

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Larry Weinstein  
Barry Moore  
Eileen Silver  
Dr. Kimberly Rose  
Frank O'Donnell

Others present were:

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence in support of the military and emergency services personnel.

### **CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Weinstein announced a public meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Richboro Middle School. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue public comment on the proposed "Rails to Trails" project. All Northampton residents are invited to attend. Chairman Weinstein stated residents will be allowed a five (5) minute time limit and non-residents will be given 1 minute to speak.

### **FLAG PRESENTATION**

Chairman Weinstein announced Pete Palestina, who introduced Lieutenant Chelsea Allen and her parents, Robin and George. Lt. Allen recently returned from her deployment in Afghanistan in late August. On December 16, 2015, Lt. Allen's Army flag was placed in the display by her mom and dad for safekeeping until her return. Tonight the Army flag will be returned to Lt. Allen and the American Flag will take its place.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **Distinguished Citizen Award**

Ms. Silver announced that Michael Roman has received a Distinguished Citizen Award for donating his time to landscape the island at the entrance of the Spring Valley Farms Development.

### **Commendation Award**

Dr. Rose presented Wendy Huttner and Debbie Glessner, co-founders and co-directors of Nor'Wester Therapy Dogs, with a Commendation Award for their work using therapy dogs to enrich the lives of people in the community.

Chairman Weinstein presented Mr. Joseph Hand Sr. with a Commendation Award for his valuable contributions and continued support of local community activities and charitable organizations.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don George, Watergate Drive, commented about recent authorized legal expenses incurred by the Township for a special project, the Right to Know process, and requested that the Board amend the minutes of June 22, 2016 based on comments made by two residents.

Michelle Druding, Rotterdam Road East, stated she is against the "Rails to Trails" project due to crime statistics, protection of the community and wildlife and added the Board should vote no on the resolution to having a feasibility study prepared.

Bruce Stamm, 14 Jericho Road, raised his opposition to the proposed "Rails to Trails" project and reiterated his comments from past meetings, citing cost, crime, and the adverse effects on residents.

Patrick McGuigan, Holland, commented on the deficit in the fund balance and stated Northampton is becoming like Philadelphia. The spending needs to get under control and a fund balance needs to be established or the Board will have no choice but to institute a tax increase.

Dave Patterson, 19 Amsterdam, questioned if the "Rails to Trails" meeting of October 17, will be recorded. Chairman Weinstein confirmed the meeting will be televised.

Victoria Black, 666 Jacksonville Road, noted there has been some level of detection of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) found in a private well

on Inland Road. The well was tested by the homeowner. She suggested the Navy be asked to test other private wells. Ms. Black would also like to see this as a future agenda item for discussion.

Mr. Moore suggested asking representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Naval Air Warfare Center hold a presentation. The Board asked the Manager to reach out to his contacts and get them scheduled to come before the Board.

Harry Snail, Second Street Pike, spoke on the damaging effects of bamboo encroaching on his property from his neighbor's property. He asked the Board to look into amending the ordinance relating to bamboo to stop this infestation.

Jordan Checkof, Taylor Downs, and Sarah Whitely presented themselves as members of the Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth. Ms. Whitely stated their mission is to reduce the misuse of substance abuse in our area. Each spoke on the proposed ordinance relating to Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and the serious implications of allowing these types of dispensaries into the Township.

Joanne Klempler, 283 Magnolia Drive, thanked the Board for scheduling a "Rails to Trails" meeting to allow all views to be heard and to consider doing a study. She asked if the Board will be asking questions regarding this matter. Chairman Weinstein stated the Board will wait until all of the public comment has been heard and as much information compiled as possible before they ask their questions.

Jeffrey Gold, 57 Grant Drive, noted alleged inaccuracies with the Bikes Bucks County petitions. He has never seen the garage near the rails everyone keeps referencing. He questioned why the Board would destroy the area's natural beauty and replace it with asphalt.

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, reiterated his comments regarding "Rails to Trails" from previous meetings, listing crime statistics and unwanted costs that will be put on homeowners whose properties back up to the proposed trails.

Tom Hibbs, Upper Southampton, representing Penn-Tammany Greenway Coalition stated the coalition is a 501c3 non-profit that is interested in seeing the "Rails to Trails" project come to fruition. He agrees that everyone should have a voice and that fears are common in these types of situations. He asked the Board to sign the non-binding Resolution and have the studies done at no charge to the Township. Many of the fears will be eliminated once all the facts are in. In addition, he added that the Coalition volunteered and picked up over 2000 bags of trash at the Churchville Nature Center and on Elm Avenue and offered the Coalition's assistance in helping this project to proceed forward.

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, called point of order and asked that Mr. Hibbs provide his full address, Mr. Hibbs replied the address of the PennTammany Greenway Coalition is P.O. Box 201, Southampton, PA. Mr. Johnson asked the Board to strike all the items and comments made by Mr. Hibbs from the record due to an insufficient address. Chairman Weinstein stated Mr. Hibbs gave sufficient address information.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Dr. Rose presented the accounts payable for September 14, 2016 in the amount of \$542,658.95 and the September 28, 2016 list in the amount of \$611,256.83.

The Accounts Payable were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

Chairman Weinstein called for a five minute recess at 9:55 p.m. and reconvened at 10:10 pm.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Consider Resolution to Amend Traffic Signal Applications for Proposed Roadway Improvements at Almshouse Road and Second Street Pike and Newtown-Richboro Road and Township Road**

Dr. Rose stated the Dreher Group is required to make certain improvements to the intersections of Almshouse Road and Second Street Pike and Newtown-Richboro Road and Township Road, including traffic signal modifications, as part of its traffic impact requirements for the Addisville Commons Development Project.

The improvements at Route 232 and 332 consist of widening the south side of Route 332 to provide for two travel lanes through the intersection, replacing existing loop detectors with video detection systems, and upgrades to ADA curb ramps. The improvements at Route 332 and Township Road consist of widening the south side of Route 332, east of the intersection provide for two travel lanes through the intersection, restriping Route 332 for left turn lanes, east and westbound, and replacing the existing loop detectors with a video detection system.

Dr. Rose noted because these improvements affect the intersections and the existing signal permit plans, PennDOT requires resolutions from the Board authorizing execution of two traffic signal permit plan applications to provide for the improvements.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Weinstein )to approve resolutions R-16-21 and R-16-22 authorizing the Township Manager to execute traffic signal permit plan applications for intersection and traffic signal improvements at Routes 232 and 332, and Route 332 and Township Road and file them with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board and public comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Authorization to Advertise a Proposed Ordinance Regulating Medical Marijuana Growers and Dispensaries**

Chairman Weinstein outlined the proposed ordinance amendment, which would allow for medical marijuana dispensaries and grower/processors in the I-1 – Industrial District, subject to numerous conditions. The ordinance has been prepared as a result of the PA legislature approved Medical Marijuana Act and has been reviewed by the Township’s Solicitor for compliance with the legislation.

Upon authorization for advertisement, the ordinance will be forwarded to the Township and County Planning Commissions, as required by the Municipalities Planning Code. Also, due to the required 30 day review period, this ordinance will be placed on the November Board agenda, not October.

A motion was made and seconded (Weinstein-Moore) to authorize an advertisement to hold a public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance amending the Northampton Township Zoning Ordinance, specifically Chapter 27, for the purpose of amending sections related to the Planned Industrial/Office District (I-1) related to the Medical Marijuana Act on Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board and public comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consideration Authorization to Advertise a Proposed Ordinance Regulating Transient Dwellings**

While outlining the proposed ordinance regulating transient dwellings, Mr. Moore stated transient dwellings have become more numerous throughout Bucks County. Specifically, this ordinance is intended to limit them to the Professional Office and General Commercial Districts of the Township. By doing so, this serves a two-fold purpose: it limits the parcels where this use can locate and protects the vast number of properties in the residential zoning districts

throughout the Township. As an added safeguard, the use must also receive special exception approval. The Township Solicitor has reviewed this ordinance.

Upon authorization for advertisement, this ordinance will be forwarded to the Township and County Planning Commissions as required by the Municipalities Planning Code. Also, due to the required 30 day review period, this ordinance will be placed on the November agenda, not October.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Silver) to authorize an advertisement to hold a public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance amending the Northampton Township Zoning Ordinance, specifically Chapter 27, for the purpose of adding and amending definitions, amending uses in the General Commercial/Office and PO districts, and identifying regulations related to transient dwellings on Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose asked Mr. Pizzo if the ordinance covers group homes. Mr. Pizzo clarified and stated it only covers transient dwellings.

Chairman Weinstein called for public comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Report on 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plans**

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the law requires the Administration to submit a report by September 30 of each year to the Board of Supervisors on the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for each of the employee pension plans for the forthcoming year. The MMO represents the funding level required from the Township to maintain the actuarial soundness of each pension plan.

Mr. O'Donnell read the calculations from the Township Actuary for the record showing the required contribution amounts for the 2017 year. These amounts must be budgeted as expenditures in the 2017 budget. The MMO's for each plan in 2017 are:

Police Pension Plan	\$833,727
Non-Uniformed Employees Plan	<u>\$767,088</u>
	\$1,607,372

The total obligation is a decrease of \$40,541 over the 2016 MMO. The MMO also decreased in 2016 by \$68,000.

The Township implemented a Defined Contribution Pension Plan (Money Purchase Plan) for new hires in 2016 and the above MMO is an estimated contribution to the plan rather than a required contribution. The Township contributes 5% of payroll for participants in this plan and members contribute 5% of their annual compensation.

The Township expects to receive about \$638,000 in Municipal Pension System State Aid to help offset these costs. The balance of \$969,372 will be budgeted in the General Fund. Action is not required but this information must be included in the meeting minutes.

### **Consider a Resolution Adopting the Bucks County 2016 Hazardous Mitigation Plan**

Mrs. Silver stated that it is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirement that a municipality must adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution to be eligible for federal disaster assistance. Rather than prepare and adopt our own plan, the Township has traditionally adopted the Bucks County Hazard Mitigation Plan to satisfy the FEMA requirement.

Mrs. Silver noted the Bucks County Planning Commission updates the County Hazard Mitigation Plan every two years and invites all municipalities to participate in the process that involves meetings with municipal emergency management officials to identify natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities. The Township participated in the updating of this plan. The plan was last updated in 2014 and adopted by the Township as its official plan.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Rose) to adopt resolution R-16-23 adopting the 2016 Bucks County Hazardous Mitigation Plan as the hazard mitigation plan for Northampton Township.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- Council Rock School District Superintendent Dr. Fraser announced the capital planning discussion will start up again in October. The district will put together a comprehensive redistricting plan. The new middle schools will open in the fall of 2018.
- Beginning in October the televised meetings of the School Board will change from two meetings a month to one meeting each month and will be held on the third Thursday. The School Board meetings will continue to meet every Thursday as follows: finance/facilities on the first Thursday, academic standards on the second Thursday and policy on the fourth Thursday.

- Join the Senior Center on Friday, October 21, 2016 for their annual Baskets n' Bling Bingo. There will be bingo games, raffle baskets, 50/50, and delicious food. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Mr. O'Donnell made the following announcements:

- New construction on the roadway in front of the Civic Center is now in progress and may impact traffic flow in the area
- New traffic patterns are in place for the left and right turn lanes off Hatboro Road
- The fall season means the deer population is active - watch the roads especially traveling at night.
- The Police Departments wants to remind residents to lock your car doors and remove all valuables. There are still problems with thefts from unlocked vehicles.
- PennDOT will be putting a stop sign at the intersection of Bustleton Pike and Cornell Avenue. The stop sign will only be for vehicles travelling southbound.

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- The Volunteer Fire Company hosted a special visitor at their yearly BBQ dinner. Tom Johnson, better known to everyone as T.J., was saved from cardiac arrest, and as a thank you to the Fire Company, he and his family made a very generous donation which allowed the Fire Company to purchase AED's for Engine 83.
- The Fire Department will hold an open house at all three stations in recognition of Fire Prevention Week on Friday, October 14, 2016 from 7-9 p.m.
- The Fire Department asks for your help by making sure your address is visible from the street. It helps them find you and may save your life.
- The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority has conducted sample testing at its 15 municipal wells. The sample results from these municipal wells have detections of PFOS and PFOA. All the results for the wells are well below the health advisory level determined by the EPA. The Authority will be conducting ongoing testing on a quarterly basis to determine if there are any changes.



Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Library is now open throughout the week at 10 a.m. and with the change in hours has now seen a spike in attendance. In addition, the Library will be closed on Fridays and will be open on Sunday. Daily attendance for the month has gone from 12,000 to over 19,000.
- Any local businesses that would like to help the Library with fundraising please contact Diana Remington, the Library Director.
- The tennis court construction at the Civic Center is well underway and the basketball courts are almost completed. Both the tennis and basketball courts are expected to be completed by the end of October.
- There are a number of classes available at the Civic Center. Check out the Fall Brochure to see what is available.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting “A Taste of Northampton” the week of October 16 – October 29. All local restaurants will be offering discounted food or special priced meals. Come out and support our local businesses.
- The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Happenings is scheduled for October 29 and is free to all residents.

Chairman Weinstein made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission last met on September 13, 2016 to hear a presentation on a subdivision/land development plan. The proposed plan is for 9 lots located at 444 St. Leonard’s Road. The Planning Commission recommended its approval.
- The next Planning Commission meeting is October 11 at 7:30 p.m. The Planning Commission will consider proposed ordinances related to medical marijuana growers, dispensaries, and transient dwellings.
- The Dreher project continues to move forward.
- The Newtown Richboro Road project is going forward and will be a great enhancement to safety.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met on September 12 to consider a variance for a shed on Walnut Drive. No action is required on this item by the Board of Supervisors. The next meeting will be October 24, at 7:00 p.m.

- The Historical Commission had a booth at Northampton Days to promote and raise awareness for the great history in the Township. A raffle/trivia contest was held and 17 people signed up the winner will be announced shortly.
- The Historical Archives for the Township has a change in its hours. The hours will now be Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. If you wish to volunteer for the Historical Archivist, send your request to [nht.archivist@gmail.com](mailto:nht.archivist@gmail.com).
- Thanked the Veterans Advisory Commission for the flag raising ceremony held on Northampton Days. Mike Bodkin of the Veterans Advisory Commission was the Master of Ceremonies and Jason Dowd of the Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad was the key speaker for the event.
- Kristen Reilly and Amie Houser, representing the Kids Can Make A Change group, presented the Police Chief Mike Clark with a banner that was signed by hundreds of Township residents in appreciation for the outstanding job our Police Department does each and every day.
- Thanked Joe Szafran, Bucks County Recorder of Deeds, for another outstanding Honor Flight that took place to honor WWII and Korean War Veterans.
- On October 13, at 7:00 p.m. the American Legion, Post 317, located at 215 S. Main Street in Yardley, will hold a ceremony honoring Vietnam Veterans. Representative Petri will be attending. For more information, contact the American Legion Post 317.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission recently held a fundraiser to raise money for a plaque to cover an existing orphan stone in front of the Administration Building at the Veterans Memorial. The unveiling is scheduled to take place on Veterans Day.
- The Bucks County Association of Township Officials will be holding a free Narcan training with a discussion on tackling the County's opioid crisis on Wednesday, October 12, from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. at the Doylestown Administration Building, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, PA.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Pizzo announced that the Board met in an Executive Session on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 to discuss potential real estate acquisition. The Board took no official action. In attendance were five Board members, the Township Manager, Joseph Pizzo from the Township Solicitor's Office and Mr. Savona.

Mr. Pizzo announced that the Board met in Executive Session before tonight's agenda meeting to discuss a matter of Township personnel involving a Township Employee. No official action

was taken. In attendance were the five Board members, the Township Manager, the Assistant to the Township Manager and Mr. Pizzo.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don George, Watergate Drive, stated that surveys completed to promote the Library and using that information to give the best service to the residents is a very good idea. He commented on the inaccuracy of the minutes and allowing non-residents and special interest groups to speak. He also raised concern over the budget, the cost effectiveness of Parks and Recreation programs and alleged analysis of these programs are not being completed. Mr. George also requested information on the swimming facilities contract that is set to expire in 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Eileen Silver, Secretary