

The agenda meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6:30 pm.

Present were:

Adam Selisker
Eileen Silver
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Frank O'Donnell
Barry Moore
Robert Pellegrino
William Wert
Joseph Pizzo
Amanda Fuller

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Adam Selisker
Eileen Silver
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Frank O'Donnell
Barry Moore

Others present were:

Robert Pellegrino, Township Manager
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Selisker announced that E-mail comments will be made available tonight as the Board is transitioning from Zoom to in-person meetings for those who wish to participate but do not wish to attend the live meeting tonight.

Chairman Selisker also announced that now you can view the Board of Supervisor's meeting in three ways: In person, live on the website, or live on the Township cable channel, through Comcast or Verizon.

Chairman Selisker announced on July 7th a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held to consider the Sub-Division and Land Development application of Wawa.

Chairman Selisker explained the procedures for public comment and how to email questions to be read and answered. Chairman Selisker also provided an update on the status of the Township and its operations.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Distinguished Citizens Award – Joseph Saracino

Chairman Selisker called forward Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Opalka and Special Events Coordinator, Betty Satterley to present a Proclamation recognizing Joseph Saracino for his community service and support. Ms. Opalka thanked Mr. Saracino for all of his support throughout the years for various programs in the Township and congratulated him on his retirement.

Proclamation for Parks and Recreation Month

Dr. Rose presented a proclamation to Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Opalka who accepted on behalf of her staff recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board meeting minutes of May 26, 2021, was approved by unanimous consent.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable of June 9, 2021, for \$624,451.46 and, of June 23, 2021, for \$650,271.00 were approved by unanimous consent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Fire Station Construction Projects

Mr. Pellegrino provided a general overview of the purpose and necessity for building two new fire stations. Mr. Pellegrino explained the need for career firefighters due to the lack of volunteers. The new firehouses would provide the requirements to adequately house and accommodate both male and female firefighters. Northampton Township is already ahead of the curve by utilizing a combination fire department that combines career and volunteers.

Mrs. Silver stated she is looking forward to the fire company becoming more diversified and having a vision as Northampton Township moves forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution Authorizing a Growing Greener Grant Application for Detention Basin Reconstruction

Mr. Moore outlined the application for the grant and noted The Administration recommends the Township apply for a grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener Program to improve an existing basin by constructing new Best Management Practices (BMPs). The purpose is to implement a watershed restoration/protection project as part of the Township's obligations under the Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit requirements. As you know, the Township has five years from the permit issuance date to complete the naturalization of approximately six detention basins to meet the requirements for sediment and phosphorus reduction in the Neshaminy watershed, encompassing most of the Township's land area.

The Northampton Crossing Basin Retrofit project is for the basin on Holland and Upper Holland Roads. The basin retrofit will include the design and construction of Bioretention areas to improve water quality and reduce sediment release and plant water-tolerant perennials and plantings to reduce flow. The improvements would count towards the Township's MS4 program requirements.

The total projected cost is \$580,000. The grant application is for \$504,300 and requires a 15% match from the Township of \$75,700.

The grant program requires a Resolution from the governing body authorizing an individual to apply on behalf of the Township.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-21-16 authorizing the Township Manager to file a grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener Program to improve the detention basin on Holland and Upper Holland Roads as required by the Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit, and to execute all documents required by the grant program.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Mr. Moore stated he stated he doesn't support this grant for Detention Basin Reconstruction and doesn't believe it is good for the environment.

Dr. Rose stated many other Townships are not in compliance and we have the opportunity to get a grant to help with costs or we take a chance and end up in litigation with the EPA.

Mr. O'Donnell agrees the Township cannot go against the EPA and pay the large fines for not complying.

Mr. Selisker stated we cannot choose what we comply with and it's a low risk to go with applying for a grant for the project.

Mr. Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 4-1 (with Mr. Moore voting nay).

Consider Resolution for Microsurfacing Certain Township Roads

Mr. O'Donnell explained the Township has an opportunity to again piggyback on a contract awarded by Whitpain Township, Montgomery County for micro surfacing as part of our annual road maintenance program. Unlike road paving, a micro-surfacing application is intended to extend the life of roads that are not ready for resurfacing but have shown enough signs of wear that resurfacing is imminent in the next 5 to 10 years.

Whitpain Township publicly advertised and awarded contracts for its 2021 road-resurfacing program with the intent of opening the process to other municipalities that are members of the Bucks or Montgomery County Consortiums, or the Montgomery County Public Works Association. Northampton Township belongs to both organizations.

To piggyback on the contract, Whitpain Township requires a Resolution from the governing body of any municipality wishing to participate in the bid.

The low bidder for micro-surfacing is Asphalt Paving Systems, Hammonton, NJ for \$4.31 per square yard for a double application, with crack sealing at an additional \$.31 per square yard. Our program this year anticipates using a microsurfacing application on approximately three (3) miles of the Township road system. A list of the individual roads is enclosed. The total project cost is approximately \$251,742.00 and will be paid using State Liquid Fuels Funds.

A motion was made and seconded (O'Donnell-Moore) adopting Resolution R-21-17 authorizing participation in the Whitpain Township 2021 Road Resurfacing Program for micro-surfacing on approximately three miles of the Township road system, and further authorizing the Township Manager to execute all required contracts with Asphalt Paving Systems for the micro-surfacing project.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Authorizing Capital Equipment Loan for Police Vehicles

Mrs. Silver outlined the loan and note that earlier this year the Board approved a capital equipment loan from U.S. Bancorp that did not include the purchase of replacement police vehicles. The replacements were deferred until 2022 because of anticipated revenue

reductions in the General Fund caused by the Covid-19 pandemic; however, the Township has learned that the shortage of microchips used in car manufacturing has caused a shortage of new police vehicles that could extend into 2023. We also learned that Chevrolet will not be manufacturing police vehicles in 2022.

The Township has a vehicle replacement schedule as part of its 10-year capital plan and typically purchases 4 or 5 police cars each year. This keeps the police fleet in good operating condition, virtually eliminates breakdowns, and reduces maintenance costs. Currently, the police fleet rarely needs more than routine maintenance.

Based on the above information, the Administration recommends the Township immediately order 6 police vehicles we know are available at Whitmoyer Ford, Mount Joy, PA (state contract dealer) who has agreed to hold vehicles for us until the end of June. With the start of a new fiscal year for the Commonwealth on July 1, we expect that the State Police will place a large order for police cars and further reduce available inventory, so time is of the essence.

The Board recently approved a capital equipment loan with U.S. Bancorp (US Bank) for the acquisition of Public Works equipment, and they have agreed to extend the interest rate of 1.543% for a new loan to acquire police vehicles as recommended. The loan would be \$252,000 for 5 years at a rate with an estimated annual installment of \$52,757.

A loan document will be prepared for this new loan and upon re-payment, the vehicles will become Township property. To secure the capital loan, the Board must approve a resolution.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-O'Donnell) adopting Resolution R-21-18 authorizing a 5-year capital loan of \$252,000 with U.S. Bancorp for the acquisition of police vehicles, and to further authorize the Township Manager to execute all documents required in connection with the loan agreements.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Mrs. Silver stated it is important to keep the vehicles in good condition so they are eligible for resale and she is glad the Township is being proactive in securing the vehicles for the Police Department.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Authorize Sale of Surplus Equipment

Dr. Rose noted that Gary Crossland, Public Works Director has indicated that there are surplus items available for resale. These items are expected to be valued at more than \$2,000 and as a result, can only be sold when authorized by the Board of Supervisors.

The Administration requests your approval to sell this equipment at public auction on the Municibid website.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Silver) to authorize the Township Administration to sell surplus equipment at public auction as recommended by the Department of Public Works in a memorandum dated June 18, 2021.

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

Motion passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- Recognized Parks and Recreation month tonight for July. Thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for all that they do daily.
- Starting June 24th the Sounds of Summer Concerts will be starting and held every Thursday through August.
- The Parks and Recreation Departments are providing virtual and in-person classes, and programs. Go to northamptonpa.myrec.com for current information on the various classes, activities, and programs being offered.
- The Swim Club opened on May 31st and still has memberships available and is also offering swim lessons.
- The Senior Center reopened to the public on May 11th, with safety protocols in place. New activities are available as well as some of the older ones that have been offered.
- The Senior Center's new website will be going live in July.

Mr. O'Donnell made the following announcements:

Mr. O'Donnell had nothing to report.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board have been meeting on several projects.
- The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for July 13.
- Activity is happening at Spring Mill and on East Holland at the Waverly Sub-Division, homes are selling out quickly. Giant has its permits and has started demolition of the old building.

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- Diana Remington the Library Director has left due to medical issues and Amy Wardle is her interim replacement.

- The Library hours are posted on their website and will be closed on Sundays, for June, July, and August.
- There are 3 vacancies on the Library Board. If you wish to volunteer send your application to the Township Administration
- Northampton's 300th anniversary is next year, the Township is holding a slogan contest, check the website for further details.
- Due to numerous complaints and misses J.P. Mascaro the Township trash hauler has been on notice that their failure to comply with the contract requirements for pick-ups has put them in default.
- SWBSWC wants you to know that your voices are heard on missed trash, yard waste, and recycling collection. The Administration will keep in contact with the Trash Hauler to try and rectify the issue.
- Sent condolences to the family of Pat Komelasky, the wife of the late George Komelasky who has recently passed away.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- Sending condolences to the family of Charlie Vaughn who was a past Fire Chief, he will be greatly missed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Township is well aware of the seriousness of the trash issues occurring. J.P. Mascaro needs workers and we are looking to enforce the contract. The Township moved yard waste to Saturday collection and this has not helped. We are asking for residents to be patient during this difficult situation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pizzo announced the Board has met in an executive session two (2) times.

On June 16th for approximately 30 minutes. The members of the Board, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Wert, the Township Engineer, and Mr. Pizzo himself were in attendance. One matter of personnel and two matters of pending litigation was discussed. No official action was taken during the executive session and no action was required at tonight's meeting as a result of the executive session.

On June 23rd immediately before tonight's meeting for approximately 30 minutes. The members of the Board, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Wert, the Township Engineer, and Mr. Pizzo himself were in attendance. One single matter of personnel was discussed. No official action was taken during the executive session and no action was required at tonight's meeting as a result of the executive session

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Amanda Fuller, of Gilmore Associates and the Township Engineer, stated the Northampton Township's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit was approved on May 15, 2019, and the Township has until May 2024 to complete the requirements of the current permit. These requirements are mandated by DEP for every municipality in Pennsylvania and the Township remains in compliance with the current requirements of the permit. As a part of the permit, the Township is required to construct several projects to help reduce stormwater pollution, for which the Township proposed the retrofit of 8-10 basins. The Township will submit its required annual report to DEP in September and will continue to comply with the DEP's requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Selisker called for public comment.

The following persons spoke against the construction of a new Wawa to be located at the intersection of Buck Road and Rocksville Road. They raised concerns about the impacts on neighborhoods, environmental concerns, health issues, traffic issues, pollution, trash, accidents, speeding, and crime.

Charles Chak, 74 Lakeview Drive

Pam Duffy, 125 Hope Road

Thomas Bucher, 669 Holland Road

Gerry Duffy, 125 Hope Road

Joan Chak, 74 Lakeview Drive

Volodimir Romaniuk, 147 Hope Road

Joe Burkhimer, 361 Buck Road

Judy Kroll, 39 Hope Road

Carlos Sesto Jr., 71 Mill Creek Road

Ray Harkin, 65 Buckshire Drive

Brett Duffey, 125 Hope Road

Barb Scannapieco, 75 Hope Road

Dr. Barry Kroll, 39 Hope Road

Dr. Arvind Cavale, 90 Hope Road

Jay Bowen, 108 Hope Road

Sharon Furlong, 133 Bristol Road

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank O'Donnell, Secretary