

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 7, 2021

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. JOHN ZYLA, MS. DEBORAH FORGACH - ZALESKI, MR. MICHAEL ROKE, MR JOHN VISHNEFSKI AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER, FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO.

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO HIRE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, DAVID HOFFMAN AS A FULLTIME FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR WITH THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

FIRE CHIEF JASON KOWALSKI CONDUCTED THE SWEARING IN OF FULL TIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER DAVID HOFFMAN

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO ESTABLISH A NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE K-9 UNIT AND APPROVE A K-9 USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AND WILLIAM DUBIAK. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT OFFICER WILLIAM DUBIAK AS K-9 HANDLER WITH HIS POLICE K-9 AXEL. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MS. BREANNA KOERNIG AND MS. KERRI HIGGINS REQUESTED AN UPATE ON THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE RAISED ON THE PROPERTY AT 1151 WALNUT STREET IN ALDEN AT THE MAY 3RD COMMISSIONERS MEETING. MS. HIGGINS BEGAN TO INTEREGATE THE BOARD AND THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER ABOUT THE PROPERTY. ATTORNEY SLUSSER ADVISED MISS HIGGINS THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS FOR RESIDENTS TO EXPRESS CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A INTEREGATING SESSION. ATTORNEY SLUSSER ALSO ADVISED MS. HIGGINS IF SHE

HAS ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROPERTY AT 1151 WALNUT STREET SHE SHOULD SUBMIT THEM IN WRITING TO THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER.

MS. PALMIRA MILLER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE CEO FOOD DRIVE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY JUNE 12TH AT THE RECREATION PARK IN WANAMIE. MS. MILLER ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS ON THE PROPERTY AT 76 RIDGE STREET AND AN ADANDOND VEHICLE IN THE ALLEY BEHIND 70 RIDGE STREET.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM MAY 3RD BE APPROVED. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF MAY 31, 2021 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$586,400.38
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,615.04
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$3,626.29
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$43,287.96
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$66.18
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$204,392.01
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$136,054.68
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$15,532.04
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$10,566.09
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$24,566.05
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF MAY 31 2021		\$1,170,109.72

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING MAY 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF MAY TOTALING \$117,008.06. MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JUNE 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JUNE TOTALING \$64,955.26. MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACK. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| a. STREET DEPARTMENT | MR HILLAN |
| b. POLICE DEPARTMENT | MR ZYLA |
| c. CODE ENFORCEMENT | MS ZALESKI |
| d. FIRE DEPARTMENT | MR ROKE |
| e. PARKS & RECREATION | MR.VISHNEFSKI |

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT AUDITOR WAS IN CONTACT WITH HER AND THAT THE AUDIT SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE AUGUST MEETING.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. 1,681 REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN SOLD OUT OF 1,694. 13 RESIDENTS HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 2021 REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEE. CITATIONS HAVE BEEN FILED AT THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE AND WE ARE WAITING FOR THE HEARINGS TO BE SCHEDULED. 2021 IS AT A 99% COLLECTION RATE. THIS APPEARS TO BE THE BEST YEAR OF THE COLLECTION OF THE REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEE.
- B. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: PENN DOT HAS REQUESTED AND NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS APPLIED TO ACQUIRE A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT OBLIGATION BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$311,184.64. ONCE THE BOND IS SECURED, PAPERWORK WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PENN DOT FOR FINAL APPROVAL.
- C. ON MAY 13TH I ATTENDED A HEARING OF THE LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AT WHICH THE DOLLAR GENERAL PROJECT RECEIVED CONDITIONAL APPROVAL. CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE UNDERWAY IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.
- D. THE KIRKLAND M SMITH APARTMENT PROJECT IS UNDERWAY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE, TWO AND THREE BEDROOM CONDOS. ALSO THERE ARE THREE NEW HOMES BEING DEVELOPED IN THE WHITNEY DEVELOPMENT (RIDGEVIEW SECTION) WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIXTEEN MORE HOMES PENDING THE APPROVAL OF THE NPDES PERMIT FROM DEP.
- E. DEMOLITION UPDATE: 116-118 WEST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON. ON SATURDAY MAY 15TH 118 WEST MAIN STARTED TO COLLAPSE. THE PROPERTY WAS SECURED BY THE POLICE, DPW AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER DETERMINED THAT THE STATE OF THE STRUCTURE WAS AN IMMINENT DANGER TO THE SAFETY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. AS PER THE ADVICE OF OUR SOLICITOR THE PROPERTY OWNER WAS NOTIFIED BY CERTIFIED MAIL THAT

WITHIN 36 HOURS THE PROPERTY WOULD BE DEMOLISHED. EMERGENCY BIDS WERE OBTAINED AND ON TUESDAY MAY 25TH THE PROPERTY WAS DEMOLISHED.

F. ON TUESDAY MAY 25TH NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WAS NOTIFIED BY SENATOR JOHN YUDICHAK AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE JERRY MULLERY THAT THE TOWNSHIP HAS BEEN AWARDED A BLIGHT REMEDIATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$298,870.00. FUNDING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE TOWNSHIP BLIGHT REMEDIATION TEAM HAS PUT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO THIS PROJECT.

G. ON MAY 14TH I MAILED THE SIGNED SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT TO COUNTY MANAGER DAVE PEDRI FOR \$536,653.66 FROM THE STATE FACILITIES CLOSURE TRANSITION GRANT PROGRAM. THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO REPAVE MAIN STREET IN WANAMIE AND NORTHERN AVENUE IN SHEATOWN. THIS PROJECT WILL BE PUT OUT FOR BID IN JULY.

H. I SENT A LETTER ON BEHALF OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP TO SENATOR JOHN YUDICHAK AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE JERRY MULLERY EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO PA SENATE BILL 597 THIS BILL IF PASSED WOULD PLACE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND MANDATE MUNICIPALITIES TO IMPLEMENT AN ASSET MANAGEMNET PLAN. THIS WILL CAUSE A GREAT FINANCIAL BURDEN TO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES (LETTER IS IN YOUR PACKET AND WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE MINUTES OF TONIGHT'S MEETING)

I. LCTA WILL BE INSTALLING A BUS SHELTER AT THE CORNER OF DEPOT AND MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON. INSTALLATION IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY

J. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WILL BE RECEIVING \$559,247.60 FROM THE COVID-19 ARPA LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS GRANT. FUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBTED IN TWO TRANCHES (\$279,623.80) WITH THE FIRST DISRIBUTION IN JUNE 2021 AND THE SECOND DISTRIBUTION ONE YEAR LATER. FUNDS CAN BE UTILZED FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS SET FORTH BY THE U S DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY. (SEE ATTACMENT IN PACKET) FUNDS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BY JULY 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

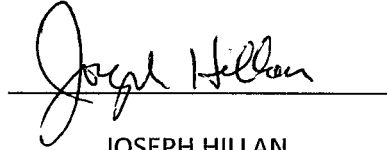
MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO DISBAND THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD DUE TO THE LACK OF INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

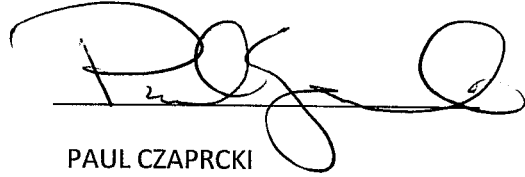
THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR ZYLA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:34 PM

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Hillan", written over a horizontal line.

JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Czaprcki", written over a horizontal line.

PAUL CZAPRCKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

