

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

Present were:

Adam M. Selisker  
Barry Moore  
Paula Gasper  
Dr. Kimberly Rose  
Frank O'Donnell  
Robert M. Salzer  
Robert M. 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 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

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

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**

Viewing of the Board of Supervisor's meeting is available in three ways: In person, live on the website, or live on the Township cable channel, through Comcast or Verizon. Anyone wishing to comment on tonight's agenda, the sign-up sheets are made available in the back of the room or you can send an email to [publiccomment@nhtwp.org](mailto:publiccomment@nhtwp.org). Make sure to list your name and address for the record and keep your comments to 300 words or less.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **MINUTES**

The Board meeting minutes of December 15, 2021, were approved 3-0-2 (with Mrs. Gasper and Mr. Salzer abstaining).

The Board meeting minutes of January 3, 2022, were approved by unanimous consent.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The accounts payable of January 12, 2022, for \$1,118,733.67 and, for January 26, 2022, for \$918,565.81 were approved 4-0-1 (Mrs. Gasper abstained).

Mrs. Gasper stated for the record that her family business, Gasper Landscaping, has had landscaping maintenance contracts with the Township for many years before her assuming an elected position on the Township Board of Supervisors. As a result, she wanted to let everyone know that she will be abstaining from all votes to approve any accounts payable list that includes a payment to Gasper Landscaping.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Bids for General Contractor –Fire Station Construction Projects**

Mr. Salzer stated the bids were opened on January 18, 2022, for a General Contractor to construct two new fire stations to replace the existing buildings in Richboro and Holland. The bid specifications required bidders to submit pricing for each building separately and together to determine if there were economies of scale in awarding contracts for both buildings to one company. In the case of the low bidder, this resulted in a \$90,000 cost reduction. The overall cost of the project based on the low bid is under budget.

The Second-Class Township Code requires the Township to solicit separate bids for each of the trades involved in building construction. This includes bids for the general construction, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems.

Nine base bids were received for General Contractor services ranging from a low bid of \$19,062,000 to a high bid of \$22,499,000. In addition to the base bid, Township bid specifications requested pricing for 11 Alternate bids for various additions or deletions to the base bid, giving the Township options should the bids exceed available financial resources, or add items that may be desirable if within budgetary constraints.

Based on the bids received, the Administration and its Construction Manager, D'Huy Engineering, Inc. recommend a contract award to E.R. Steubner, Inc. Reading, PA for general

construction for a total contract cost of \$19,247,000. This includes a base bid of \$19,062,000 to construct both buildings, and two alternate bids totaling \$185,000.

The alternate bids include placement of an additional 18 inches of 2A Modified stone to a depth of 18 inches below the bottom of the concrete slab subgrade to a limit of 5 feet outside the building exterior wall and installation of a granite wall base in all locations where limestone is specified below grade. The additional stone will strengthen the concrete slab, improve drainage during construction, minimize construction delays, and allow underground utility lines to be set in a stone base rather than the subgrade. The granite wall base will prevent limestone columns from leaching moisture from the ground over time which will cause staining and require future maintenance or replacement of the limestone coated columns.

A recommendation letter from D'Huy Engineering, along with a tabulation of all bid prices for the projects were provided to the Board.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Moore) to award a contract to E.R. Steubner, Inc., Reading, PA for General Construction of new fire stations in Richboro and Holland at a total contract cost of \$19,247,000, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all contract documents required for the general construction portion of the new facilities.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

A reminder was made that the bids tonight are for both firehouses. The Board unanimously agreed these improvements are necessary for the safety, health, and welfare of the residents as well as the firefighters who work and train at these firehouses.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. There was none.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Bids for Plumbing Contractor –Fire Station Construction Projects**

Dr. Rose noted bids were opened on January 18, 2022, for a Plumbing Contractor to install plumbing systems in two new fire stations to replace the existing buildings in Richboro and Holland. The Bid specifications required bidders to submit pricing for each building separately and together to determine if there were economies of scale in awarding contracts for both buildings to one company. In the case of the low bidder, this resulted in a \$22,000 cost reduction. The overall cost of the project based on the low bid is under budget.

Seven base bids were received from Plumbing Contractors ranging from a low bid of

\$2,064,000 to a high bid of \$2,665,000. In addition, to the base bid, Township bid specifications requested pricing for 2 Alternate bids for various additions or deletions to the base bid, giving the Township options should the bids exceed available resources, or add items that may be desirable if within budgetary constraints.

Based on the bids received, the Administration and its Construction Manager, D'Huy Engineering, Inc. recommend a contract award to JBM Mechanical, Inc., Nazareth, PA for a total base bid cost of \$2,064,000, plus an alternate addition to the base bid price of \$36,000 to install water softeners in each building for a total plumbing construction cost of \$2,100,000.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to award a contract to JBM Mechanical, Inc., Nazareth, PA for the plumbing construction portion of the new fire stations in Richboro and Holland at a total contract cost of \$2,100,000, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all contract documents required for the plumbing construction portion of the new facilities.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment and public comment. There was none.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Bids for Electrical Contractor –Fire Station Construction Projects**

Mrs. Gasper stated bids were opened on January 18, 2022, for an Electrical Contractor to install electrical facilities and wiring in two new fire stations to replace the existing buildings in Richboro and Holland. The bid specifications required bidders to submit pricing for each building separately and together to determine if there were economies of scale in awarding contracts for both buildings to one company. In the case of the low bidder, this resulted in a \$72,000 cost reduction. The overall cost of the project based on the low bid is under budget.

Five base bids were received from Electrical Contractors ranging from a low bid of \$3,615,000 to a high bid of \$5,850,000. In addition to the base bid, Township bid specifications requested pricing for 5 Alternate Bids for various additions or deletions to the base bid, giving the Township options should the bids exceed available financial resources, or add items that may be desirable if within budgetary constraints.

Based on the bids received, the Administration and its Construction Manager, D'Huy Engineering, Inc. recommend a contract award to Phillips Brother Electrical Contractors, Inc., Glenmore, PA for a total contract cost of \$3,615,000. There are no recommended awards for any of the Alternate Bids.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Salzer) to award a contract to Phillips Brother Electrical Contractors, Inc., Glenmore, PA for the electrical construction portion of new fire stations in Richboro and Holland at a total contract cost of \$3,615,000, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all contract documents required for the electrical construction portion of the new facilities.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment and public comment. There was none.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Bids for Mechanical Contractor –Fire Station Construction Projects**

Dr. Rose stated bids were opened on January 18, 2022, for a Mechanical Contractor to install heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in two new fire stations to replace the existing buildings in Richboro and Holland. The bid specifications required bidders to submit pricing for each building separately and together to determine if there were economies of scale in awarding contracts for both buildings to one company. In the case of the low bidder, this resulted in a \$20,000 cost reduction. The overall cost of the project based on the low bid is under budget.

Dr. Rose explained four based bids were received from Mechanical Contractors ranging from a low bid of \$3,021,000 to a high bid of \$3,225,000. In addition to the base bid, Township bid specifications requested pricing for 2 Alternate Bids for various additions or deletions to the base bid, giving the Township options should the bids exceed available financial resources, or add items that may be desirable if within budgetary constraints.

Based on the bids received, the Administration and its Construction Manager, D’Huy Engineering, Inc. recommend a contract award to JBM Mechanical, Inc. Nazareth, PA for a total contract cost of \$3,021,000. There are no recommended awards for any of the Alternate Bids.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Moore) to award a contract to JBM Mechanical, Inc., Nazareth, PA for the mechanical construction portion of new fire stations in Richboro and Holland at a total contract cost of \$3,021,000 and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all contract documents required for the mechanical construction portion of the new facilities.

Chairman Selisker called for Board and public comment. There was none.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Resolution of Support for Staffing and Fire Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Application for Paid Firefighters**

Mr. Moore outlined the resolution stating to offset the cost of hiring additional firefighters to expand existing fire service coverage, the Township intends to apply to a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program. The grant will reimburse the Township for wage and fringe benefit costs for each new firefighter, in declining percentage amounts, over 3 years. The grant

application is due in February and the Township is seeking approximately \$3 million in grant funds.

If a grant is awarded to the Township, it is obligated to retain the newly hired employees contemplated in the grant application for the 3-year grant period; however, the program intends to employ new firefighters for a longer term. Since the Township is building a career fire department due to a lack of new volunteers, it is expected that any newly hired employees will remain employed for the foreseeable future. The fact that the township received two previous SAFER grants and retained those employees beyond the grant period increases the likelihood of receiving additional funds.

Mr. Moore also explained if the Board affirmatively states that it intends to retain newly hired firefighters contemplated in a grant application beyond the 3-year grant period, our chances of receiving another grant improve significantly.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to approve Resolution R-22-5 authorizing the Township Manager to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a SAFER Grant to offset the cost of hiring additional paid firefighters, and to affirm the Township's commitment to retain newly hired firefighters beyond the 3-year grant period.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

The Board each took turns commenting on the benefits the SAFER grant will have on the Township and the community as a whole. Mr. Moore stated this grant is a great way to fund the firefighters and Dr. Rose followed up noting that with paid firefighters on staff we won't have to worry about the safety of our residents as there would always be firefighters on hand to respond to an emergency saving time.

Chairman Selisker noted the Township was approved for two Safer grants before this application. By applying for this grant it shows commitment to this program and our goal to move forward as a combination Fire Department.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. There was none.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Resolution Declaring and Rescinding Snow Emergency Declaration for January 7, 2022.**

Mr. Salzer noted a resolution declaring a limited state of emergency on January 7, 2022, at 0130 hours (1:30 am) was implemented due to a snow emergency. This same resolution declares the limited state of emergency is no longer in effect as of 1200 hours (noon) on January 7, 2022.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Gasper) move to approve Resolution #R-22-6 declaring a limited state of emergency effective 0130 hours, February 7, 2022, and ending on January 7, 2022, at 1200 hours.

Chairman Selisker called for Board and public comment. There was none.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

## **REPORTS**

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- On February 1<sup>st</sup> the Senior Center will be expanding its hours. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday hours will be 9:00 am until 3:30 pm. Tuesday and Thursday hours will be 9:00 am until 8:00 pm.
- Many exciting events are planned for the Senior Center for 2022 check their website at [nhsc@nhtwp.org](mailto:nhsc@nhtwp.org) or call 215-357-8799 for more information.
- The Parks and Recreation Department just received their State Certification for Pre-School. Registration is now open for the 2022-2023 year.
- Registration is now open for Summer camps for the 2022 year. See the Parks and Recreation website or call the recreation center for more information.
- Summer jobs are available and Parks and Recreation are looking for Camp Counselors, Life Guards, and, Parks and Recreation Maintenance. Go to [northamptonrec.com](http://northamptonrec.com) for an application.

Paula Gasper made the following announcements:

- The Veterans Advisory Commission held its reorganization meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Preliminary planning is starting for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, and 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.
- The 300<sup>th</sup> committee is moving ahead with programs and activities and has launched a 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Facebook and Instagram. Sign up to keep up with all of the exciting events.
- The Library has a new Director, Wayne Lahr. He is energetic and has many exciting plans for the Library.
- The Library has implemented a new catalog system. This implementation has streamlined searching for books.

Robert J. Salzer made the following announcements:

- The Historical Commission is preparing for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on February 14, 2022, and will hear three residential appeals
- Development is still moving quickly, with many applications for Building Permits being submitted.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The Adopt-A-Hydrant program is still available and instructions can be found on the Township website. Remember to dig your hydrants out 3' in all directions, this simple task alone can save up to 10 minutes in a fire.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

No report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

An executive session was held before tonight's meeting for approximately 45 minutes. The members of the Board, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Wert, the Township Engineer, and Mr. Pizzo himself were in attendance. A matter of potential litigation and a matter of pending litigation was discussed. No action was taken during the executive session and no action was taken tonight regarding the executive session.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Echoed Mr. Pizzo's comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Paula Gasper, Secretary