

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

JUNE 8, 2023

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The June 8, 2023 Special Non-Legislative Meeting of the South Strabane Township Board of Supervisors (“Board”) came to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building (550 Washington Road, Washington, PA 15301).

The following were present:

Board of Supervisors	Bracken Burns, Chair; Mark Murphy, Vice Chair; Russell Grego; Richard Luketich; and Bob Weber.
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Absent	None
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Also Present	Township Manager Brandon Stanick; Police Chief Drew Hilk; Fire Chief Jordan Cramer; and Township Solicitor Dennis Makel.
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2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Burns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. William Zilvarich, resident on Floral Hill Drive, expressed his concern with the vacant lot next door and the required setbacks that have communicated to the property owner beginning to build a new house. Township Manager Stanick informed Mr. Zilvarich that Staff is aware of the special nature of the lot due to its non-conforming status and the non-conforming status of the lots adjacent on both sides.

Mr. George Rowan, resident on Flint Dr., expressed his concern for a fence erected on Flint Dr. that the Strabane Manor HOA approved. He expressed his displeasure with the HOA and the wrought iron fence. He inquired why the Township would have issued a building permit prior to the resident receiving HOA approval. He then commented on the Township Manager and suggested the Board conduct a forensic audit and not allow the Township Manager to do anything “big” before he leaves.

Mr. Dale Rudy, resident on Shawnee Drive, expressed his displeasure and concern for the fence on Flint Dr. as well. He expressed his understanding the setbacks in the Zoning Code do not allow fences to be erected on property lines.

Mr. Jeffrey Bull, resident along S. Main Street, suggested the Board not do anything “big” before hiring the new manager. He also suggested having a forensic audit completed. Mr. Bull expressed his concern for the Township Manager.

Ms. Judy Panasik, resident along Green Crescent Drive, expressed her concern for the house that will be built on the vacant lot along Floral Hill Drive. She accused the Township Manager of lying about the required setbacks and that he didn’t require a survey to be produced for this new house.

Mr. Mike Mahurin, resident along Flint Drive, expressed his concern with the weeds along Fischer Road, as well as the speeding in Strabane Manor. He suggested the Township install rumble strips and speed bumps to slow traffic. Mr. Mahurin expressed his concern with the fence along Flint Dr. and stated it was built within the stormwater easement.

Ms. Charlene Scuvotti, resident along Pine Valley Rd., read a prepared statement expressing her dislike of and displeasure with the Township Manager. She stated he should not be making any more decisions before he leaves.

4. Review and Discussion Concerning an Ordinance Formally Establishing a Combination Fire and Emergency Services Department

Fire Chief Cramer introduced his recommendation the Board approve an ordinance establishing the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. He noted with this action the Township would qualify for a low interest loan for its new rescue engine arriving later this year. Also, grants would be open to the Township for facilities and other such things. He stated there are two key items that will need established immediately noting they were presented and suggested by the Fire Department Strategic Planning Initiative conducted by Jerry Ozog.

Chief Cramer reviewed the two priority sections for the Board to consider at the next meeting, including the formal establishment of the Department, comprised of both Volunteer and Career Members. The services provided by the department would be included in the ordinance, such as fire, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous materials, public assistance, emergency management, community risk reduction and fire prevention. Chief Cramer noted the second part is the appointment of a Chief of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that would report to the Township Manager and would be responsible for all functions of the department and oversight of external service providers including ambulance transport companies.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for Chief Cramer to work with Solicitor Makel to draft the ordinance and present for the Board’s approval at its June meeting.

5. Review and Discussion Concerning Medical Billing for Fire Department Incidents Generated by Non-Residents

Fire Chief Cramer introduced his recommendation the Board approve an ordinance authorizing the Township to bill for services delivered to non-residents. This would allow the Township to bill insurance companies of vehicle owners to recoup some of the costs for such incidents. The ordinance is meant to account for the use of materials in responding to accidents and other incidents. Chief Cramer also stated the Board should consider establishing a percentage of each payment received be held in an account earmarked for traffic incident safety. The cost of third-party billing agencies normally range between 20 to 30% of funds collected.

Ms. Panasik expressed concern for such an ordinance because it will lead to other municipalities adopting something similar to which she would have to pay in the event she was in an accident.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for Chief Cramer to work with Solicitor Makel to draft the ordinance and present for the Board's approval in the near future.

6. ADJOURNMENT

As no further business came before the Board, Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn. Mr. Luketich seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey L. Ziegler
Township Manager