

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSINERS MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2019

PRESIDENT, PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 pm, AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE: MR CZAPRACKI, MR ZYLA, MR ROKE, MR VISHNEFSKI, AND MS ZALESKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, PETER WANCHISEN AND ATTORNEY JOHN SOLT REPRESENTING TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

1. DAN KOWALSKI, 15 ALDEN MOUNTAIN ROAD, PROVIDED WHAT HE THOUGHT TO BE A SOLUTION TO THE PERCEIVED PROBLEM REGARDING FIREWORKS DURING THE FOURTH OF JULY SEASON. IT INVOLVED THE PASSING OF AN ORDINANCE AND INSTITUTING A FEE TO SET OFF FIREWORKS. COMMISSIONER ROKE COUNTERED BY SAYING ENFORCING EXISTING LAW WOULD ELIMINATE THE MAJORITY OF DANGEROUS FIREWORKS ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE SECTION THAT REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 150 FEET FROM ANY STRUCTURE.
2. MR KOWALSKI ATTEMPTED TO GAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THE HIRING OF THE TWO MOST RECENT FIREMEN, BUT THAT DISCUSSION WAS HALTED BY ATTORNEY SOLT BECAUSE IT SOUGHT SPECIFICS OF PERSONNEL MATTERS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
3. MR KOWALSKI THEN RAISED CONCERN ABOUT A RECENT MAILING SENT OUT BY THE NANTICOKE FIRE DEPARTMENT. HE ALLEDGED THAT THEIR PRACTICE IS DECEPTIVE, AND POSSIBLY ILLEGAL. HE CONTENDS THAT IT CAUSES CONFUSION BY SUGGESTING THAT NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS FEEL THEY ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWPORT FIREMEN WHEN, IN REALITY, THE MONEYS COLLECTED GO DIRECTLY TO THE NANTICOKE FIRE DEPARTMENT. HE ENCOURAGED THE COMMISSIONERS TO ALERT THE STATE'S ATTTORNEY GENERAL TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.
4. CHARLES SMITH, P.O. BOX23, PRAISED THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP STREET DEPARTMENT AND POLICE FORCE FOR DOING "OUTSTANDING WORK" FOR THE COMMUNITY
5. JACKIE GRABSKI, NORTHERN AVENUE, COMPLAINED ABOUT FIREWORKS DEBRIS LITTERING HER PROPERTY. SHE WAS ENCOURAGED TO CALL 911 TO REPORT ANY FUTURE INCIDENTS.

6. JOHN KRAPANICKI, 13 WEST KIRMAR PARKWAY, ALSO HAD FIREWORKS RELATED CONCERNS. HE ADVOCATED SPECIAL DAYS FOR FIRWORKS, BUT WAS INFORMED BY ATTORNEY SOLT THAT TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES WOULD NOT TRUMP STATE LAW. MR ROKE REINTERATED THAT EXISTING STATE LAW, IF ENFORCED, WOULD ELIMINATE THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING:

MR ZYLA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ROKE. VOTING YES WERE MR ZYLA, MR ROKE, MR VISHNEFSKI, AND MR CZAPRACKI. MS ZALESKI ABSTAINED. THE MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR WANCHISEN PROVIDED THE COMMISSIONERS A REPORT OF CASH ON HAND AS OF JULY 31, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

a. GENERAL FUND	(FNCR)	\$329,499.51
b. CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$68,744.83
c. RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$25,511.74
d. REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$104,822.01
e. REFUSE FUND	(FNCR)	\$3,530.41
f. LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$115,229.05
g. VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$6,007.23
h. RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCR)	\$6,744.50
i. WVSA STORM WATER FUND	(WVSA)	\$26,732.00
j. POLICE HOLDING FUND	(FNCR)	<u>\$839.18</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JULY 31, 2019		\$687,660.52

NOTE: YEAR TO DATE INTEREST EARNED ON DEPOSITED FUNDS \$4,484.64

MR VISHNEFSKI MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. MS ZALESKI SECONDED THAT MOTION. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JULY, 2019:

MR WANCHISEN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JULY, 2019 TOTALLING \$85,035.05. MR ZYLA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE RECURRING BILLS. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ROKE. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS TO BE PAID DURING AUGUST, 2019:

MR WANCHISEN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS DUE TO BE PAID DURING AUGUST 2019 TOTALLING \$37,979.39. MR VISHNEFSKI MADE A MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ROKE. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

WRITTEN REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED BY RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT HEADS AND READ BY THE COMMISSIONERS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSIGHT:

- a. STREET DEPARTMENT MR CZAPRACKI
- b. POLICE DEPARTMENT MR ZYLA
- c. CODE ENFORCEMENT MS ZALESKI
- d. FIRE DEPARTMENT MR ROKE
- e. PARKS & RECREATION MR VISHNEFSKI (VERBAL REPORT)

MR ZYLA MENTIONED THE UPCOMING NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NIGHT OUT EVENT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 6, AND ENCOURAGED ALL RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE TO SUPPORT THAT WORTHWHILE EVENT.

ALL WRITTEN REPORTS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THESE MINUTES AND WILL BECOME A PERMANENT PART THEREOF.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SOLT UPATED THE COMMISSIONERS ON THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTION 2019-4 CREATING A BOARD OF APPEALS TO RULE ON DISPUTES ARISING FROM UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE CITATIONS. MS ZALESKI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ZYLA. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

- a. JENNIFER POLITO, FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT ANALYST, STATED THAT THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL POSITION IS GOOD DUE TO THE PRUDENT MAMAGEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES. ALL BUDGETED CATAGORY ITEMS ARE IN LINE AND 2019 IS SHAPING UP TO BE BETTER THAN 2018.
- b. JENNIFER ALSO REMINDED THE COMMISSIONERS THAT WE WILL BEGIN THE 2020 BUDGET PROCESS DURING SEPTEMBER AND THEIR SPENDING PRIORITIES SHOULD BE PRESENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

- a. A REQUEST TO USE THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK ON AUGUST 17, 2019 FROM 4:00pm TO 9:00pm WAS MADE BY THE GREATER NANTICOKE AREA SENIOR CLASS (2020) FOR THEIR ANNUAL COOKOUT. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST WAS MADE BY MR VISHNEFSKI.

THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS ZALESKI. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED

- b. THERE WAS A LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUESTING BIDS FOR THE 2020 THROUGH 2021 REFUSE COLLECTION CONTRACT. A SECOND AD WILL RUN AUGUST 6, 2019 WHICH WILL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CONTRACT OF THAT SIZE. THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO BE AWARDED AT THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING.
- c. THE COMMISSIONERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE WYOMING VALLEY SEWER AUTHORITY HAS REPAIRED THREE CATCH BASINS UNDER THE STORM WATER POLLUTION REDUCTION PROGRAM. WORK WAS DONE ON EAST AND WEST MAIN STREETS IN WANAMIE, AND ON CHURCH STREET IN GLEN LYON.
- d. TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION RESTRUCTURE:
 - a. TWO CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE MOST QUALIFIED WAS BERNICE SHIPP WHO RESIDENSE IN THE RIDGEVIEW SECTION OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.
 - b. A MOTION TO PROMOTE JOSEPH HILLAN TO THE POSITION OF TOWNSHIP MANAGER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020 AND TO HIRE BERNICE SHIPP WITH A STARTING DATE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 WAS MADE BY MR ROKE. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ZYLA. ALL COMMISSIONERS VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.
- e. MR WANCHISEN NOTIFIED THE COMMISSIONERS THAT WE ENTERED INTO AN 18 MONTH CONTRACT WITH ENERGY SOLUTIONS TO PROVIDE BROKERED ELECTRICAL SERVICE AT A 14% REDUCTION FROM THE RATE BEING PAID TO OUR CURRENT PROVIDER, SOUTH JERSY ELECTRIC. THE NEW PRICING WILL COMMENCE AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE SOUTH JERSEY CONTRACT, SEPTEMBER 2019.
- f. MR WANCHISEN INTRODUCED JOSEPH HOLOCHECK, OWNER OF TREE FROG PEST CONTROL, WHO TALKED ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF INITIATING A PEST CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE WALKING TRAIL OF THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK. THE PROCEDURE IS DESIGNED TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE MOSQUITO AND TICK POPULATION IN THAT AREA AND PROTECT THE RESIDENTS FROM INSECT BITES. MR ZYLA MADE A MOTION TO PURCHASE THREE MONTHS OF SERVICE. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR VISHNEFSKI. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.
- g. COMMISSIONERS WERE INFORMED OF AN INTENTION OF THE LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO PLACE A SHELTER AT THE BUS STOP NEAR THE KEN POLLOCK APARTMENTS. THE SHELTER WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED ON A PAD TO BE INSTALLED BY NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. COST ESTIMATES ARE BEING DEVELOPED BY PENNEASTERN ENGINEERS AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROJECT WILL CONTINUE AT THE SEPTEMBER COMMISSIONERS MEETING.
- h. A MOTION TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY AT 121 / 135 EAST MAIN STREET, GLEN LYON AS A FIRST STEP IN DEMOLITION OF A DANGEROUS STRUCTURE WAS MADE BY MS ZALESKI AND SECONDED BY MR VISHNEFSKI. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED. A REQUEST FOR DEMOLITION FUNDING WILL BE SUBMITTED TO LUZERNE COUNTY'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED ONCE THE PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED.

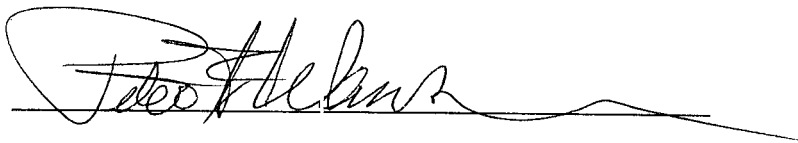
- i. A MOTION TO HIRE COOPER BARTELS AS A TEMPORARY SEASONAL EMPLOYEE ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS WAS MADE BY MR VISHNEFSKI. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ROKE. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS / COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

- a. TINA WRUBEL, SPRUCE STREET, ADDRESSED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A COMPLAINT ABOUT A NEIGHBOR WHO IS NOT MAINTAINING HIS PROPERTY. SHE PROVIDED PHOTOS OF HIGH WEEDS, SKUNKS LIVING IN HIS BACKYARD, THREE JUNK CARS, SHE CLAIMED THERE ARE SNAKES (OUTSIDE & INSIDE HIS HOUSE), AND A TRUCK FILLED WITH STORED GARBAGE. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, JOE HILLAN, INFORMED MS WRUBEL THAT THE RESIDENT SHE REFERRED TO IS SCHEDULED FOR A MAGISTRATE HEARING FOR QUALITY OF LIFE ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS. THE HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 13, 2019. SHE WAS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THAT PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENT HER CONCERNS.
- b. COMMISSIONER PAUL CZAPRACKI ENCOURAGED THE CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE TO SUPPORT THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP NIGHT OUT EVENT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 6 AT SAINT FAUSTINA'S GROVE.

ADJOURNMENT:

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, PRESIDENT CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:58 pm.



PETER F. WANCHISEN

TOWNSHIP MANAGER