

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 3, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
Solebury Township Hall/Virtual - Hybrid Meeting
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

Amended: October 15, 2024

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Hanna Howe, Vice-Chair, John S. Francis, Kevin Morrissey, Christy Cheever, Christopher Garges, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Township Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor was also in attendance.

The recording device was turned on.

I. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Bills Payable – August 29, 2024

Res. 2024-129 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Howe, the list of Bills Payable dated August 29, 2024 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2024

This topic was continued to the September 17, 2024 Board meeting

IV. Announcements / Resignations / Appointments

Executive Session

Mr. Baum Baicker announced that an Executive Session was held August 27, 2024 dealing with a Property Acquisition Matter and an Executive Session held September 3, 2024, prior to the meeting dealing with Property Acquisition and Zoning/Legal Matters.

V. Supervisor Comment

- Mr. Baum Baicker announced the rescheduled date for the Solebury Township and New Hope Borough Police Departments National Night Out, also known as, Community Together event. The event was rescheduled to September 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Laurel Park.
- Mr. Baum Baicker announced the Township’s Sustainable PA status. Solebury Township has earned the Sustainable Pennsylvania Gold Certification.
- Mr. Freed gave an update on a litigation case regarding Old Carversville Road. Mr. Freed addressed road safety complaints received resulting in the Township researching one-way travel on Old Carversville Road as a possible solution.

VI. Budget

Parks and Recreation – Dudley Rice

Dudley Rice, Parks & Recreation Director presented the 2025 Parks & Recreation Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting a minimum change to the overall budget. Mowing and maintenance of Township owned properties, facility updates, camp registration, Aquetong Spring Park and the Pickleball courts were discussed.

Christopher Nally, resident, questioned whether the Township went through the Insurance company for the roof replacement.

Police Department – Chief Kelley Warner

Chief Kelley Warner and Detective/Sergeant Jonathan Koretzky presented the 2025 Police Department Operational and Capital Budgets highlighting areas of change. Court overtime, departmental telephones, dues and subscriptions, department upgrades, police equipment and an update on the police vehicles were discussed.

Mr. Morrissey requested more detail associated with education and the programs. Chief Warner, gave an overview of the Career Development Program being implemented with the goal of Officer retention and succession within the Solebury Township Police Department.

The increase of visibility within the community and a night for the community to meet Chief Warner were discussed.

VII. New Business

Acknowledgement of Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2025

The Administration informed the Board of the pension plans anticipated financial obligations for 2025. This notification must be provided to the Board no later than the end of September.

Res. 2024-130 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to acknowledge receipt of Solebury Township’s 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Township Pension Plans as follows:

Uniform MMO:	\$368,647
Non-Uniform – Defined Benefit:	\$ 11,000
Non-Uniform – Cash Balance:	\$ 63,816

Annual Block Grant to the Fire Companies – Contribution for 2025

The Board discussed the Block Grant contribution for 2025.

Res. 2024-131 – Upon motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Cheever, it was unanimously agreed that the contribution for 2025 will be budgeted at \$650.00 per active firefighter and active fire police who reside in Solebury Township and volunteers with any of the three fire companies that serve Solebury Township (New Hope Eagle, Midway and Point Pleasant).

Approval of Offer to Fish and Boat Commission for Purchase of Ingham Springs Lot

The .2565-acre lot, located at 6294 Lower Mountain Road, TMP No. 41-022-108, contains a spring that feeds the Aquetong Creek (Ingham Springs Lot).

Res. 2024-132 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the approval of the offer to Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for purchase of Ingham Springs Lot in the amount of \$3,700.

Comfort Road Route 263 Stop Intersection Ordinance – Authorization to Advertise

The proposed Ordinance amends the Solebury Township Code of Ordinances Chapter 15 Section 308 to correct designation of Stop Intersection at Comfort Road and Route 263.

Res. 2024-133 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the advertisement of the ordinance for adoption at the October 15, 2024 Board meeting.

Gateway Trail III Project – Ply-Mar Construction Company, Inc. – Payment Request No. 2

The Township Engineer has reviewed the Application and Certification for Payment No. 2 and recommended the Board approve the payment of the requested items in the amount of Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$213,292.80). It is noted that the recommended payment reflects 10% (\$23,699.20) withholding for retainage funds pursuant to contract specifications.

Res. 2024-134 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Cheever, it was unanimously agreed to approve the payment of the requested items in the amount of Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Two Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$213,292.80).

Discussion of Survey for Single Waste Hauler

In response to the Environmental Advisory Council's request, Township staff drafted potential questions for a resident survey to gauge community interest for a single waste hauler.

A motion was made by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Morrissey to finalize and distribute the survey to the community, with the goal of bringing the results back to the Board.

Ms. Howe expressed concerns for survey fatigue. Discussion ensued between the Board.

Res. 2024-135 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, it was unanimously agreed to table the motion until January 21, 2025.

Rock Salt – Bid Award

Bids for rock salt have been received by the Bucks County Consortium and reviewed by Solebury Township Administration.

Res. 2024-136 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to award the Bid for Rock Salt to Morton Salt, Inc.

Authorize Township Manager to Execute Severance Agreement

Res. 2024-137 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Ms. Howe, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Severance Agreement for Solebury Township Police Officer Badge No. 41.

VIII. Public Comment

Christopher Nally, resident, commented on and requested the Township review and consider changes to the noise ordinance to include verbiage as to reasons why a dog may be barking 15 plus minutes. The Board agreed for the Township staff to review the ordinance and compare it to other municipalities.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi, Secretary