

THE TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
July 17, 2017

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The July 2017 Special Meeting of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors was held on July 17, 2017 at the Tobyhanna Township Government Center Building, 105 Government Center Way, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania 18350.

Present were Supervisors Anne Lamberton, John Holahan, III, Heidi A. Pickard, Brendon Carroll and John E. Kerrick and Township Manager John Jablowski Jr.

1. Chair Anne Lamberton called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Announcements  
None.
4. New Business
  - A. Economic Development Authority  
John Jablowski presents the recommendation of forming an Economic Development Authority and suggests that the Board of Supervisors can appoint the members of the committee as well as require that one or two Supervisors are members of the Authority.
  - B. Jason Fitzgerald, Penn Strategies  
John Jablowski introduces Jason Fitzgerald who explains that an Economic Development Authority (EDA) operates to enhance and develop economic opportunity in an area. They are primarily set up to take politics out of the development decisions of areas within their control. Mr. Fitzgerald continues to explain that installing an EDA looks to the future and sets up the economic structure going forward. A general discussion ensues regarding the benefits of an Economic Development Authority.  
  
Mr. Fitzgerald also explains that an EDA primary function is to execute an economic plan that has been approved by the Board of Supervisors who ultimately keeps control of the

activities of the Authority. Establishing an Economic Development Authority is very beneficial to business owners and property owners as well. Mr. Fitzgerald explains that it is imperative to carefully set up the committee to ensure that it is a productive authority that continues the vision that has been initiated by the Board of Supervisors for the areas in their control.

Heidi Pickard asks Mr. Fitzgerald how long it would take to put an EDA in place and he responds that within three months the Authority can be formed and a plan ready before the end of the year. Mr. Fitzgerald explains that a representative from his office would be in the township office one day a week as a resource.

General discussion ensues regarding work that is currently ongoing and what's in the works. Mr. Fitzgerald explains how Penn Strategies would develop the plan and scope for the formation of the EDA, providing examples of ones they've set up in the past.

Brendon Carroll requests examples of EDA's that Penn Strategies have set up in the past and Mr. Fitzgerald agrees to provide examples.

John Jablowski states that the Economic Development Authority would require independent counsel and that he will get three or four proposals from firms that specialize in municipal authorities.

5. Public Questions and Comments
6. John Kerrick moves to adjourn the meeting. Heidi Pickard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

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Minutes recorded by Debra S. Jean.