

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Barry Moore
Larry Weinstein
Eileen Silver
Dr. Kimberly Rose

Members of the Board absent were:

George F. Komelasky

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence in support of military and emergency services personnel, the tragedy in Brussels, Belgium and for the McGovern family.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Certificate of Recognition – Danielle Gormley

Chairman Weinstein called on State Representative Scott Petri who listed Danielle Gormley's accomplishments and presented her with a Resolution from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Chairman Weinstein echoed the accomplishments and presented a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Township. Mr. Moore presented a Resolution from the Pennsylvania Senate on behalf of Senator Tommy Tomlinson.

Certificate of Recognition – Jackson the "Therapy Dog"

Chairman Weinstein called Dr. Rose forward to present a Certificate of Recognition to Pennington Golden Bear Jackson and his owner Bob Wharton for therapy work throughout the community with various organizations. Jackson also received two special baskets donated by local pet stores for his hard-work and dedication.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Arthur Friedman, 121 Frog Hollow Road, raised concerns over plans to use the community room in the Library for another purpose. Dr. Friedman listed all of the uses for the Community Room and stated his opposition to the proposal. Chairman Weinstein noted the Board periodically evaluates Township facilities to determine if they are used efficiently.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mrs. Silver presented the February 24, 2016 minutes. The minutes were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Dr. Rose presented the accounts payable for March 9, 2016 in the amount of \$818,964.70, and the March 23, 2016 list in the amount of \$249,523.13.

The Accounts Payable was deemed approved by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorization to Advertise an Ordinance Amendment Regulating Excessive Noise, Motorized Dirt Bikes, and All-Terrain Vehicle Use

Chairman Weinstein announced this item has been continued to the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Consider Bid Award for Stone and Asphalt

Mrs. Silver stated New Britain Township advertised for bids for bituminous asphalt materials and stone on February 5 and February 10, 2016 on behalf of the Bucks County Consortium. A total of 9 companies submitted bids for various materials used in road maintenance and resurfacing.

The Public Works Department recommended contract awards as follows:

- Eureka Stone Quarry Inc., Chalfont, PA – Screenings, AS-1, 1B, 2A, 2B, #4 Ballast, Rip Rap (all types of Stone)
- Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC, Center Valley, PA – Crackmaster 3405 (Sealant and Crafcro Prolifex II Crack Seal)
- Hei-Way, LLC, Sarver, PA – QPR Cold Patch and 486 Cold Patch with Fiber
- Hanson Aggregates BMC Inc., Newtown-PA All Super Pave Mixes and 5-8" Mix Gabion Stone

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A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Weinstein) to award contracts for Bituminous Asphalt Mixture and Stone to Eureka Stone Quarry Inc., Chalfont, PA, Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC, Center Valley, PA Hei-Way, Sarver, PA, Hanson Aggregates BMC Inc., Newtown, PA at their bid prices to the Bucks County Consortium.

Chairman Weinstein called for a vote on the motion. **Motion Passed 4-0.**

Consider Resolution Authorizing Grant Application to PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for Civic Center Improvements

Mr. Moore indicated that the Township intends to apply for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to partially fund proposed improvements at the Civic Center.

Mr. Moore listed the various items that would be included in the grant application:

- Interior park trails which will allow for a connection to Tyler State Park
- Paving of bleacher pads to comply with ADA requirements
- Construction of New Basketball Court with Lights
- Replacement of Lights to the Shared Baseball/Football Field
- Paving of Interior Park Roads and Parking Lots

The Township must provide a 50% match up to a maximum grant award of \$250,000. The cost for the proposed improvements for grant purposes is estimated at \$633,000. The total project cost which includes the grant items and the repairs to the tennis and basketball courts and repaving of Tennis Road is estimated at \$850,000.

The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to obtain the maximum grant award of \$250,000.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to approve Resolution R-16-8 authorizing the Township Administration to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a grant to fund improvements at the Recreation and Civic Center Complex.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Mrs. Silver stated that she is in agreement in the applying for the grant but she believes the following in going forward with the entire Civic Center 2 project:

- There is no urgency to this project
- Many of the items are wants and not needs
- The Board should assess each improvement
- Any remaining bond fund should be allocated to the new Police building
- Mr. Komelasky should be part of the process and discussion

Mr. Moore stated that certain facilities at the Civic Center are in disrepair and Tennis Road desperately needs to be resurfaced, and a \$250,000 grant would help offset the costs. The Board has had discussions on the items listed in the grant as part of the project and the Board previously agreed to move forward.

Dr. Rose agreed with Mr. Moore that the project needs to move forward for the safety, health, and welfare of Township residents and it is an investment in the community.

Chairman Weinstein echoed the comments by Mr. Moore and Dr. Rose and reminded everyone this project has been in discussion for a long period of time with multiple discussions taking place, and the Board is doing the responsible thing by moving forward to obtain additional funding for the projects. Chairman Weinstein also pointed out all of the improvements will be publicly bid and if costs come in higher than estimates, the Board can reconsider the projects. He also stated the Board needs to be fiscally responsible and do their due diligence in applying for whatever grants are available to offset the costs of the proposed projects.

Mr. Moore stated the Township must identify specific projects in order to apply for this type of grant. Chairman Weinstein stated the grant requires a list of proposed projects and costs.

Mrs. Silver reiterated before any bids are accepted Mr. Komelasky needs to be part of the process.

Chairman Weinstein called for a vote on the motion. **Motion Passed 4-0.**

LIAISON REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The CRSD Administration presented additional information relative to potential options for school consolidation and redistricting.
- The CRSD Administration presented an overview of the capacities of each of our elementary schools and potential options involving additional school closings. No decisions have been made for use of the vacated buildings
- CR will emphasize a K-6 elementary grade-level configuration as discussions continue
- Universal full-day Kindergarten is not a point of consideration at this time

- The 2017-18 school year is the earliest any consolidation and/or redistricting decisions would be implemented
- The 2018-19 school year is the earliest point of implementation for the potential option to close two elementary schools and add a ten-classroom addition to two other elementary schools
- The Board of School Directors of the Council Rock School District has rescheduled its meeting of April 7 to March 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- Kindergarten registration is scheduled in March and the website contains dates, times and locations.
- The James E. Kinney Senior Center received a grade of a 100% on an inspection performed by the Area Agency on Aging.
- The Spring Fling Shopping Event will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 9 am until 2 pm. Over 50 vendors will be in attendance for your shopping convenience.
- The Council Rock Relay for Life event at Council Rock South is scheduled for Saturday, May 21 to support the American Cancer Society.
- CR South will be holding a clothing drive on Saturday, April 2 from 9 am -12 pm in connection with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. All clothing items will be recycled for 20 cents per pound and all proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- The Police Department welcomed new Police Officer John Hearn to the force.
- The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority, under new regulations from the Department of Environmental Protection, has increased the water testing for contamination and may be reaching out to households to test their water.
- Chief Adam Selisker of the Northampton Volunteer Fire Company reported very little activity in the past month.
- The Rails to Trails project is moving forward in our surrounding municipalities and Northampton Township should be proactive by forming a committee to get the facts about the program and start a process on how to move forward. Upper Southampton has been already well into the process.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Northampton Township Free Library survey was launched and so far there has been a great response with feedback on ways to improve and fund the Library.
- The Library Board is considering hiring an outside agency to help with raising funds to support Library programs and services.
- The Parks and Recreation Department Spring and Summer brochure is available and highlights the summer camps and spring events. Summer camp registration is in progress and pre-school through ninth grades are welcome.
- Improvements to the fields at the Civic Center have been completed and new energy efficient lights and ceiling tiles were installed at the Recreation Center.
- The proposed bathrooms to be built at the Civic Center from the money received from the sale of the Maier House were staked out and the project will be bid shortly.
- The Parks and Recreation Department are in the process of accepting bids for the Basketball and Tennis courts
- Discount Tickets for various activities are available from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Swim teams are now forming and utilize the pool at the Northampton Country Club and interested residents should sign up.

Dr. Rose commented on the success of the Bunny Hunt with over 300 kids participating.

Chairman Weinstein made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission recommended approval of a two-lot subdivision on New Road at its March 8 meeting.
- The Planning Commission is in the process of reviewing a subdivision request for nine new lots on St. Leonard's Road.
- A presentation on converting the Newtown-Fox-Chase rail line to a hiking and biking trail will be made at the April 12 Planning Commission meeting.
- Demolition permits were issued for the Davis Pontiac site.
- The Zoning Hearing Board heard three cases at its last meeting. A variance was granted involving construction of an attached garage on Joanne Road, for a pool on Tulip Road and a variance for a new house on Twining Road was continued to the next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 11 at 7:00 pm.

- The Historic Commission toured the Davis Pontiac site to determine if there was any historical significance to the structures, and the Township Archivist is interested in interviewing residents with knowledge about Township history.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission will host a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30 and Flag Day Ceremony on June 14. A ceremony to thank Vietnam Veterans is scheduled for March 29 at 3:00 pm at the PA National Guard Armory in Philadelphia. The next meeting of the Veterans Advisory Commission will be April 18 at 7:00 pm.
- The American Legion, Post 210 in Doylestown, PA will be holding an expo for service members and veterans about all the benefits available. The National Guard will also be on hand to offer information on how to get involved with them.
- The Bucks County Association of Township Officials held a seminar on the epidemic of heroin abuse and the benefits of first responders carrying Narcan, and Township police will be trained and equipped for its use. The program will be funded by a grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, Grant Drive, Holland, questioned filing for the DCNR grant and asked the Board to only do necessary work at the Civic Center. Mr. Moore stated that when applying for grants, especially state grants, there are preferred items that need to be listed to improve the chances for a successful application. These include trails and ADA facilities. Mr. Johnson also asked where heroin is coming from. Chairman Weinstein stated that Philadelphia and Quakertown were listed as major drug supply areas.

Dr. Rose reminded residents to dispose of outdated medicines at the Police drug drop off bin.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Silver, Secretary