

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:55 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
Dave Connell, 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

ADOPT- A –HYDRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Weinstein called Mrs. Silver and Fire Chief Adam Selisker forward to present a \$25 gift card to the monthly winner of the Adopt-A-Hydrant program. Mrs. Silver explained that the program asks residents to adopt a hydrant through the Township website where they commit to clearing snow away from the hydrant to help response times for our firefighters. Chief Selisker agreed to donate one gift card each month through a drawing. Participants must submit a photograph to demonstrate that their hydrant was cleared. Chief Selisker awarded the gift card to Mr. Buck Mullen, thanked everyone who participated, and encouraged residents to get involved in this worthwhile program.

LANGHORNE ROD AND GUN CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

Chairman Weinstein asked Mr. David Eposito, President of the Langhorne Rod and Gun Club, as well as other members in attendance to come forward. Chairman Weinstein presented a Proclamation and summarized a proclamation recognizing 75 years of service to the community. Mr. Weinstein also thanked the Langhorne Rod and Gun Club for their continuous

support and dedication to Northampton Township by hosting free events and bringing the community together.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mrs. Silver presented the December 16, 2015 minutes. The minutes were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

Mrs. Silver presented the January 4, 2016 minutes and called for a motion (Silver-Rose) to table the minutes of January 4, 2016 to the meeting of February 24, 2016 to allow for additional comments. **Motion passed 4-0.**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Dr. Rose presented the accounts payable for December 23, 2015 in the amount of \$525,656.11, the January 13, 2016 list in the amount of \$597,953.82, and the January 27, 2016 list in the amount of \$361,925.61.

Mrs. Silver questioned the \$790.00 amount to remove and replace a tarp on a house in Northampton Township. Mr. Moore explained it was a safety hazard and it was necessary to make the property safe. A lien will be put on the house to repay this cost when the house is sold.

The Accounts Payable were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS CONT'D

RECORDER OF DEEDS RECOGNITION OF NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE HONOR FLIGHT PROGRAM

Mr. Joseph Szafran of the Recorder of Deeds for Bucks County presented a commemorative plaque to Chief Clark in recognition of the police escorts provided by Northampton Township in support of the Honor Flight Program. Mr. Szafran thanked the Police Department and the Board of Supervisors for their support of the program and noted the next trip will be held on September 8, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Plan, Russell Tract Subdivision, Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan, SLD 15-8, New Road and Second Street Pike

Mr. Weinstein introduced Thomas Hecker, the attorney for the applicant, and asked him to provide a brief overview of the plan.

Mr. Hecker introduced the applicant, Pat Flanagan, TP Construction and Mark Havers, Engineer from Pickering, Corts and Summerson.

Mr. Hecker stated the proposed project is located on the southwestern side of New Road and Second Street, and proposes to subdivide approximately 4 acres into five (5) single-family dwelling lots ranging from 30,261 to 39,792 square feet. The sites will be served by public water and sewer.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Mrs. Silver stated the Board has done their due diligence in reviewing the plan.

Chairman Weinstein stated the Planning Commission has no objection to the waivers from stormwater and grading ordinance. The Board agreed with the Planning Commission and raised no objection.

Discussion ensued among the Board and with Mr. Connell on the curbing and sidewalk issues. Mr. Connell stated the applicant is requesting a waiver to not require the widening of New Road or Second Street Pike and to not require curbing along New Road and Second Street Pike. The Planning Commission had no objection to these requests, but recommended curbing along New Road and not along the Second Street Pike. Discussion ensued and the Board agreed that curbing needs to be installed along New Road with the sidewalk turned onto Second Street Pike to duplicate what was completed at the Tom Adams property.

A motion was made and seconded (Weinstein-Silver) to approve the Russell Tract Subdivision, SLD 15-8, subject to compliance with the Township Engineer's review letter dated November 27, 2015, the Township Planner's review letter dated December 17, 2015, and the Township Traffic Engineer's review letter dated December 4, 2015. In addition, it is recommended that the requested waivers be granted except as follows:

- Sidewalk and appropriate width shoulder shall be constructed along New Road with the sidewalk turned onto Second Street Pike to duplicate what was completed at the Tom Adams property. In addition, an appropriately widened area of the sidewalk to be

designated as a bus stop shall be designated subject to the Township Engineers approval and any ADA requirements.

- A fee-in-lieu of sidewalks shall be required for the frontage along Second Street Pike and the fee shall be designated for the construction of sidewalks at the Ironworks Creek Park.
- Each lot shall be designed to accommodate an additional 500 square feet of impervious surface for future improvements.
- A fee-in-lieu of recreation/open space shall be submitted in the amount of \$5,514.72 for each lot.
- Approval of the Municipal Authority is required for the sanitary sewer connection.
- The applicant shall enter into a land development agreement and escrow agreement in a form acceptable to the Township solicitor and engineer. This shall include a stormwater management, maintenance, and operations agreement.
- All conditions and recommendations incorporated within the motion and minutes are subject to the Township Solicitor's approval letter.

Chairman Weinstein called for public comment. There was none.

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Resolution for Planning Module for Council Rock School District – Holland Middle School

Mr. Moore explained the Board recently approved the Holland Middle School expansion for the Council Rock School District. As they progress forward to ultimately begin construction, a planning module is required to be submitted to DEP. As part of that process, a resolution must be passed by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Moore stated that there are currently 63.5 EDUs allocated between Holland Middle School and Hillcrest. The Bucks County Municipal Authority has determined, using their calculations, that the site would require a total of 113 EDUs. Therefore, the site requires an additional 50 EDUs to comply with the Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority regulations.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution R-16-4 for Plan Revision for New Land Development be approved for Council Rock School District for Holland Middle School.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Mrs. Silver questioned if this is a housekeeping item and what is the purpose. Mr. Moore explained this is part of the procedure and deferred to Mr. Connell for further explanation.

Mr. Connell stated this is a procedure that identifies to DEP that the Township is going to be creating additional wastewater flow into the system. The Township must file an annual report each year of waste flow and this helps DEP to keep a more accurate record.

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider a Resolution to Amend Traffic Signal Permit Plan for East Holland Road and Buck Road to Install New Pedestrian Facilities

Mrs. Silver stated a Resolution is required by PennDot for any type of intersection improvements. The Township is looking to improve the intersection at Buck Road and East Holland Road as they relate to the Holland Middle School project. The improvements consist of installing crosswalks and associated signal upgrades as a condition of land development approval. The School District intends to bid this work as part of its overall contract and needs the permit for Board of Education approval of its plans.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution R-16-5 to authorize the Township Manager to execute the permit application, plans, and related documents for a modification to the Traffic Signal permit plan at Buck Road and East Holland Road for certain improvements required as a condition of plan approval for the Holland Middle School project.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment. None was heard.

Motion passed 4-0.

Consider Authorization to Advertise an Ordinance to Participate with other Municipalities to Acquire Body-Worn Cameras Using a Department of Justice Body-Worn Camera Grant Award

Chairman Weinstein stated the proposed ordinance is being recommended to allow collaborative participation with local law enforcement agencies or acquisition of a grant to purchase body-worn cameras through the Department of Justice. The Township is participating with nine other departments in this project.

The proposed ordinance authorizes a collaborated effort to acquire the grant and commits the Township to a matching cost of \$9,845. The Chief is recommending the acquisition of body-worn cameras for the protection of our officers and the public.

A motion was made and seconded (Weinstein-Rose) to authorize the advertising of an ordinance to allow participation with other local law enforcement agencies in a grant program to assist with acquisition of body-worn cameras for Township Police Officers.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Discussion ensued with Board members questioning Mr. Pellegrino about who will be outfitted with the camera and the protocols surrounding the use of the body worn cameras.

Mr. Pellegrino addressed each question, stating not all officers will be wearing the cameras, the average shift is approximately 7-8 officers, and 4 of them will be outfitted. The protocol for the cameras is for the protection of our police department as well as for the safety of our residents.

Dr. Rose stated that she is proud of our Police Department always being on the cutting edge of technology.

Chairman Weinstein stated that it is better to be proactive than reactive.

Motion Passed 4-0

Consider Sale of Surplus Equipment

Dr. Rose stated that the Public Works Director is recommending we sell some surplus equipment. The item is expected to be valued at more than \$1000 and can only be sold in accordance with the Second Class Township Code when authorized by the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Weinstein) to authorize the Township Administration to sell surplus equipment at public auction as recommended by the Department of Public Works in a memorandum dated January 20, 2016.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 4-0.

LIAISON REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- A reminder to residents from December 16 to March 31 that yard waste is collected the same day as trash, recycling, and only one bulk item is permitted.
- The Council Rock School Board made several decisions regarding the Holland Middle School and Newtown Middle School renovation projects. A series of approvals took place for the planning and construction process.
- All approvals are required to be in compliance with State procedures by complying with regulations this should lead to a portion of the renovation costs being reimbursed.
- During the last few years, the State has been holding reimbursements to school districts, but it is hoped this process will be reinstated in the near future.
- The Council Rock School Board is also working on financial aspects of these projects and just refinanced bonds from 2006, which yielded considerable savings to the district.
- The first draft of the 2016-2017 calendar year was presented. This year Labor Day falls after school is set to begin. Therefore, the community is being asked to provide input via calendar@crsd.org with their opinions. The School Board will vote on setting the calendar at their February 19th meeting.
- January is School Director recognition month. Thank your local school directors for their efforts.
- Saturday, May 21, 2016 is the Council Rock Relay for Life event for the American Cancer Society. If you would like to join, a meeting is being held on January 28, 2016 in the Northampton Township Library Community Room at 7:0 pm.
- The James E. Kinney Senior Center will be holding their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Friday, March 18, 2016 from 4 pm until 6 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets go on sale starting Monday, February 8, 2016 for \$12 and will be available until Friday, March 11, 2016.
- The Spring Fling Shopping Event will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 9 am until 2 pm. Over 50 vendors will be in attendance for your shopping convenience.
- Thanked the Public Works, Police, and Volunteer Fire Fighters for all their hard work during the recent winter storm.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Parks and Recreation Department still has ski lift tickets available for purchase. Also, summer camp registration is beginning and pre-school through ninth grades are welcome.
- Work is continuing with the Civic Center improvements and only punch items are left. Now is the time to start discussing Phase 2 of the project.

Mr. Moore listed various items, i.e., basketball courts, walking trails, resurfacing, and other improvements that would be included within Phase 2 of the project. Mr. Moore reminded everyone that approximately \$850,000 has been set aside for park improvements and the Board should put the items out for bid now.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Weinstein) to authorize the Township Administration to obtain bids for phase 2 of the Civic Center project.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose stated these items are a need basis and is in favor of getting the process started.

Mrs. Silver stated that she would like to see this item tabled until Mr. Komelasky has a chance to be part of the discussion.

Mr. Moore noted that in order to proceed with this much needed project, we need to get competitive pricing to know where we stand and be fiscally responsible.

Discussion ensued with the pros and cons being weighed to put the project out to bid.

Motion Passed 3-1 (with Mrs. Silver voting nay).

It was noted that the new restrooms are in the design stage utilizing the funds made from the sale of the Maier house.

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority reorganized on January 4, 2016. Mr. Tom Zeuner was re-appointed as the Executive Director and the current officers kept their positions.

- Although there were a few complications in the approval process for the Holland Middle School, the District and the Township were able to work well together to solve any issues quickly and effectively.
- Thanked the First Responders for going above and beyond during the snow storm and keeping us all safe.
- Police have had 120 calls for service during the snow storm and were proactive by consistently updating Facebook to keep residents aware of various situations during the storm.
- An issue has been raised about the Crime Hanger that are placed on residents' doors if a crime happened in their neighborhood. The concern is that if someone is away, it could make criminals aware no one is home.
- All three (3) firehouses were manned during the storm and responded to 22 calls.
- The Fire Chief asked that residents be reminded to clear their hydrants of snow, keep generators outside and ventilated, and if using a fireplace, to make sure ashes are put in a metal can to prevent fires.
- The Public Works Department did a tremendous job and remained dedicated spending more than three days plowing and even sleeping in their vehicles.
- Sent condolences out to the family of Ginny Geyer a long time resident and member of our Historical Commission who passed away on January 11, 2016.

Chairman Weinstein made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission met on January 12, 2016 for their monthly meeting and reorganized. Evan Stone remained as Chairman. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm.
- The Planning Commission in 2015 reviewed 9 development applications, which is the busiest activity in several years. The building department as a whole, issued 1,427 permits in 2015, which shows considerable construction activity.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation approved the traffic impact study for the Dreher Group project formerly known as Davis Pontiac. This approval allows the project to keep moving forward.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met and also reorganized at this time. John Fenningham will remain as chairman and the board welcomed Ted Hauptman. The Zoning Hearing Board heard one (1) appeal related to impervious surface and setbacks for a detached garage

on Buck Road. Overall in 2015, the Zoning Hearing Board heard 31 appeals. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

- The Veterans Advisory Commission met on January 15, 2016 and welcomed two new members, Sean Dougherty and Brian Maloney. The Commission is also pleased to have Mrs. Heenan and Mr. Rubini, the previous commission members, attend the meetings to lend their knowledge in an unofficial capacity.
- Chairman Weinstein listed the many accomplishments, contributions, and awards by Ginny Geyer and reiterated she will be greatly missed.
- The Semper Fi Magazine, a well known magazine of the Marine Corp, highlighted in its most recent issue the Welcome Home Flag Ceremony of Sargent Eddie Cotton. The next meeting of the Veterans Advisory Commission will be March 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm
- The Board of Supervisors held an executive session tonight from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Pellegrino reported on the following:

- Presented an update on the recent snow storm and stated that Public Works worked diligently to the best of their ability. In a typical snow event, there are approximately 40 pieces of equipment on the road at one time, half of which are subcontracted. In this snow storm, about a half dozen contractors failed to show up. The Township appreciates the cooperation and patience of the residents. A post storm meeting will be held to discuss areas of improvement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Silver, Secretary