

EAST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors
EMERGENCY MEETING
July 17, 2023

Present: Vice-Chairman David L. Naylor, Supervisor Darryl L. Albright; and
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Kristie Masemer

At an emergency meeting held at the Township building, Vice-Chairman Naylor called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. and dispensed of all formalities. Vice-Chairman Naylor handed the meeting over to Manager Kristie Masemer.

Request from Gene Stilp – Burning of Flags

Manager Kristie - On Friday, July 14, 2023, I received a phone call from Gene Stilp asking for the Board of Supervisor's emails to submit a burn permit request. After asking some questions, he revealed that he wants to burn flags in a tin trash container in front of the Township building on Monday, July 17, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. After receiving the emailed request, I informed the board individually which led to an emergency meeting. I contacted our Township Solicitor who informed me that per Supreme Court case rulings, it is well established that government must permit the burning of flags regardless of the local laws, however, the safety aspects of the Township ordinance should be applied, and the Township shall always be in the interest of public health and safety.

Consensus from the board is to honor the applicant's first amendment right and provide a safe location. The safest area is across the street from the Township building (which is Township owned) due to the construction, deliveries, and existing incoming and going township business. The tin trash can should be placed on the storm grate, so the grass does not die, and that location is well away from the right-of-way, property lines/neighbors, and structures. The Township Manager should respond to Mr. Stilp's request prior to the proposal start time. Lastly, the board does not condone nor support Mr. Stilp's cause, but we respect his first amendment right.

Motion by Supervisor Albright, second by Vice-Chairman Naylor, to adjourn. All members voted aye; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie Masemer
Secretary/Treasurer/Manager