BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Scott Brown; Mr. John Wichner; Ms. Jeannette Quirus; Ms. Janet Cunningham; Mr. Jeffrey Guzy; Mr. John Kennedy; Ms. Allison Slizofski, Ms. Laura Frein, Mr. Tom Kohler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS ATTENDING: Star Ernst, Matt Kulpa, Jason Neely

STAFF ATTENDING: Mr. Matthew Edmond; Mr. Matt Popek; Mr. Carl Shelow; Mr. Brian Phillips; Ms. Ann Marie Meehan

(Pre-Meeting)

Mr. Matt Edmond thanked the Board for attending and said that this public meeting will be held via Cisco Webex telecommunication conference call due to the Covid-19 pandemic and under a Pennsylvania stay-at-home order. He stated that the meeting agenda was published online on the MCTA website and that Board members who participated via teleconference received board packets electronically as PDFs (including the March 2020 meeting draft minutes).

Mr. Brian Phillips, Montgomery County Solicitor stated that this meeting qualifies under the Sunshine Act as a public meeting as all virtually present members are able to communicate.

Roll was called and attendance was taken; all Board members were present.

I. Call to Order

The Montgomery County Transportation Authority (MCTA) meeting was called to order by Mr. Scott Brown, Chair.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Jason Neely, a resident of East Norriton Township, thanked the MCTA for holding the public meeting via telecommunication conference and expressed his interest in hearing about the County’s efforts on infrastructure improvements and right-of-way actions.

III. Approval of March 12, 2020 Minutes

The minutes from the March 12, 2020 MCTA Meeting were approved by the Board.

Motion: Mr. Guzy motioned and Ms. Quirus seconded to approve the March 12, 2020 Authority Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by all present.
IV. Finance Director’s Report

One handout was presented to the Authority: MCTA check register (Transaction Detail) January 1, 2020 – April 16, 2020.

Mr. Carl Shelow provided an update of the MCTA’s finances. He reviewed the check register with the Board, including the March 13, 2020 beginning balance of $23,755.32; there were 13 expenditures and interest in the amount of $4.86. Total cash balance as of April 16, 2020 was -$9,560.03. Mr. Shelow said the County would deposit $33,320.21 on April 17, 2020 into the MCTA account to cover April’s payment requests. Mr. Shelow added that the County Finance Department accepted the MCTA final 2019 audit, and it was filed with the State on March 19, 2020.

V. Ridge Pike Improvement Project—Crescent Avenue to Philadelphia (Section D)

A. Authorization for Property Acquisition

i. Larry King Jr. and Stephanie King (Parcel 17)

Mr. Popek explained that right-of-way acquisition work continues on Ridge Pike in Springfield and Whitemarsh Townships, and described Parcel 17 and the need to acquire 196 square feet of temporary construction easement from Larry King Jr. & Stephanie King at 661 Ridge Pike in Whitemarsh Township. The required acquisition of easements was valued in the aggregate at $400.00; pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Montgomery County Transportation Authority is required to provide claimants a minimum of $500.00, so the total cost of the acquisition is $500.00.

Motion: Mr. Kohler motioned and Ms. Slizofski seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.4.1 to pay Larry King, Jr., and Stephanie King $500.00 in return for 196 square feet of temporary construction easement at 661 Ridge Pike, Whitemarsh Township. The motion was approved by all present.

B. Authorization for Condemnation

I. John J. & Marie E. Griffin — (Parcel 41)

Mr. Popek said that resolution 20.4.2 was removed from the agenda as a possible settlement agreement has been reached.

II. 9209 Realty, LLC (Parcel 44)

Mr. Popek explained that Parcel 44 is part of Package 5 and that 3,051 square feet of fee simple area and 1,378 square feet of temporary construction easement are required for the project. The total appraisal value was $11,500.00 ($9,500.00 for the fee simple area, $500 for the temporary construction easement, and $1,500.00 additional cost adjustment for lawn landscaping). Given that the owner, 9209 Realty, LLC, has not accepted an offer based upon the value that was determined by the professional appraisal, and in accordance with PennDOT guidelines regarding eminent domain, the Staff recommends filing a Declaration of Taking as final action.
Motion: Ms. Quirus motioned and Mr. Kennedy seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.4.3 to file a Declaration of Taking to acquire fee simple and temporary construction easements at 9209 Ridge Pike, Springfield Township to further the Ridge Pike Improvement Project. The motion was approved by all present.

VI. County Road & Bridges Projects

A. Authorization for Property Acquisition

i. Estate of Anne N. Carpenter/Lower Salford Township (Camp Wawa Road Bridge—(Parcel 3)

Mr. Popek said that 1,568 square feet of fee simple area, 2,265 square feet of permanent slope easement, and 15,377 square feet of temporary construction easement need to be acquired at 599 Camp Wawa Road in Lower Salford Township to further the County Bridge 150 Replacement Project. Condemnation was authorized in February, but was not filed. Appraisal value was $3,800.00; $3,300.00 will be allocated to the Township and $500.00 to the estate. Settlement costs totaled $664.50 for a total cost of $4,464.50.

Motion: Mr. Kennedy motioned and Ms. Cunningham seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.4.4 to authorize payment to Lower Salford Township of $3,300.00 and $500.00 to the Estate of Anne N. Carpenter in return for 1,568 square feet of fee simple right-of-way, 2,265 square feet of permanent slope easement, and 15,377 square feet of temporary construction easement for the furthering of the County Bridge 150 Replacement Project in Lower Salford Township. The motion was approved by all present.

B. Authorization to Award Contract for Appraisal Services

i. County Bridge 166—Swamp Pike

Mr. Popek explained that three parcels needed to be appraised for the new county bridge project on Swamp Pike in New Hanover Township over Swamp Creek. One fee simple, two permanent drainage easements and three temporary construction easements are required for the three properties involved. After an initial consultation with Phil Swartz of ARS, three appraisal firms on PennDOT’s approved list were contacted and appraisal quotes obtained. C.F. Appraisal Consulting declined to bid; Walters Appraisal Services Inc. submitted a bid of $7,500.00, and Bart F. Brigidi, Inc. submitted a bid for $4,950.00. Staff recommends the Board award the contract to the best value proposal submitted by Bart F. Brigidi, Inc.

Motion: Mr. Kohler motioned and Ms. Quirus seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.4.5 to authorize the Authority’s officials to enter into a contract with Bart F. Brigidi, Inc. of Maple Glen, PA, for the sum of $4,950.00 to complete appraisals for parcels 1, 2, and 3 of the Swamp Pike Bridge Replacement Project over Swamp Creek in New Hanover Township. The motion was approved by all present.

C. Authorization for Condemnation

i. Elmwood Car Wash LLC (Sterigere Street Bridge, Parcel 8)
Mr. Popek said the replacement of County Bridge 177 at Sterigere Street over Stony Creek is a vital improvement to the transportation system in the County and the Municipality of Norristown. To further this project, 523 square feet of fee simple and 3,354 square feet of temporary construction easement needs to be obtained from Elmwood Car Wash LLC on Sterigere Street. The appraised value was $7,900.00 ($3,200 for fee simple, $4,100.00 for temporary construction easement, and $600 for macadam driveway adjustments).

Motion: Mr. Guzy motioned and Mr. Brown seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.4.6 to file a Declaration of Taking with the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County for 700 Sterigere Street, Norristown, Montgomery County. The motion was approved by all present.

VII. Authorization for Payment of Checks & Invoices

Motion: Mr. Wichner motioned and Ms. Quirus seconded to approve the authorization of checks and invoices. The motion was approved by all present.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Edmond said that 106 DeKalb Street in Norristown tested negative for the presence of asbestos, and that the County is awaiting bids from demolition contractors to continue that portion with the project.

Mr. Edmond provided an update on the Lafayette Street project in Norristown. He said that on March 12, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered a temporary shutdown of PennDOT construction projects. County staff is working to coordinate with PennDOT District 6 on the reopening of the project. The process includes the contractor submitting a COVID-19 Safety Plan that must meet PennDOT guidelines so that when work restarts, it will be done so correctly and safely.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Mr. Guzy to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by all present.

The next MCTA Board meeting will be held on May 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm.