

West Earl Township Board of Supervisors, 157 West Metzler Road, Brownstown, PA 17508

In Attendance:

Chairman:	John Ford	Manager/Secretary:	Jenna Seesholtz
Vice Chairman:	David Thornton	Police Chief:	Eric Higgins
Member:	Harold Keppley, Jr.	Roadmaster:	Neil Stoltzfus
Member:	Dale Wissler	Zoning Officer:	Sara Service
Member:	Keith Kauffman		

Others present: John Friel – LNP, Jim Caldwell – Rettew Associates (via phone)

Call to Order

Chairman Ford called the April 13, 2020 regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman Ford announced that this meeting was being held via teleconference using Zoom and was advertised as such on the Township's website and Facebook page.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Vice Chairman Thornton, second by Member Kauffman to approve the March 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Special Business

- **Resolution 2020-22 - Covid-19 Emergency Declaration** – Moved by Member Wissler, second by Vice Chairman Thornton to adopt Resolution 2020-22. Motion approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 2020-23 – Tax Relief** – Manager Seesholtz stated that this Resolution is being passed by all Counties in the State to extend the base period to pay real estate taxes until November 30, 2020. Moved by Member Kauffman, second by Vice Chairman Thornton to adopt Resolution 2020-23. Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Ford asked that the Resolutions be placed on the Township's website.

Old Business

- **East Main Street Sidewalk project update** – Jim Caldwell, Rettew Associates, provided a timeline of the project for the Board's review. Manager Seesholtz is requesting that the Board authorize Rettew to move forward with the plans for the project and authorize working with the Township's attorney to acquire easements from East Main Street homeowners.
 - The Roadmaster addressed the Board and suggested that the Township do the smaller portion of the project and use the grant funds to complete the larger portion of the project. He said the curbing in the smaller portion could be completed by the Township before PennDot paves the road. The sidewalk replacement could then be completed later with the cost being divided among the property. Member Keppley noted that some residents have maintained their curbing and sidewalks while other homeowners have not. He also said that for the Township to ask them to participate in paying an equal amount as a homeowner who has not maintained their sidewalk and curb does not seem right. Member Keppley feels the Township should come up with a linear foot price for those whose sidewalk is in disrepair. The Board asked the Roadmaster to work with the Code Enforcement Officer to get linear foot measurements for the sidewalks in the small section of the project and get a cost for the curbing.
 - Manager Seesholtz called Jim Caldwell from Rettew to join the meeting via cell phone and discuss the sidewalk plans. The possibility of removing the bump-outs were discussed. Mr. Caldwell said removing the bump-outs would make the project easier and reduce the costs. Discussions followed about how to reduce the speed on Main Street, installing grass strips in the sidewalks and the placement of mailboxes and utility poles. Chairman Ford asked Mr. Caldwell for a revised design with the bump-outs removed and see what the cost will be.

Moved by Member Kauffman, second by Member Keppley to authorize Rettew Associates to produce a revised design drawing along with the associated costs for the East Main Street project with the sidewalk bump-outs removed, a roadway narrowing option, with and without speed tables, and with a focus towards reducing the speed of traffic and getting the project done at a lower cost. Motion approved unanimously.

Moved by Member Kauffman, second by Member Wissler to authorize the Manager to work with the Township's Attorney and Rettew to acquire easements for the East Main Street project from the affected homeowners. Motion approved unanimously.

- **LASA Asset Purchase Agreement** – Chairman Ford noted that this agreement will guarantee that residents' sewer rates would not go up for a minimum of 20 years. Moved by Member Keppley, second by Vice Chairman Thornton that the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Secretary be authorized to execute the Asset Purchase Agreement among this Township, West Earl Sewer Authority and the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority in the form provided by Lancaster Area Sewer Authority Solicitor on April 9, 2020, with such non-substantive changes as are acceptable to the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Solicitor. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business

- **2020 Upset Tax Sales postponement** – Moved by Chairman Ford, second by Member Keppley to authorize Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors or the Township Manager to execute the joint petition to stay the 2020 tax upset sales pursuant to 72 P.S. Section 5860.601C as prepared by the County of Lancaster. Motion approved unanimously.
- **James Leid financial security release** – Moved by Member Wissler, second by Vice Chairman Thornton to release the financial security maintenance bond for the James Leid project. Motion approved unanimously.
- **WESA Liens** – The Sewer Authority has requested that liens be placed on properties that have delinquent sewer bills before the sewer system is sold to LASA. Moved by Member Keppley, second by Member Thornton approve the Sewer Authority's lien request. Motion approved unanimously.

Payment of Bills

Moved by Member Wissler, second by Member Kauffman to pay the March 23, 2020 and April 9, 2020 bills as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports

Zoning Officer – Nothing to report

Manager

- Manager Seesholtz reported that Township is primarily working from home and coming in one day per week and some evenings.

Police Chief

- Chief Higgins provided a written report for the Board to review and had nothing additional to report.

Roadmaster

- Mr. Stoltzfus reported that they will continue working with the full road crew staff on a part-time schedule. He said that everyone is practicing social distancing.

Public Comment

John Friel, LNP – Mr. Friel asked which intersection on East Main need to be redone. Member Keppley said it's the intersection at East Main and Church Street. The new plan includes lengthening the turning radius.

Supervisors' Comments

- **Dale Wissler** – Member Wissler thanked the Police Chief and Officers for their help during this pandemic.

- **Dave Thornton**
 - **Nolt Well rehab** – Vice Chairman Thornton asked for an update on the rehab work on the Nolt Well. Manager Seesholtz said the work started on March 23rd and she believes it has been completed. Manager Seesholtz will check with the Water Operator by the end of the week.
 - Vice Chairman Thornton thanked the Manager, Police Chief and Roadmaster for their great leadership during this time. Vice Chairman Thornton also thanked all the Township employees for being flexible and helping when it is needed.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Wissler, second by Vice Chairman Thornton to adjourn the April 13, 2020 regular meeting at 8:33 p.m.
Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Service
Zoning Officer