

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

Present were:

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

Members of the Board absent were:

Paula Gasper

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

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

Members of the Board absent were:

Paula Gasper

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.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None was heard.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **MINUTES**

The Board meeting minutes of September 28, 2022 was presented by Chairman Selisker.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The accounts payable for October 12, for \$1,582,809.38, and, for October 26, 2022, for \$3,091,037.45 were presented by Dr. Rose.

### **Consider Planning Module Resolution – Northampton Glen**

Mr. Moore presented the Planning Module Resolution for Northampton Glen stating Toner Homes recently received subdivision and land development approval to construct four (4) single-family homes at 568 Pulinski Road.

Currently, Toner Homes are submitting a planning module to the Department of Environmental Protection for approval. As part of that process, a resolution must be passed by the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Rose) to approve the Department of Environmental Protection resolution R-22-1E for a Plan Revision for new Land Development for Toner Homes for the property located at 568 Pulinski Road.

All consent items were approved by Unanimous Consent.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Resolution to Implement Act 57 of 2022 Property Tax Penalty Waiver Provisions**

Mr. Salzer explained Act 57 of 2022 amends the Local Tax Collection Law to allow taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for and receive a waiver of penalties and additional costs from the tax collector. The State Department of Community and Economic Development is required to make the waiver form available.

All Townships that levy a property tax are required to adopt a resolution directing their elected tax collector to implement the act's provisions for the tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023. Townships have from October 10, 2022, (when the act takes effect) to January 9, 2023, to adopt a resolution implementing the act.

A full description can be found in the resolution that was provided to the Board.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-20-21 to implement Act 57 of 2022 directing the Township Tax Collector to implement Act 57 requirements for the tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

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

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Bids for Trash Collection Contract**

Dr. Rose stated bids were opened on October 20 for a new solid waste collection and transportation contract beginning January 1, 2022. The Township received two bids for this service. The bidders included Whitetail Disposal, Inc. and J.P. Mascaro & Sons, Inc.

The bid specifications included options for traditional (manual) and automated collection services. Under the automated service option, the successful bidder must provide wheeled trash containers to approximately 10,400 single-family homes, and provide manual collection services to approximately 2,400 higher-density developments. Residents that receive wheeled containers will be required to use only these containers for their solid waste and would not be permitted to place any other trash containers at the curb for collection; however, there is an option to purchase an additional wheeled container if necessary.

The lowest responsible bid was received from Whitetail Disposal for both manual and automated collection for a three (3) year contract, with the option to award two additional one (1) year contract extensions. A summary of the bids was provided.

The current rate for waste collection and transportation services is \$208.68 per unit per year. The bid from Whitetail Disposal is \$435.00 per unit per year for manual collection and \$404.55 for automated collection. These costs increase for each year of the contract. The cost increases, depending on the type of service selected, are \$226.32 and \$195.87 respectively in the first year of the contract.

An increase in the annual fee from \$299 to \$550 is recommended beginning January 2023. If the fee is set at this rate, our projections indicate that the fee will not need to be changed during the 5-year contract period, assuming an award of the option years; however, an option is to steadily increase the fee over the contract term.

When comparing manual vs automated collection costs for the Whitetail Disposal bid, there is a \$1,211,648 saving in the initial 3-year contract term, and a \$2,091,776 saving in the 5-year contract term (option years) by switching to automated collection service.

The Administration recommends a bid award to Whitetail Disposal for the 3-year contract term using automated collection service at the per unit per year rates in their bid proposal. We believe

that the vast majority of waste haulers have moved to automated collection services and few continue providing manual services. Waste Management declined to bid on our contract because of the requirement to manually collect from 2,400 homes. A letter from the Company was provided stating that this was a factor in the decision not to submit a bid.

Automated collection reduces manpower requirements, improves the visual appearance of our neighborhoods, minimizes spillage, and eliminates the current problem of empty trash cans being placed in front of driveways or thrown into the street.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Moore) to approve a three-year contract with Whitetail Disposal for solid waste collection and transportation beginning January 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2025, at the annual per unit rates included in their bid proposal, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute a contract under the Bid Documents and Specification issued by the Township

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose noted trash costs are going up due to labor shortages, and going automated cuts costs by only needing one man on the route vs. three. Automation also provides a safer working environment for employees. Whitetail Disposal will also be providing electronic communication with customers to keep them informed.

Mr. Pellegrino stated the wording in the motion should add the word automated. Dr. Rose and Mr. Moore agreed to the change in the motion.

Mr. Moore stated having better communication with the residents is an important part of this bid.

Mr. Pellegrino noted that to be part of the notification system residents must sign up on the Whitetail Disposal site.

Mr. Salzer saw the lack of service during Covid and noted the Township learned from this and has tailored the contract to better meet the needs of the residents and the Township. Mr. Salzer also stated there are extensive costs related to trash pick up and costs are going up everywhere.

Chairman Selisker stated that 65% of the country has automated service and costs are continually going up. Residents need to opt-in for notifications via either text or email. Health and Safety was important factor in drafting this contract.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 5-0**

Chairman Selisker called forward Paul Brady, President, and CEO of Whitetail Disposal.

Mr. Brady thanked the Board for the opportunity and stated his company will work hard for the community.

Dr. Rose questioned the educational process. Mr. Brady responded and stated there will be a dedicated page for Northampton Township on the Whitetail website. This page will provide videos and educational content on recycling. Chatbots will be available from 8 am until 5 pm daily. The goal is to work directly with the community. Postcard mailings will be sent to the residents to explain the collection process and how things will work going forward.

**Chairman Announcement:**

The Board and Township staff are all wearing Pink tonight in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

**Authorize the Sale of Surplus Items**

Mr. Moore noted Greg Hucklebridge, Director of Public Works had indicated that the Township can sell surplus items as noted in his memo to the Board of October 20, 2022. 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.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to authorize the Township Administration to sell surplus equipment at public auction as recommended by the Department of Public Works in a memorandum dated October 20, 2022.

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

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**REPORTS**

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- Parks and Recreation announced the Daniel Parzych Foundation has donated monies to upgrade two of the Basketball Courts.
- The annual Halloween Happenings is taking place again this year on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Park.
- For all the events happening this October and November check the Parks and Recreation website at [Northamptonrec.com](http://Northamptonrec.com). Some events do require pre-registration.

- Mrs. Claus will be returning to the Wetzel Pavillion on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, register early.
- The Senior Center held its first Octoberfest and it was a huge success with an Accordionist and a yodler.
- The annual Holiday Market Place is gearing up for your shopping needs see the website or contact the center for more details 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.

Dr. Rose made the following announcements for Paula Gasper:

- The Library is now open on Sundays from 1-5 pm.
- On Northampton Day the Historical Commission in conjunction with the Library displayed a 5-panel historical display.
- 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, and so far over 900 responses have been received
- In keeping with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Library held a reading challenge to read 300 minutes. Twelve children completed the challenge.
- 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.

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- On October 12, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection adopted regulations to set a standard for PFOA and PFOS. The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority had already self-imposed the same standard that the DEP has just imposed.
- The Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority officials have halted the sale of the Water and Sewer Authority to Aqua. This was due in part to the public outcry against this sale.
- The DEP had announced a drought and asked residents to cut back on their water usage. The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority anticipates this ban to be lifted soon.
- The pipeline installation located at Rocksville Road has been completed and the full-width resurfacing is expected to be completed soon.

- The Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority has increased the wholesale rate of .16 cents per 1000 gallons. Northampton Bucks County Water and Sewer do not anticipate raising theirs because of this.
- The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority received a communication award.

Barry Moore made the following announcements:

- A buy-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 Zoning Hearing Board will be hearing from the Rainbow Academy regarding a 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor expansion.
- 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 9<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup> was Fire Prevention Week. The annual open house was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Municipal Park with a Bucket Brigade to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Township. Everyone had a great time.
- Safety Message from the Fire Company. Remember to dispose of your ashes properly. Ashes can stay hot for 2 or more days and they should be placed in a metal can placed away from your house and never place in the trash.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- PennDot will be conducting a virtual public meeting on October 27 from 6-8 pm to discuss the plan to build a roundabout. The link for this meeting will be on the Township website.
- At the November Board of Supervisors meeting, the 2023 proposed budget will be presented. No tax increase is expected for the 2023 year.

#### **ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

- No Report.

#### **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,

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Robert M. Pellegrino, Assistant Secretary