

MINUTES

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING – APRIL 6, 2016

The April 6, 2016 Non-Legislative Meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Thomas L. Mehaffie III. President Mehaffie called for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll call was taken with the following officials in attendance:

- Thomas L. Mehaffie III, President
- Jon G. Wilt, Vice President
- Laddie J. Springer, Assistant Secretary
- Michael J. Davies, Commissioner
- Todd F. Truntz, Commissioner
- Anne Shambaugh, Manager
- Jean R. Arroyo, Secretary
- Peter R. Henninger, Solicitor
- Erin G. Letavic, HRG, Engineer
- Robert S. Greene, Planning and Zoning Coordinator
- Richard D. Brandt, Police Chief
- Daniel L. Wagner, Public Works Director

Residents and visitors in attendance: (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SIGN-IN SHEET)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Matt Schmidt, 2040 Powderhorn Road, stated that the residents in his area have safety concerns since the last portion of their neighborhood has been opened and it is now essentially a thoroughfare. He estimated that traffic has increased about 50%. Mr. Schmidt distributed to the Board a two page presentation showing the area of concern and the proposed stop sign location at the intersection of Powderhorn Road and Pheasant Run Road. He explained that a stop sign at this location would deter excessive speeding through the neighborhood, which is often in excess of 40 and even 50 miles per hour. Mr. Schmidt stated that he understands that Pennsylvania state law does not permit the use of stop signs to control speed. However, the neighbors are asking that the Township perhaps institute a traffic study to see what can be done about this safety issue. There are children riding bikes in this area, people walking dogs, etc. President Mehaffie added that he is also concerned with pedestrians using the crosswalks at Powderhorn Road and

Pheasant Run, and the possibility of a vehicle flying through the intersection. Solicitor Henninger explained that Powderhorn Road was designed to be a thru road, which is why it is wider and not a straight shot. There are two stop signs there; in order to establish a three-way stop, there has to be significant traffic volume or a history of accidents. Mr. Schmidt stated that he would like to see a preventative action rather than a corrective action. President Mehaffie remarked that Swatara Township has a traffic count/speed limit sign and asked Chief Brandt to see if it would be willing to lend this to the Township. After a brief discussion, the Board recommended the following actions be taken: (1) that the Police Department focus enforcement on this intersection, especially at the peak hours of 7 A.M. to 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.; (2) that Chief Brandt contact Swatara Township to see if it is willing to loan its speed monitoring sign to the Township, and (3) that HRG do a traffic count at peak times to see if a three-way stop is warranted, and also look at the previous traffic study of this area. Mr. Schmidt thanked the Board for its consideration.

President Mehaffie asked Bonnie Kiner, 544 N. Wood St., if she had observed any changes in regards to the water issues in her neighborhood. Ms. Kiner reported that the straw bales have been removed. President Mehaffie advised her that Penn State will be contacting her soon to discuss plan to alleviate some of the flooding problems here. There are plans to do slitting to the field which should help with the drainage. Ms. Kiner asked what will be done about the muddy area outside the soccer field. Ms. Letavic responded that when she spoke with Mr. Tunnell about a week ago, he had indicated that his contractor would be going out to re-seed and topsoil the area. President Mehaffie asked Mr. Greene if there are plans to do some re-grading. Mr. Greene stated that he has not heard any updates. President Mehaffie asked that Mr. Greene contact Mr. Tunnell to set up a meeting or conference call to discuss what needs to be done.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Brown reported that there were 38 calls for March, with 202 members responding and an average response of 5.5 personnel per response. He referenced charts showing incident break downs and mutual aid summary. Upcoming events include the April 30 Apparatus Housing followed by the Appreciation Banquet. Chief Brown reported that the Fire Department was contacted by Gulf Oil LP Petroleum Terminals (former PPC) offering to donate Class "B"

fire apparatus that it is reducing within the integration with Gulf Oil. This equipment includes a truck and trailer. Chief Brown also noted that the Department received notification from the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board of a \$50,000 dollar grant for debt reduction to be placed towards E59-1, which is the 2012 Ferrara.

Chief Brown reported that he recently met with Ms. Shambaugh, Mr. Wagner, and the Township mechanic to begin discussion of the Township providing mechanical support for the Fire Department apparatus. It was a very positive meeting.

President Mehaffie thanked the Lower Swatara Fire Department, and all the area fire departments, for the excellent work during the fire at Pineford. He stated that it takes exceptional individuals to go into a burning building. Chief Brown noted that the Township had three pieces of apparatus on the scene for a little more than six hours. President Mehaffie advised the public that information regarding donations to the fire victims can be found on the Township's website and its Facebook page.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Brandt reported that it was another good month; crime was low. There were 13 Part 1 and 24 Part 2 Crimes. There were 559 calls for service, 1 DUI, 59 traffic citations, 13 non-traffic citations and 49 warnings and also a very significant fraud case. This phone scam incident amounted to an initial loss of over \$60,000, although it appears the loss will be about half of that, which is still a large amount of money. The scam involved an elderly individual who was told that he had won a Publisher's Clearing House contest and needed to pay some upfront. Chief Brandt warned the public that this is also the time of the year when IRS scams occur. He stressed that the IRS does not contact individuals by phone requesting money. Any citizen having questions about the reputability of a caller or request should contact the Police Department before disclosing any information.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT:

Mr. Greene reported that the Planning Commission held a meeting on March 24 for review of an application for the proposed Final Subdivision Plan of William's Manor, consisting of 26 lot single family units located on Lumber Street. The Planning Commission tabled the plan for numerous conditions. The Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled to meet on April 27 to

hold a hearing for a zoning variance request from Scott & Courtney McCall for property at 2 Heatherwood Circle to construct a 6' high fence in the front yard area of the property. (Township ordinance allow a 3' maximum height). The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee held its sixth meeting on March 15 at which time it discussed the following: committee review of the first draft plan update, revisions needed to make the draft plan update ready for public presentation, and planning for the Public Open House. The Steering Committee has scheduled this Open House for April 7 to be held at the Lower Swatara Fire Department. Presentations are scheduled for 6:30 P.M. and 7:15 P.M. and will include draft recommendations for the 10-year plan. The next committee meeting, which may be the last, is scheduled for April 12 at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Greene added that he and Michelle Brummer gave a brief power point presentation on March 24 to the Tri County Regional Planning Commission regarding the current status of the Comprehensive Plan, as required by the grant the Township received. Mr. Greene and Mr. Fure had attended a code training course on Residential Deck Construction on April 5. Mr. Greene reported that he had attended a two-day SEO conference on March 7 and March 8. The conference earned four continuing education credits. He and Mr. Fure recently met with Kris Raubenstine, the representative for the owner of the Canteen Quality Vending Service located at 3201 Fulling Mill Road, to discuss plans to demolish the old motel building and construct a new small warehouse facility at the same location. A meeting was also held with Matt Crocker, Woodmont Industrial Partners, Terry Watts, Borough of Highspire, Rob Lauriella, PE, Rettew Assoc., and Marc Kurowski, K&W Engineering, to discuss the plans for a proposed Warehouse Land Development Plan located off Whitehouse Lane. The property is being purchased from HIA and is split between Lower Swatara Township and the Borough of Highspire with the buildings constructed in the Borough and the stormwater management BMP in the Township. The proposed project includes two warehouse buildings (one 144,100 square feet and the other 336,000 square feet), 379 vehicle parking spaces and 183 trailer spaces. Primary access will be from Whitehouse Lane. Commissioner Davies asked if this will fall into an existing Keystone Opportunity Zone, and inquired if this is still a functional program. Mr. Greene stated that he is not sure, but can look into this. Mr. Greene reported that the PA DEP audit/inspection of the Township's MS4 Program was performed on March 22. The DEP representatives were very cordial and professional, and the entire Township team did a fantastic job of providing all requested documents and answering questions. Ms. Shambaugh added that

there were approximately 20 categories that were rated during the inspection and audit, and not a single one of those categories came back negative. While the Township had a few positives that also had suggestions for additional action, the remarks were very favorable. She thanked Ms. Letavic and Mr. Greene for preparing the staff for the audit. Ms. Letavic stated that one significant challenge the Township faces concerns the private BMPs which need to be properly operated and maintained as part of the program; the Township has the responsibility to make sure this happens. In the MS4 program, documentation proves everything. The next big hurdle for staff time is performing this task. There are over 100 plans being looked at, and the staff is not sure that this list is entirely complete. This project will involve considerable coordination with, and education of, property owners. Mr. Greene also advised the Board that he and Mr. Fure attended the March 18 ground breaking ceremony for the new location of the Star Barn in West Donegal Township, Lancaster County. Completion is scheduled for September of next year.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Mr. Wagner agreed that the DEP MS4 inspection went well. However, the Public Works Department will need to address one item. Over the past twenty plus years, the Department has been using the area next to the old public works location on Oberlin Road to get rid of fill (dirt from road projects, concrete, stone, etc.). During the MS4 inspection, it was made clear that DEP does not want to see any more dumping there. Staff is presently looking into alternatives. One option is through York Waste, who the Township currently contracts its dumpsters with, for a 20 yard roll off dumpster. They would accept concrete, blacktop, stone, and minimal dirt. There would be a \$50 delivery fee and a fee of \$355 per load. This is an unbudgeted expense, and could be significant. Mr. Wagner reported on current projects. Repairs were made to an eroded storm water right-of-way between Lexington Avenue and Market Street. During the work, one of the sidewalks was cracked. It will be repaired in conjunction with another concrete project. The crew also replaced and upgraded some of the lighting to LEDs in the shop, fueling area, and old garage. Some shoulder repairs were made on North Union Street. Concrete barriers were placed at both ends of Highland Street and a small turn around was made. All parks and ballfields were aerated. The mechanic had several vehicle inspections, serviced the lawn mowers, made equipment repairs, and installed a water tank on the skid loader in

preparation for milling. The department is prefabbing the bottom and side sections of the old leaf box and has undergone training and certification for the underground storage tanks. Street sweeping is well over half way complete on Township roads, and will then be done on the state roads and some school district property. The Department is preparing all the parks for the spring and Little Hollywood Park for Opening Day on April 23. Mr. Wagner noted that work was budgeted for two of the large dump trucks – the 1990 and 1999. The frames are very rusty and the beds are in bad shape. Both trucks have a lot of life in them yet. If the frames and beds can be saved, they can easily run another ten to fifteen years. He and Ms. Shambaugh are obtaining pricing to get this work done, which includes sandblasting and painting. The irrigation system for the soccer fields will be run tomorrow. Mr. Wagner advised the Board that the Township will still need to take additional salt before August to fulfill its obligations for its orders with COSTARS. E K Services recently dug out the temporary pavement on Pennsylvania Avenue and put down new binder and top over the water line ditch that was made last year. All edges were sealed as well. Both the Public Works and Municipal Authority employees participated in the required CPR training. The Department is working on getting a very large donated score board installed for the Athletic Association at Memoria Field. Unfortunately, the task is above and beyond what the Department can handle due to the large size of the board; this will require the assistance of an outside company. Mr. Wagner asked direction from the Board and Manager regarding the property that was recently acquired at the dead end of Fulling Mill Road. With the mowing season here, he asked if the Board would like to see it simply mowed or is looking to see grass planted, etc. He asked that the Board think about this and provide direction to Ms. Shambaugh. Mr. Wagner also reported that the Township is doing some updating of its signs and looking at what needs replaced. When looking at the school zones for Kunkel on Fulling Mill Road, it was found there is a need to update the actual signage there. He, along with Chief Brandt and Sergeant Tingle, discussed this with PennDOT. It was discovered that since there are no children walking to Kunkel, the flashing school zone 15 mph signs are not required and are not to state standards. Mr. Wagner explained that he is looking for Board direction on what it would like the next step to be – should they be removed? In response to a question from Commissioner Davies, Mr. Wagner confirmed that the Township, not the School District, is responsible for the signs. Mr. Wagner explained that the flashing warning signs can go away completely, but the metal signs need to be updated and moved. Chief Brandt explained that

PennDOT is basically saying that the flashing sign is not a legal sign. He added that the School District and Kunkel principal do not have an issue with removing the sign. Mr. Wagner added that the permit that is required for the school zone also needs to be looked at. If the sign is not in compliance with the permit, there will need to be changes regardless. The Township may not have the authority for the sign to be there. President Mehaffie stated his concern is that buses and parents come in and out of there during that time. Removing the 15 mph speed limit from this area is a concern since this area is heavily traveled by trucks. The flashing sign does slow traffic down. He stated his opinion is that that not having the reduced speed limit during this period puts children in jeopardy. President Mehaffie suggested that the Township talk to the School Board to see what its thoughts are on the removal, and ascertain everyone is on the same page before anything is done. Mr. Wagner also reminded residents that the dumpster will be open on May 7, from 8:00 A.M. to noon.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ms. Shambaugh reported on the resolution for consideration this evening with regards to winter storm Jonas. The Township will be requesting money from FEMA for expenditures for the storm. Municipalities can get up to 75% of the amount spent for snow removal. The resolution before the Board will appoint her as an authorized agent, which will give her the authority to attend meetings with FEMA and sign off on the paperwork. She added that she and Mr. Knoche had attended a FEMA and PEMA meeting this afternoon to go over initial paperwork that was submitted earlier in March. Ms. Shambaugh noted that she will attend the April 19 kick-off meeting to begin this process for reimbursement. A motion was made by Commissioner Davies, seconded by Vice President Wilt, to approve Resolution 2016-R-3, appointing Anne Shambaugh, Manager, as the Applicant's Agent in matters recovering federal funds reimbursement for costs associated with the January 22-24, 2016 snowstorm. The motion was unanimously approved.

As President Mehaffie mentioned, there is information on the Township's website and Facebook page for those interested in donating to the residents of Pineford who were displaced due to the fire. Ms. Shambaugh added that the information can also be obtained from her after the meeting. She explained that while the residents are starting to be moved into vacant apartments, they still need furniture and household items.

Ms. Shambaugh noted her understanding that a very prominent member of the Middletown community, John Rowan II, passed away this Saturday. Mr. Rowan was a well-respected teacher and coach. She is drafting a resolution in honor of his achievements for Board consideration at the April 20 legislative meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Ms. Letavic thanked the staff for being so cooperative during the MS4 audit and making her job easy. The team will continue to make improvements to its program.

The draft budget for the grant for the Shireman Farm parcel was presented to the Board. This is a 50/50 grant, so \$184,350 would be the cash match for the \$368,700 total project cost. The application is due in one week. Ms. Letavic noted that what is quoted is the high end estimate. Upfront costs (appraisal, title search, property boundary, etc.) will also be reimbursed if the grant is awarded. A letter of support was requested from the County Planning Commission; Ms. Letavic reported that she understands the letter is on its way. She added that she feels very confident about this grant application. It was discovered during the required environmental review of the site that this parcel is in a zone of federally protected bats, which will further assist the application since it would be saving habitat. On the agenda this evening is a signatory resolution for this grant. A motion was made by Commissioner Truntz, seconded by Commissioner Davies, to approve Resolution No. 2016-R-4, resolving that the DCNR Grant Agreement Signature Page for the Shireman Parcel Acquisition may be signed by the Township Manager. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Letavic reported that HRG has coordinated with PENNVEST staff on the eligibility of pavement for the Capital Improvement Plan application. It has been confirmed that pavement overlay is acceptable in the funding request so long as it is associated with the comprehensive drainage system. HRG plans to meet with Township staff in April to confirm the five year capital improvement plan list and priorities. Subsequently, it will put together a comprehensive funding plan and provide the Township with a scope of work to complete the PENVEST application. Construction plans are required for the submittal.

Ms. Letavic stated that she does not have good news about the Richardson Road bridge project. The bridge has not been closed, but is under advisement. Because this is a DCIB funded project, which is entirely liquid fuels funded, a PennDOT approved procurement

company must be used to purchase the culvert. There is a backlog until October at every plant that makes these culvert structures. Ms. Letavic provided the Board with an updated schedule. It looks like the bridge will not be replaced until next summer, so the street can be closed when school is out. This is a year-long delay. The project will still be bid out this year, so costs will be known and can be locked into. Commissioner Davies asked if a poured in place culvert would cost significantly more. Ms. Letavic confirmed that it would, and stated that engineering costs would also increase for a poured in place culvert. Commissioner Davies asked if there are any alternative sources for the culvert. Ms. Letavic stated there are not. Contact has been made with every contractor, and they are all backed up. The Township could, however, pay additional costs to move up on the procurement schedule. Mr. Wagner asked if there are any thoughts on moving the sewer line. Ms. Letavic explained that this was discussed, but the concern is that this would result in paying for mobilization twice and closing the road twice. Unless there is an urgency, the whole project will be delayed until next year. It will, of course, continue to be monitored. Commissioner Davies stated that he would still like to see the costs associated with a different construction methodology. After further discussion, the Board requested Ms. Letavic provide the cost of a poured in place culvert and also the cost of moving up on the procurement list for the precast culvert. President Mehaffie stated that he realizes that there is concern about the construction during the school time, but if the bridge needs to be shut down, there will still be the same issue with bus transportation. He suggested Mr. Wagner speak to the School District about the possible schedule change for this project. Mr. Wagner stated that since the project is on hold, it might make sense to combine it with the other culvert out there which is failing, and maybe even include the Highland Street Bridge. Ms. Letavic agreed that it is a rolling application, so this is something to think about.

Final contract documents have finally been provided by Rogele for the Greenfield Well & Irrigation Project. A recommendation to close out the contract and recommend final payment will be on the April 20 legislative agenda.

Commissioner Davies referenced the item on Ms. Letavic's written report regarding zoning map changes for the Borough of Middletown, and the comment that boundary changes to the zoning could impact the Township. Ms. Letavic explained that when the County digitized all

the zoning maps into GIS, there were errors that were not entirely recognized until zoning applications started to come in. Once the Borough of Middletown is fully staffed, this initiative to review this will continue.

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Solicitor Henninger stated that he had provided the Board with a red-line copy and a clean copy of the draft of the telecommunications right-of-way ordinance. He asked the Board to review and provide questions or comment on this document over the next several weeks.

The Board had scheduled a Public Hearing on May 5 for the F. Lee Dickerson rezoning request. The hearing will not be necessary since the applicant has withdrawn its rezoning application at this point. The applicant may be filing a variance request to allow them to provide for commercial uses in that area; this would go before the Zoning Hearing Board. Solicitor Henninger will keep the Board updated on this.

Solicitor Henninger reported that at 6:30 P.M. this evening, the Board had met in executive session in order to discuss personnel issues.

Solicitor Henninger reported that Mike Miller, employment counsel, is here tonight to discuss the police collective bargaining agreement. Mike Miller, Eckert Seamans, explained that he has had the privilege of serving as special labor counsel for the Board over the last few years. He has been advised by the Manager that an issue has arisen with regards to the possibility of hiring a new police officer. There are two issues which are intertwined, and it is important to clarify them for the record. The first issue, based upon his conversations with the Manager, is the hiring of an officer. The statistics provided by Chief Brant for the record raise a reasonable question about whether or not the Board wants to consider this. For instance, the Township has an overtime budget of about \$100,000. As the first quarter is being rounded, it has spent about 13% (\$13,000). The overtime usage is under the budgeted amount, which is a meaningful statistic. Chief Brandt had indicated that Part 1 calls for last month were 13. During 2013-2014, calls averaged 21 (40% down). Chief Brandt had indicated that Part 2 calls for last month were 24. During 2013- 2014, the average was 35 or 54. Again, this category is down. Chief Brandt had reported that there were 559 calls for service last month. In 2013, calls averaged 753 per month. In 2014, calls averaged about 886. Again, numbers are down, which is a good thing. However, across the board, the metrics do not seem to support the possibility of hiring an officer.

The other discussion which came up with the Manager and was discussed back and forth with the police union is the issue with regard to wages of some of the newly hired officers. Attorney Miller added that he is not sure how this is connected in any way to the Board's decision to hire or not hire an officer. When the Board hires a police officer, cost will be the base salary plus another \$27,000 in additional carrying costs (insurance, equipment, etc.). Any decision to hire will be a \$76,000 - \$86,000 decision to start with. Attorney Miller added that there seems to be some misinformation that needs to be corrected with regards to wages of incumbents. The collective bargaining agreement states that there are essentially two groups of employees: new hires after March of 2015 who would be hired at \$48,000, and incumbent officers whose salaries range from about \$47,000 as of July 1, 2016 to \$74,000. Those are base wages, not W-2 wages. W-2 wages would increase these figures by about 15% - 20%. Attorney Miller explained that in Pennsylvania, when an agreement cannot be reached on a new labor contract for police officers, there is the right to go to binding arbitration. In other words, a neutral panel decides what it should be. This is what happened with the Lower Swatara Township Police. The Police declared an impasse and desired to go to arbitration. The decision made by the arbitrator was that new hires after 2015 would get \$48,000 as their starting salaries but would not be entitled to post-retirement health care. The officers most recently hired (prior to 2015) will earn \$47,000 base salaries but also get post-retirement health benefits. Those benefits are worth about \$600/month or a \$100,000 benefit when taken over a 15 year period, since police officers can retire at age 50 and then go on Medicare. Assuming an 8% increase in health care each year, that \$100,000 doubles every eight years. Therefore, incumbent officers have a significant benefit that new hires will not have. This is why the differential in salaries is there. The officers already hired will get a benefit that will continue to increase, while the new hires will not get that benefit but will start at a slightly higher salary. Again, this was an award by an independent arbitrator. Attorney Miller stated that he is not sure why this issue has come into some of the discussions between the Township and the Police Association. As someone who participated in this process and advocated strongly for the taxpayers of this Township, Attorney Miller stated that he does not want to see the appletcart upset by offering an additional amount of money to incumbent officers without a reduction in the post-retirement health care benefit that the Township has to fund for another 30 – 40 years. This is a significant expense to the taxpayers.

Attorney Miller noted that he is working with the Manager and continuing talks with the Police Association about the possibility of finding a middle ground, but currently that has not lined up. Candidly, the Township has worked hard and spent a considerable amount of money to advocate for the taxpayers with regards to this contract. Attorney Miller stated that he is not sure it should blow up the decision that an independent party made. He stated that he felt it was important to brief the Board on this matter. There are statistics that need to be looked at, and a reason why things are where they are at.

Commissioner Davies asked Attorney Miller to again quantify the cost of the post-retirement health care benefit. Attorney Miller explained that it equates to about \$100,000 per officer when annualized and taken for a 15 year period. That is today's cost. If it increases about 8% each year, the cost of this benefit to the Township is significantly more. Candidly, this was actually one of the big successes for the Township in the arbitration process: to get the neutral arbitrator to recognize that it was not a sustainable model to continue to fund post-retirement benefits. The Township fought hard to cap that benefit because frankly, it cannot afford to continue paying it. Commissioner Davies asked if this is pricy because the retirement age is relatively young for police officer. Attorney Miller explained that the incumbent officers are eligible for up to 15 years of post-retirement health care; as a police officer, under Act 600, officers can retire at age 50 with 25 years of service.

Solicitor Henninger ask if the post-retirement health care benefit for the police is consistent with non-police employees. Attorney Miller stated that it is his understanding that it is across the board.

Commissioner Truntz stated that he is compelled to ask Attorney Miller, given his perspective, whether an officer is needed at this point. Attorney Miller stated that the data he just recounted indicates that due to the good work of the existing officers, crime is down as well as call volume. The decision on whether to hire an officer is a significant commitment. If part of that decision is an increase in incumbent salaries, even after award by a neutral arbitrator, that is a big cost factor and upsets the math. Attorney Miller stated that he is not sure that he sees the math to support a new officer, but noted that he is labor counsel. Commissioner Truntz explained that this is why a decision cannot be made in a few meetings. Attorney Miller stated that he feels that there are two issues at hand. One is the significant economic commitment of hiring an officer. The second is if part of that decision involves adjusting salaries of incumbents,

which would upset what was litigated over and would change the equation. Commissioner Truntz stated that he keeps hearing that the Lower Swatara police officers are the lowest paid in the County, and asked if that is correct. Attorney Miller explained that they start out at a little lower number, but move up fairly quick. In addition, overtime is available which could add 15-20% some years. There is also the post-retirement health care benefit for the incumbents. This is not an insignificant package. Attorney Miller added that what he is not hearing is that there is a problem getting candidates.

President Mehaffie clarified that incumbent non-uniform employees (administration, public works), after they reach a certain plateau, receive three years of single post-retirement health care benefits. Anyone hired after the new policy, which was just enacted, will not receive any post-retirement health care benefits.

FINAL COMMENTS:

In response to a question from President Mehaffie, Mr. Wagner confirmed that all traffic signals are LEDs. He added that plans are to get LED lighting throughout all the Township buildings.

Laura Ribec, North Union Street, stated her concern with what was just presented is that some shifts are already only two out. What happens if one of the officers gets hurt? Ms. Ribec cautioned that there is a real safety issue that needs to be thought about moving forward.

Commissioner Truntz explained that when he was going door-to-door speaking to residents during the last election, the theme he heard over and over again was that taxes are too high in Lower Swatara Township. Admittedly, most of the taxes come from the School District. Some also come from the County. While he cannot do anything about the School District and County taxes, he can do something about the Township taxes. This is an important decision; the Township will be paying a lot of money for a very important service. This kind of commitment needs to be made carefully and deliberately. The Board is working for the taxpayers. He noted that staff does consult with the Police Chief regularly to make sure there is not a safety concern. Commissioner Truntz also referenced the new score board for Little Hollywood field, and publicly thanked Sheetz for the \$5,000 donation to the Athletic Association for this beautiful new board. He also thanked the public for its attendance this evening.

Ms. Shambaugh stated that she is also new here at the Township, and has been working with the police on a variety of issues. She is also working closely with Chief Brandt to review the statistics and data in order to provide a legitimate request to the Board for the hiring of a police officer. Ms. Shambaugh stated that it may seem to the public that her comment is always that she is working on it. Unfortunately, that is very much the case. While it is taking a lot of time, it will be time well spent to get the right solution for the Township and its residents. Ms. Shambaugh also requested a five-minute executive session for personnel reasons.

President Mehaffie reminded the Board that the School Board will be meeting on April 12 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the heroin problem and use of Narcan. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend if possible. He also observed that there is a deep ditch on Wood Street, and asked Mr. Wagner to see that it is filled in with stone.

ADJOURN AND CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hearing no other business, a motion was made by Vice President Wilt, seconded by Commissioner Truntz, to adjourn the meeting and convene into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

ATTEST:



Jean R. Arroyo
Township Secretary

