

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors took place virtually using the Zoom platform. The virtual meeting 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 and in consideration of all of the people who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. A medical director has been added as a resource to the Township, stay at home orders are still in effect, but many departments are offering online events and activities. Chairman Selisker thanked all essential employees and businesses for their outstanding service during this unprecedented event.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board meeting minutes of February 26, 2020, were approved by unanimous consent.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable for March 11, 2020, in the amount of \$925,973.36, March 25, 2020, for \$396,979.59, April 8, 2020, for \$3,921,108.17 and April 22, 2020, for \$291,056.85 were approved by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Preliminary/Final Plan of Land Development, McDonald's, SLD 18-10, 950 Second Street Pike

Mr. Moore briefly outlined the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan and opened the floor to the representatives and asked that they introduce themselves. The following will be

participating in the meeting. Ms. Kellie McGowen, Esq., Solicitor, Mike Jeitner, Bohler Engineering, Eileen Seeburger, Construction Manager for McDonald's, Donna, and Mike Abbonizio, owner and operators of the McDonalds.

Ms. McGowen outlined the project including the requested waivers and will comply notations.

Ms. McGowen stated the design of the proposed building concerning the Village Overlay Design Guidelines has been a major impasse the last time the plan was presented but feels they have addressed these issues. The other point of discussion relates to the access road behind the property.

Discussion ensued among the Solicitor, Engineer, and the Board regarding easements and alternatives relating to the access road.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) for approval of the McDonald's Land Development SD 18-10, subject to compliance with the Township Engineer's review letter dated January 31,

2020, the Township Planner's review letter dated January 29, 2020, and the Township Traffic Engineer's review letter dated January 31, 2020. It is also recommended that the requested waivers be granted to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer. Approval is also subject to the following:

1. The applicant shall enter into land development and escrow agreements in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor and Engineer. This shall include a stormwater management maintenance and operations agreement.
2. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and outside approvals that may be necessary, including, but not limited to DEP, PennDot, and the Municipal Authority
3. Final façade renderings, including color samples, shall be submitted to the Township for review in conjunction with the building permit application.
4. The applicant shall agree to a note on the plan to the satisfaction of the solicitor stating that they are willing to work with the Township on a possible connection to the access road when specific plans are available.

Additions to the motion after discussion:

5. Mr. Pizzo noted that the Gilmore review letter dated April 15, 2020 should be referenced in the motion.
6. The applicant shall enter into a land development agreement and escrow agreement in a form acceptable to the Township solicitor and engineer.

7. All conditions and recommendations incorporated with the motion and minutes are subject to the Township Solicitor's approval letter.

Mr. Moore and Dr. Rose agreed to amend their motion to include the additional items.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment

Mrs. Silver stated she would like to see #4 in the motion to be as specific as possible regarding accessibility and the access road.

Discussion ensued among the parties regarding the access road.

The following determination was made and added to the motion.

8. One or more easements over the Property will then be granted to the Township for nominal consideration, which such easements will be for the location and placement of the Access Road and/or for the connection and interconnection of the Property to the Access Road, all with the understanding and agreement that the Access Road, and any connections and interconnections thereto, are all intended to be public thoroughfares for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. A deed or deeds of the easement as described herein, satisfactory in form and content to the Township Solicitor and the Township Engineer, in their sole discretion, shall at that time delivered to the Township and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Bucks County.
9. The connection and interconnection of the Property to the Access Road shall be thereafter be constructed by the applicant at the location, and to dimensions and specifications, as previously determined by the Township and the Applicant through the process described hereinabove.
10. These conditions shall be memorialized by way of a Note to the Plan, by incorporation within Land Development Improvement Agreement for the Project and the property, and by any other documentation deemed necessary by the Applicant and the Township, and in all cases in form and content satisfactory to the Township Solicitor and the Township Engineer, in their sole discretion.

Mr. Moore and Dr. Rose agreed to amend the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Consider Bids for Road Materials

Mrs. Silver noted on behalf of Bucks County Consortium, New Britain Township advertised for bituminous asphalt materials and stone on February 14, and 17, 2020.

A total of 6 companies submitted bids for various materials used in road maintenance and resurfacing programs.

The Township is expected to pave or micro-surface over 10 miles of its road system this year. The estimated cost for the materials under this bid is approximately 900,000.

The Department of Public Works recommends contract award as follows and included in the motion:

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-O'Donnell) to award contracts for Bituminous Asphalt Mixture and Stone to Eureka Stone Quarry Inc., Chalfont, PA, Hanson Aggregates BMC Inc., Newtown, PA Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, Inc., Emmaus, PA, Miller Materials, Inc. Newtown, PA, and Plumstead Materials, Inc., at their unit bid prices to the Bucks County Consortium.

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

Motion Passed 5-0

Consider Bids for Roadway Milling

Mrs. Silver stated the Township received five (5) bids using the PennBid system and a recommendation from Gilmore and Associates.

The bid results are as follows:

James D. Morrissey, Inc., Philadelphia, PA	\$180,988.04
Associated Paving Contractors, Warminster, PA	\$194,341.62
Haines Paving, Inc., Rushland, PA	\$252,312.30
Blooming Glen Contractors, Perkasie, PA	\$252,418.04
B.Blair Corp., Ivyland, PA	\$282,393.80

The bid includes milling Township roads representing approximately 6 miles of the Township system. The Administration recommends a bid award to James D. Morrissey, Inc., Philadelphia, PA for roadway milling for \$180,988.04 based on the quoted price of \$2.11 per square yard for 2-inch maximum depth milling, and \$2.05 per square yard for 4-foot wide taper milling at depths from 0-inches to 2-inches.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Rose) to award a bid to James D. Morrissey, Inc., of Philadelphia, PA for roadway milling for \$2.11 per square yard for 2-inch maximum depth milling, and \$2.05 per square yard for 4-foot wide taper milling at depths from 0-inches to 2-inches for a total cost of \$180,988.04 on the quantities outlined in the bid documents and specifications for roadway milling bids.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Extending Tax Payment Due Date for Face Value Taxes

Dr. Rose stated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bucks County Commissioners voted to change the penalty percentage charged for County real estate tax bills paid for the period from June 30 to July 30, 2020, from 10% to 0%.

Since County and Township taxes are traditionally billed and paid at the same time each year, The Township Manager is recommending the Township follow the County's lead by also eliminating a penalty charge for the same period of June 30 to July 30, 2020, as detailed in the Resolution.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Silver) to adopt Resolution R-20-10 reducing the penalty charge from 10% to 0% for real estate taxes paid between June 30 and July 30, 2020.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency Effective March 13, 2020, for 90 days

Chairman Selisker stated on March 13, 2020, a State of Emergency was declared in Northampton Township due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. This State of Emergency triggered activation of the Township's Emergency Management Agency headed by EMA Director Frank Fenton and established remote operating conditions for all non-essential personnel. All Township facilities were closed to the public, and employees conducted Township business remotely from home, or with a limited and staggered staff presence in the Administration Building while following appropriate social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

Essential personnel, including our police department, fire department, and emergency medical service providers continued to perform their regular duties, with the additional use of personal protective equipment. Our Public Works employees provided on-call services for a short period before returning to regular duties, using staggered shifts and also following appropriate social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

The Emergency Declaration in place is effective for ninety (90) days or until renewed or rescinded, based on National and State guidance.

As a matter of policy, each Emergency Declaration by the Board Chairperson is ratified by the elected governing body at the next regularly scheduled public meeting. The Resolution memorializes the Emergency Declaration made by Chairman Selisker on March 13, 2020.

A motion was made and seconded (Selisker-O'Donnell) to adopt Resolution R-20-11 declaring a State of Emergency in Northampton Township effective March 13, 2020 for a ninety (90) day period, until renewed or rescinded by further action.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute Traffic Signal Permit Plan Amendments for the Intersections of Second Street Pike and Tanyard Road, Second Street Pike, Crossroads Plaza Drive, Second Street Pike and Schoolhouse Commons, and Bustleton Pike, Crossroads Plaza Drive and Upper Holland Road

Mr. O'Donnell stated our Traffic Engineer, McMahon Associates is recommending improvements to the traffic signal system at the following intersections:

Second Street Pike and Tanyard Road
Second Street Pike and Crossroads Plaza Drive
Second Street Pike and Schoolhouse Commons
Bustleton Pike/Crossroads Drive and Upper Holland Road

Signal improvements at these locations include installing pedestrian countdown signals and push buttons, dilemma zone detection, stop bar presence detection, and emergency pre-emption. The project cost, including design and construction is estimated at \$158,500. The Township received a grant from the Automated Red-Light Enforcement Program (ARLE) of \$137,000, with a required match of \$21,500.

Dilemma zone detection refers to the area where drivers can have indecision on whether to stop at a signal or proceed through when there is a yellow light. Dilemma zone detection allows the signal to adjust for the indecision and extend the yellow light.

This project will improve intersection operation, further standardize our traffic signal system equipment, and improve pedestrian safety.

To modify the signal permit plans, PennDOT requires a resolution from the governing body of the municipality authorizing the application to be filed for traffic signal modification with the District office and designating an individual to execute the application.

A motion was made and seconded (O'Donnell-Rose) to adopt resolution R-20-12, authorizing the Township Manager to execute four TE-160 application forms to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for traffic signal plan modifications at the intersections of Second Street Pike and Tanyard Road, Second Street Pike and

Crossroads Plaza Drive, Second Street Pike and Schoolhouse Commons, and Bustleton Pike, Crossroads Plaza Drive and Upper Holland Road.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Parks and Recreation Departments are providing virtual classes, go to northamptonpa.myrec.com
- The Northampton Senior Center's staff are working by calling members to check in and see if they need assistance, should you require anything feel free to call 215-357-8199 and leave a message if no one answers they will get back to you.

Mrs. Silver reminded all that parks are open but all facilities are closed.

Mr. O'Donnell made the following announcements:

- The Municipal Authority is providing relief during the COVID-19 pandemic by lending temporary assistance to customers and is not charging interest or late charges to customers during this time. No termination or collection will happen during the Stay-At-Home orders.
- The Library is providing downloads and streaming on various topics.
- The Library also has a chat reference librarian available between 9 am and 5 pm with after-hours available should you require any assistance.
- Go to the Library's website for up to date programs and available activities being provided.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Township Buildings are closed but many employees are working from home.
- Census packages are due. Complete the document online or by mail this helps with the Township to receive funding from State, Federal, and local government.

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- Stay safe and follow the guidelines as provided by the Governor.

Manager's Report

- Thanked the employees who have been working during this time.
- Under the Government orders construction has been halted so the Building and Zoning Department is not issuing any permits at this time.
- All information and announcements can be found on the Township website at www.northamptontownship.com. The Township is following the Governor's orders and there is no real timeline at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene Umansky, 355 Street Road questioned when the Township Building and offices will resume normal business. Mr. Pellegrino responded there is no specific date at this time and will follow Governor Wolf's recommendations.

Chairman Selisker urged everyone to sign up for emails to apprised of announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank O'Donnell, Secretary