would be those presented to the SPC for consideration. Police Chief Drew Hilk will pull accident data from these two locations to help support the proposals. Mr. Creagh will submit these proposals on behalf of the Township.

**5. REVIEW OF THE SOUTH STRABANE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFER GRANT**

Township Manager Stanick reported that the Township has applied for a grant to hire five additional firefighters through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (“SAFER”) Program. If awarded the grant, the Township will receive funding over a 3-year period totaling nearly \$1 million. The only obligation of the grant is that the Township retains the firefighters throughout this period. Mr. Stanick then gave an overview of the proposed methods of sustaining the costs associated with hiring these new firefighters after the 3-year period ends. The proposals include:

- Special Levy
- Fire Hydrant Assessment Tax
- Real Estate Tax Levy

Fire Chief Reese reported that the Township was still waiting to hear if they will receive the grant. He also stated that while he cannot say specifically what the odds of receiving the funding are, he feels the Township is a competitive applicant. Chair Weber stated that even the Township does not receive this grant, the Board still wishes to see the Fire Department grow. A discussion ensued regarding the grant program.

Mr. Reese then gave an update on the status of the ongoing firefighter recruitment. He stated that agility tests will take place on Saturday and the following Wednesday. He expressed his hope that they will eventually have 15 candidates to choose from for the two known upcoming vacancies. Ideally, this will also be the pool to choose from if the Township is awarded the SAFER grant.

Mr. Reese gave an update on the recent fire truck purchase. He stated that there was an issue with the title on the truck. However, they are working with the Village of Falconer, New York, the sellers of the truck, to rectify the issue.

**6. REVIEW OF THE CODERED NOTIFICATION SYSTEM DRAFT POLICY**

Township Manager Stanick reported Police Chief Hilk was in attendance to review a draft policy of usage for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. Chief Hilk stated that he had put it together from the police perspective. He stated that the intent of the policy was to address any questions an officer would ask in considering whether to issue a notification. He then gave an overview of the policy.

Chair Weber inquired about any promotion the Township is doing of this system. Chief Hilk stated that the policy addresses this, stating that the Township would advertise it at least once per year. However, the website, Facebook and newsletters will frequently advertise this service and encourage residents to register.

A discussion ensued on the appropriateness of utilizing this system for severe weather events.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:53 a.m. Chair Weber announced the Board will adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon J. Stanick  
Township Manager