

The agenda meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6:00 pm.

Present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Paula Gasper
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert Salzer
Michael Solomon
Joseph Pizzo
Amanda Fuller
Robert M. Pellegrino
William Wert

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Barry Moore
Paula Gasper
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert M. Salzer

Others present were:

Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor
Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Newtown Fire Department

Chairman Selisker called forward Newtown Township's Fire Chief Glenn Forsyth. Chief Forsyth presented an award to Lt. Cody Stoner, Firefighter/EMT Matt Gerhard, Firefighter/EMT Chris Henwood, and Firefighter/EMT Kyle Weise from the Northampton Township Fire Department.

A plaque was presented for their actions during a July 4, 2022 fire with entrapment. Chief Forsyth commented on the relationship between Newtown and Northampton and appreciates how well the Fire Companies work together.

Chairman/Fire Chief Selisker concurred with Chief Forsyth and spoke on the benefits of Mutual Aid.

The Board echoed their appreciation for the Fire Departments and the communities they serve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

CONSENT ITEMS

MINUTES

The Board meeting minutes of August 24, 2022, were approved by unanimous consent.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable for September 14, for \$1,941,793.78 and, for September 28, 2022, for \$1,490,739.50 were approved by unanimous consent.

CONSIDER PLANNING MODULE RESOLUTION- MONTAGUE SUBDIVISION – 161 NEW ROAD

Mr. Moore outlined the Planning Module for 161 New Road. The Montague Subdivision previously received approval to construct two single-family detached dwelling lots in the proximity of Harriet and New Roads. As they progress forward to ultimately begin construction, a planning module is required to be submitted to DEP to permit the connection to the public sewer. As part of that process, a resolution must be passed by the Board of Supervisors.

A copy of the resolution was provided for review.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Gasper) that the DEP resolution R-22-1D for Plan Revision for New Land Development be approved for Tom Montague for the Montague Subdivision.

Motion Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consider Proposed Ordinance Amending Stormwater Management Regulations as Required by the PA Department of Environmental Protection

Chairman Selisker opened the hearing at 7:13 pm.

Mr. Salzer outlined the proposed ordinance and noted the Department of Environmental Protection is requiring municipalities to adopt an updated stormwater management ordinance by the end of September. A copy of the ordinance was provided and is also available on the Township website. Major changes include the following:

- The Township's ability to repeal permits;
- Waivers from the Stormwater Management Ordinance;
- Green Infrastructure & Low Impact Development;
- Unregulated Discharges; and,
- Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater Management Facilities

A memo from Gilmore that describes the ordinance and provisions in greater detail was provided and the ordinance has been properly advertised, as required.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Moore) to approve ordinance #614 amending the Northampton Township Code related to stormwater management requirements.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Chairman Selisker closed the hearing at 7:14 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution Opposing Sale of Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority

Mr. Salzer presented the proposed resolution. Earlier this year, the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority Board announced that it had entered into exclusive negotiations with Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. to sell its sewer system assets to this private utility company. As a result of this announcement, municipalities throughout Bucks county along with many individual citizens expressed opposition to the sale for numerous reasons including the history of significant rate increases following Aqua's acquisition of municipally-owned utility systems.

While the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority Board recently announced that it had terminated negotiations with Aqua, most likely due to significant public opposition by

Authority customers and municipal entities throughout the County, the Administration believes that the Board of Supervisors should formally express its opposition to the proposal if negotiations resume in the future.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-22-19 opposing the sale of the Bucks County Sewer System to Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., and urging the Bucks County Commissioners to take whatever action is necessary to terminate all negotiations between the Authority and Aqua.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Mr. Salzer stated the community backlash is having an impact on this decision.

Dr. Rose thanked the residents for making their opinions heard. The Board is against this and will support what's best for the community.

The rest of the Board agreed with Mr. Salzer and Dr. Rose's comments.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0

Consider a Resolution Requesting U.S. Post Office to Allow Individual Mailboxes for Single Family Homes

Mrs. Gasper presented the proposed resolution. The Township recently received complaints from residents about several new developments concerning mail delivery. US Postal Service regulations now require all new residential developments to have "gang" mailboxes instead of allowing individual property owners to install mailboxes at the street line in front of their properties. In addition, the Postal Service also requires an 80% occupancy rate in any new development before mail service is initiated, even with a "gang" mailbox system. This means that all new residents must pick up mail at the post office serving their area until the occupancy rate is met.

Congressman Fitzpatrick was made aware of this issue and suggested the Township adopt a resolution requesting his office intercede with the Postal Service to determine if it will change its policy to allow new single-family homes to install individual mailboxes in front of each home and to reduce its policy from an 80% occupancy rate to a 50% occupancy rate before beginning mail service in any new development.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Moore) to adopt Resolution R-22-20 requesting the US Postal Service allow individual mailboxes for new single-family homes instead of a "gang"

mailbox system, and requesting that the Postal Service begin mail delivery in all new development when 50% of the development is occupied.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Mr. Moore said this is important from a safety standpoint. The rest of the Board agreed this policy needs to be changed.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Report on 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plans

Dr. Rose explained the Administration is required by law to submit a report to the Board of Supervisors on the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for each of the employee pension plans by September 30 each year for the following fiscal year. The MMO represents the funding level required by the Township to maintain the actuarial soundness of each plan.

The Township Actuary calculated the required contribution amounts for the 2023 plan year and these amounts must be budgeted as expenditures in the 2023 budget. The MMOs for each plan in 2023 are as follows:

Police Pension Plan	\$1,013,383
Non-Uniformed Employees Plan	823,961
Money Purchase Pension Plan	<u>170,308</u>
	\$2,007,652

The total MMO for 2023 is a decrease of \$88,354 from the previous year.

The Township expects to receive approximately \$834,000 in Municipal Pension System State Aid that will reduce the required local contribution. The balance of \$1,173,652 will be budgeted in the General Fund.

A vote to approve the MMOs is **NOT** required but this information must be included in the meeting minutes for auditing purposes.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Senior Center has been holding many events to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Northampton Township. They have been well attended.

- The Senior Center has many new and returning events for the fall. The Boscov's friends helping friends for \$5.00 get a certificate for 25% off at Boscov's. Octoberfest is new for this year and will be held on October 21st from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm at \$18.00 per person. Must be a member to attend.
- Many exciting events are planned for the Senior Center for 2022. Check their website at nhsc@nhtwp.org or call 215-357-8799 for more information.
- The annual Holiday Market Place is gearing up for your shopping needs see the website or contact the center for more details.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has had a fun-filled September.
- The Miracle League Playground has reopened with a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new improvements made.
- The 300th-anniversary Fun Fest was a huge success. Kudos to the Park & Recreation Department for putting on such a successful fun-filled event.
- The annual Halloween Happenings is taking place again this year on October 29th at the Municipal Park.
- For all the events happening this October check the Parks and Recreation website at Northamptonrec.com. Some events do require pre-registration.

Paula Gasper made the following announcements:

- The steering committee a sub-committee of the Library Board is making great progress on the vision for the Library. The sub-committee has sent out a survey, everyone is encouraged to fill it out to help shape the future of the Northampton Township Library.
- The Library hosts a matinee every Tuesday in the fall. Check the Library website for more information.
- On Veterans Day The Veterans Advisory Commission will be holding an unveiling of the Patriot Flag Program to be held on Saturday, November 12, 2022, at 10:00 am. Bricks will also be on display that will be installed at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Administration Building.
- The Library welcomes a new employee, Miss Kiker.
- 300th Anniversary events were taking place everywhere during September. Check out Northamptontownship.com for more 300th-anniversary information and upcoming events.
- A big thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, EMS, Fire Company, and the Police for all their help during these events. Also a big thank you to all the sponsors that have made these events possible.

- The Veterans Advisory Commission will be holding a fundraiser to raise funds for the Wreath Ceremony on October 12, 2022, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Guiseppes.
- The Wreath Program held at the Union Cemetary will take place on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 11:00 am.

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority stated the Department of Environmental has instituted a draught watch and is asking households to try and reduce their usage by 3-6 gallons a day.
- Rocksville Road terminating at Buck Road has had some pipes break that requires replacement. Approximately 1200 feet of pipe will be replaced and work is expected to begin the 1st week of October.

Barry Moore made the following announcements:

- A by-right plan on the Bucks County Roses Property is being discussed among the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board before it appears before the Board of Supervisors.
- The Richboro Middle School is discussing a plan to enlarge and will be coming before the various Board and Commissions for review.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- October 9th – October 15th is Fire Prevention Week. The annual open house will be held on October 15th from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Municipal Park with a Bucket Brigade to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Township. Prizes will be awarded.
- Thanked everyone responsible for the 300th events and activities and how wonderful they have been.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- The current trash contract is expiring and is going out to bid. The bid is expected to be awarded at the Board of Supervisors' October 26th meeting.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

- The Fall Newsletter is expected to arrive in mailboxes in the next couple of weeks.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- No Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Pellegrino, Assistant Secretary