

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

August 9, 2022

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The August 9, 2022 Non-Legislative Meeting of the South Strabane Township Board of Supervisors (Board) came to order at 10:00 a.m. in the 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; and Russell Grego

Absent: Richard Luketich

Also Present: Township Manager Brandon Stanick; Fire Chief Jordan Cramer; Administrative Intern Paris Szalla; Township Engineer Kevin Creagh (via Zoom); and Township Solicitor Dennis Makel.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Weber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Chair Weber, Township Manager Brandon Stanick explained the purpose of the Board's non-legislative meetings. The meeting are strictly for discussing matters and providing direction so that Staff can prepare the items for the Board's action during a regular meeting.

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.

Jimmy Stewart, resident on Arrowhead Drive, expressed support for adding restrictions on parking in cul-de-sacs should the Board move forward with any parking regulations.

Marcia Deeb, resident on Fox Drive, read prepared comments regarding posting of agendas, communication and on-street parking regulations.

Judy Panasik, resident on Green Crescent Drive, expressed her concerns regarding meetings occurring in the morning when it is difficult for residents to attend. Ms. Panasik expressed her opinion on-street parking is not an issue in the Township, even during snow events, as well as her displeasure with the Township's Public Works employees.

Dennis O'Brien, resident on Beech Street, expressed his concerns regarding on-street parking at the intersection near the Northgate Apartments.

Carla Isiminger, resident on Quarry Road, expressed her concerns regarding on-street parking on a portion of Quarry Road, stating it is a safety hazard. Ms. Isiminger distributed pictures relating to the issue. She expressed a desire to see something done to rectify the issue of cars parking on this portion of Quarry Road.

David Getzik, resident on Crabapple Drive, stated restricting parking in cul-de-sacs is discriminatory. He expressed concerns regarding meetings occurring in the morning when it is difficult for residents to attend. He expressed his concern regarding the Township adhering to the Sunshine Law.

Deborah Hall, resident on Floral Hill Drive, expressed her concern with vehicles speeding on Floral Hill Drive and inquired what can be done to remedy the situation.

Mr. Stanick read aloud the following comment from Mr. and Mrs. Stadelman (Crabapple Dr.):

Dear Mr. Stanick:

We are unable to attend the 10:00 am Board of Supervisors Meeting on August 9, 2022. Please advise the Board of Supervisors during the public comment period of our opposition to an on-street parking ban Ordinance of any type in South Strabane Township.

We are concerned that no data has been collected, nor has any form of study been conducted to justify such a ban. Passing Ordinances of this nature that changes a long-standing practice should not be based on "personal preferences" or "gut feelings". The impact on the citizens that the Supervisors represent should be of primary concern. Assuming that every South Strabane Township residence has a driveway, and a garage is not a fair statement. Copying adjacent municipalities ordinances without a sound basis for doing so is not good government. There is no problem that the citizens are asking the Supervisors to address with a new Ordinance of this nature. Even the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief have stepped aside and made no recommendation, deferring to the Board of Supervisors.

We ask each of you to oppose any new Ordinance of this type, it is much too broad and far reaching for our Township. I would encourage you to make use of existing Statutes, Codes and Ordinances to address specific problems and not paint with such a broad brush so as to detrimentally impact the vast majority of Residents that are not causing any problems.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carla Stadelman
Gary Stadelman
331 Crabapple Drive, South Strabane Township

**4. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF A REQUEST BY NORTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP
SANITARY AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SANITARY SEWER SERVICE TO THE WEST
PENN PLASTICS FACILITY ALONG E. BEAU STREET**

Mr. Stanick reported in July 2022, North Strabane Township Municipal Authority (“NSTMA”), on behalf of Washington Penn Plastics (located at 1604 E. Beau St.), requested the Township consider a request to allow the industrial facility to tap into the public sanitary sewer system operated by NSTMA. Currently, the Township does not have sanitary sewer service in this vicinity as the closest connection is just west of the Route 136/Zediker Station Road intersection. Because the Township cannot adequately serve Washington Penn Plastics, the company is applying to construct a grinder pump and forcemain to flow sewage to the NSTMA’s 84 Industrial Park plant located across East Beau Street.

Following a discussion amongst Staff and Washington-East Washington Joint Authority’s (“WEWJA”) Director of Operations, no issue appears to exist with this request for connection as this is the most economically feasible path. However, Staff recommends in the event the Township extends public sanitary sewers to this area, then Washington Penn Plastics (or successor business) would be obligated to tie into WEWJA’s sewer system. Should the Board concur with the request from NSTMA, a sewer service agreement would be prepared for the Board’s consideration at a future meeting. A response from the WEWJA Board has not been received to date.

Mr. Burns stated he is in favor of Staff’s recommendation. Following a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to prompt WEWJA with communication requesting they respond to the Township’s request by a certain date.

**5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING COMPREHENSIVE ON-STREET
PARKING REGULATIONS**

Mr. Stanick reported earlier this year the Board directed Staff to prepare an ordinance restricting parking in cul-de-sacs. Over the course of several months this matter has been discussed with the Public and no action has been taken to date. A chart summarizing parking regulations of nearby communities has been prepared for the Board’s information.

Chair Weber expressed a desire to reach out to the community to see how they feel regarding parking to assist the Board in determining parking regulations. Mr. Burns stated any community outreach would result in half being in favor and half being opposed to any restrictions. He suggested a letter to residents asking for them to not park on the street during winter storm events to see if this has any impact. He also stated there is uncertainty whether there is a problem to begin with and therefore may not require any action. Mr. Murphy noted that instituting restrictions may not improve on-street parking issues, but would at least provide an enforcement mechanism.

Chair Weber read out the chart summarizing parking regulations in nearby communities. A discussion on the regulations in neighboring communities ensued. Mr. Grego advised there is an issue with snow plowing and expressed his support for on-street parking restrictions during winter storm events.

A discussion ensued on instituting targeted parking regulations in certain locations. It was the consensus of the Board to have Staff conduct a comprehensive on-street parking analysis of the Township’s road system.

6. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING BASEBALL FIELD USAGE

Mr. Stanick reported Mr. Murphy had requested this item be discussed during the meeting. A detailed schedule of the usage of Township fields and an attached usage agreement with the various youth sports groups utilizing the fields was provided to the Board. Mr. Murphy stated the current regulations only allow practice on the fields and does not allow games. A discussion ensued on the use of the fields. Chair Weber expressed a desire to have the policy updated to allow games. Mr. Murphy stated Washington High School has asked if they could use the fields to play games. The games are usually over by 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Grego expressed concern regarding organizations being insured. Mr. Makel stated a Certificate of Insurance is currently required. A discussion ensued on the logistics involved in holding games. Ms. Panasik stated the Township had restricted games because they tend to draw more people. Balls were hitting people in the park and parking was an issue if the pavilion was rented. It was the consensus of the Board to have Staff review the ball field usage policies in other municipalities and revise the policy to allow games.

7. FIRE CHIEF CRAMER PRESENTATION OF 100-DAY REPORT REGARDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Stanick invited Chief Cramer to present his 100-day Report providing a comprehensive assessment of the Township Fire Department. Chief Cramer reviewed the following topics related to the Fire Department associated with Actions Taken, Needs and Future Actions: Culture and morale, communication, branding, volunteer and career relations, leadership, systems and standardization, overall staffing level, call volume and response, risk potential, emergency management, EMS response, apparatus and equipment, facilities, training, community risk reduction and community outreach.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:27 a.m., Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn into Executive Session to review personnel matters. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The Board came out of Executive Session and adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon J. Stanick, Township Manager