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The Board of Supervisors of East Brunswick Township held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at the Municipal Building. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeffrey Faust at 6:30 PM. There was a PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to our flag.

In attendance for the meeting were Chairman Jeffrey Faust, Vice-Chairman/Treasurer Thomas Strause, Solicitor James Crossen, Engineer Brian Baldwin and Secretary Nicole Fisher. Residents Thomas Noecker, Jane Shellhamer, Jean Strause, Mary Jo Moss, Jeanie Troutman, Dr. Jillian Mullens, Jane Tamulonis, Joe Burget Jr and Doug Berry. Some names were scattered, please see attached page.

Public Comments

Dr. Jillian Mullens informed the board she had a few questions regarding the proposed solar farm. She voiced her environmental concerns, considering the land is adjacent to a lot of residential properties. She brought up leaching of metals and the decommissioning of said solar farm. She discussed her concern for the surrounding wells and if the water will be affected.

Jane Tamulonis addressed the board by saying she sits on the planning commission, during that meeting they did ask numerous questions but since the planning commission meeting, she has come up with other questions. Such as, where are the solar panels being made? Is the company that wants to put the solar panels up posting a bond, for future maintenance or the removal of them?

Jillian explained that is a concern of hers and other residents because historically different LLC's have been known to erect the solar panels but when they are finished with them they just walk away letting the solar panels stand.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

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Jane Shellhamer spoke to the board about how everything is coming along nicely for the egg hunt. She informed the board that there are around five thousand plastic eggs filled and that they are still collecting prizes for the egg hunt, but everyone will receive something. She informed every that the Strawberry Festival will be June 10th from 11am to 4pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Burget & Associates Solar Farm

Joe Burget spoke to the board on behalf of Burget & Associates regarding the proposed solar farm. He informed the board that he had previously received a determination letter from the zoning board stating that a solar farm would fall under the public utility section, because of that the company proceeded with the process. He remarked that he had received review letters from B. Baldwin referencing it to be public utility. B. Baldwin stated he was saying that is what they were classifying it as, not that he was saying it was. Joe than said that zoning makes that decision not B. Baldwin. J. Faust intervened to explain that county makes that determination. J. Crossen asked if they had a certificate of convenience, Joe stated that at this time they do not have that. Joe explained that the ordinance doesn't specifically state that it needs to regulated by the county planning commission, he explains that the zoning officer gave him and interpretation last August stating that they fall under public utility use. B. Baldwin questioned how he got an email like that in August when the township didn't receive the plan until November, so any decision that was made, was made off of incomplete information. B. Baldwin stated that more information has been submitted and more people had a chance to review the submission, he also informed Joe that the county zoning and planning commission disagreed with it being used as public utility use, actually referencing the townships ordnance in their discission. J. Crossen again questioned the certificate of convenience, Joe again told him they didn't have it at this time but asked if they were ok if they had that, to which J. Crossen stated he wasn't saying that because they would need to comply with everything else. J. Faust informed Joe that he will not allow Joe to pin them down to get answer, they need more information. Joe stated that the plans were submitted in October but they just received county comments last week, that were dated a month

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prior, he stated he hasn't received any comments from B. Baldwin after revised plans were submitted. B. Baldwin informed him that he hasn't submitted any storm water calculations to go along with the plan. Joe stated he thought that they commented that it followed the DEP requirements, B. Baldwin informed Joe that it is not a requirement, it is a FAQ document. B. Baldwin reminded Joe that his engineer stated he would provide the township with storm water calculations, but they were never submitted. B. Baldwin mentioned that the plans didn't have much detail, when it came to the spacing or the stormwater. Joe explained that they will need to cut more trees down in order to get to the property, then once the trees are cut down they will put a temporary gravel road. B. Baldwin mentioned that is considered disturbance, and that he had no plans that show this. Joe stated it was a decision that was just made. B. Baldwin stated that plans for that would be needed before that happens and that the township has until April to make a decision. J. Faust asked Doug Berry where the panels were made, Doug informed J. Faust that most of the panels are made in Vietnam, but some are sourced in the United States. J. Faust also wanted to know about the decommissioning of the solar panels. To which Doug said he was hoping the land would take care of it, so that they didn't have to incur any debt with it, but since that doesn't seem to take care of it they will post a bond. J. Faust stated he didn't understand how the land would take care of it because they could still just walk away from it. Doug stated that someone else could buy the land and the cost of removing the solar panels is very small. Jillian interrupted to comment on the gain of the power being sold is way much more than the land itself but that when they decide to walk away the company will let the mess for everyone else to deal with. Jillian also stated how shaky the plans seem to be, she wanted to know how they planned on taking care of the vegetation around the panels and how he accounts for the impact it will have on the residents. Joe questioned Jillian as to why they wouldn't just mow the grass around the panels. Doug informed her that the panels will be two to three feet off the ground so they will in fact be able to mow the grass there. Doug informed her that there is no leaching because there are no batteries, so nothing comes off of them. A resident stated that it is not failure for them to do this because it will decrease the value of the surrounding homes. J. Faust questioned how this will benefit the township. Doug stated there will be an increase in real-estate taxes of but that's it. J. Faust informed him that that is minimal. Joe stated that there is no

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difference from a solar farm and someone having solar panels on their house. J. Faust disagreed stating that it is the right of the homeowner to do that but the company will be taking land away from a potential business owner. J. Faust mentioned all the unusable land that is available in different areas and how solar panels would be better off there. Doug stated that the decommissioning isn't an issue, the issue for him is all the money that they had spent to get to this point, assuming they were ok to move ahead. B. Baldwin and J. Faust questioned why they would assume they were ok to move ahead when they didn't have everything submitted that needed to be submitted and reviewed.

Designate An Enforcement Officer and Fee Schedule for Short Term Rentals

J. Crossen explained that Jim Thorpe charges sixty dollars each for their application, inspection and permit review. However, the board can decide that they want to charge. J. Faust suggested two hundred and fifty dollars, to make sure the township isn't going to lose money. J. Faust made a motion to approve Resolution of 2023-1 to approve the fee schedule for the short term rentals. T. Strause seconded the motion. All voted in favor. J. Faust made a motion to appoint Light-Heigel & Associates as short-term rental enforcement officers. T. Strause seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Potential Grant Opportunities

B. Baldwin explained that DCNR spring round of grants are open. He informed the board that a resolution would need to be past at the next meeting to apply for the spring round of grants. He also informed the board that FCA spring grants are also opening, but they are harder to get and take more time to hear back from them.

Heating System in Garage

T. Strause informed the board that he will be meeting with people at the garage to get a quote to replace the system.

CORRESPONDENCE

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General

Recreational/ Community Building

J. Faust informed T. Strause that Miller Bros won't be doing the building. J. Faust asked B. Baldwin if he or someone at Alfred Benesch & Company could put a plan together for the building. J. Faust also informed B. Baldwin that the excavating will be done by the roadcrew. J. Faust asked T. Noecker how he felt about building the recreation/community building, T. Noecker stated it would be fine.

Silver Maple Nursery

T. Strause made a motion to use Silver Maple Nursey again this year for \$298 for weed removal. J. Faust seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

BLUE MOUNTAIN RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

The monthly recreation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22 at 7PM.

SOUTHERN SCHUYLKILL COG MEETING

The next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 16 at 7PM.

Scoping meeting March 2nd

SCHUYLKILL TCC MEETING

The TCC meeting is TBD.

CONCERNS

No concerns

PERMITS

SEMINARS

ROAD MASTER REPORT

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T. Noecker reported that the crew spent time cleaning up debris after storms, prepping the roads for snow/ice and plowing snow. They spent time working in the shop, servicing machinery, working on Shady Lane and assisting West Brunswick Township.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion by J. Faust, seconded by T. Strause to approve the minutes for the BOS Meeting of January 3, 2023 and the minutes from the Special Meeting held January 27, 2023 as presented. Voted all in favor.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers report will be tabled until the Board of Supervisors meeting in March.

REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

On a motion by T. Strause, seconded by J. Faust to approve the Payment of Bills as presented. Voted all in Favor.

On a motion by J. Faust, seconded by T. Strause, the meeting was adjourned at 8 PM. All Voted in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Fisher

Secretary