

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING – NOVEMBER 2, 2016

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A Public Hearing of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners, held at the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Building, was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by President Thomas L. Mehaffie III.

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
- Frank E. Williamson, Public Safety Director/Assistant Manager
- Terry L. Kauffman, Interim Manager
- Jean R. Arroyo, Secretary
- Peter R. Henninger, Solicitor
- Erin G. Letavic, HRG, Engineer

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

Solicitor Henninger stated that the purpose of this evening's Public Hearing is to receive public comment on a proposed ordinance which would amend the Lower Swatara Code of Ordinances No. 448 as amended and supplemented, Chapter 27, Zoning, Part 27, Administration and Enforcement, Section 27-2712. Zoning Hearing Board, to amend the number of members on the Township Zoning Hearing Board from three members to five members. He noted that the Public Hearing had been properly advertised. The proposed ordinance was reviewed by the Lower Swatara Township Planning Commission and the Dauphin County Planning Commission; both are recommending adoption.

Solicitor Henninger explained that currently, the Township's Zoning Hearing Board is a three-member Board. This can create issues if a member is absent, since there is a possibility of a deadlock vote. A five-member Board is more common in the area municipalities, and there is less chance of issues like this happening.

The floor was opened for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dan Magaro, Pheasant Run Road, asked if the two additional members would be selected through appointment. Solicitor Henninger agreed that the two additional members would be appointed by the Board. He explained that the Board could appoint the two new members to become effective January 1, 2017, or could appoint the members earlier. Any matters pending before the Zoning Hearing Board would still be handled by the existing three-member Board, as well as any matter that would come up prior to additional members being appointed. The appointment terms will be five-year terms and will be phased in.

President Mehaffie asked if the effective date could be today's date. Solicitor Henninger agreed that it could, and appointments could be made as soon as the Board desires. President Mehaffie asked Mr. Greene if the Zoning Hearing Board anticipates any upcoming hearings. Mr. Greene confirmed that he will be reporting to the Board later about one that is scheduled for November 29.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Truntz stated that it is good to have a five-member board, and recalled that the Borough of Middletown had experienced a deadlock situation during a highly contested issue. Development in the Township is a very important issue, and spreading that decision-making capability over five people helps make a better decision for the Township.

Commissioner Davies remarked that he had served on the Zoning Hearing Board for a number of years, and can confirm that there are logistical issues created when a member is absent from a three-member board. He added that additional members also give more diversity of views.

CLOSE:

Hearing no other questions or comments, a motion was made by Commissioner Truntz, seconded by Vice President Wilt, to close the Public Hearing. The motion was unanimously approved, and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

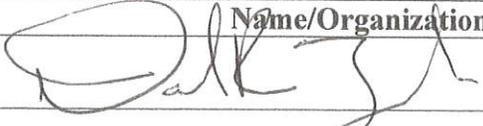

Jean R. Arroyo, Recording Secretary

PLEASE **PRINT** NAME CLEARLY

November 2, 2016

Special Budget Mtg. at 6:00 P.M. &

Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. immediately followed by Workshop Mtg.

Name/Organization	Address
	25 DAVIS DRIVE
Eric Wise	Press And Journal
John Weikle	1264 Overlook Rd Middletown
Theresa Kuntz	99 BRADFORD AVE
Linda Raphael	62 Wayne Ave. M-town.
Sheryl Cyphert	1435 Andlewycke Dr
Ben & Melissa Hall	520 Constitution PR.
T PENDERGRASS	BRIARCREEK LN
BRUCE HARTER	STRITES RD.
Linda Mehaffey	921 Ebenezer Rd.
ROY PAUL	2 RICHARD AVE.
DAVID Klingeman	241 Keystone Dr.
NORM FREY	
Michelle Wagner	644 Longview Dr.
Chris DEW	LST
Dan Nagano	LST - Pheasant Run Rd