

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2023

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, AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY JOHN SOLT, AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO .MR. JOHN VISHNEFSKI WAS ABSENT

CITIZENS COMMENTS: JACKIE BALAS COMMENTED ON THE PROBLEM THE RESIDENTS OF SPRING STREET ARE HAVING WITH QUADS.MR.ZYLA INFORMED HER THAT THE POLICE ARE AWARE OF THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AND ARE PERSUING DIFFERENT AVENUES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

MR.STEPHEN PHILLIPS ASKED IF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WOULD APPROVE THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 'S PLACING OF BANNERS AT THE ENTRANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP AND AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMEMORATING THE TOWNSHIPS 250TH ANNIVERSARY.

MS.HEDI JARECKI REQUESTED NEW STREET LIGHTS BE INSTALLED ON FANUCCI'S HILL ENTERING GLEN LYON

MR.THOMAS KASHATUS COMMENTED ON THE VOLUNTEERS FAITHFULLY PICKING UP TRASH ALONG EAST & WEST KIRMAR AVE, FANUCCI'S HILL AND ALDEN MOUNTAN .MR.KASHATUS REQUESTED THAT NO LITTER SIGNS WITH HIGHLIGHTD PENALTIES BE POSTED ALONG THESE ROADWAYS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2023 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BE APPROVED. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$285,119.27
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$845,318.41
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$54,315.46
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$163,271.92
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$118,246.40
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$16,673.16
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$26,809.78
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023		\$1,434,404.22

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

APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING FEBRUARY 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY TOTALING \$315,140.56 MS.ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN MARCH 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN MARCH TOTALING \$59,945.00 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,ROKE ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A.STREET DEPARTMENT MR CZAPRACKI

MR.CZAPRACKI THANKED THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DPW FOR THE EXCELLENT JOB THAT THEY DID DURING THE RECENT SNOW EVENTS

B.POLICE DEPARTMENT MR ZYLA

MR. ZYLA STATED THAT HE RECENTLY HELD HIS YEARLY MEETING WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THANKED THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR RESIDENTS

C.CODE ENFORCEMENT MS ZALESKI

a. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MR ROKE

MR ROKE COMMENTED ON THE TOWNSHIP'S RECENT GRANT THAT WAS RECEIVED FROM (AFG) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING A NEW 2023 PIERCE FIRE ENGINE

b. PARKS & RECREATION

MR.HILLAN

MR.HILLAN INFORMED THE RESIDENTS AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT DUE TO RECENT INCREASE IN VANDLISM AT THE COAL STREET PARK THE PARK HAS BEEN CLOSED. ANYONE CAUGHT IN THE PARK WILL BE ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING. THE BOARD WILL ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SOLT HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE INCOME FOR FEBRUARY WAS \$403,985.71 AND EXPENSES WERE \$380,473.81.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. 832 REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AS OF MARCH 1ST.

B. ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22ND WE RECEIVED WORD FROM CONGRESSMAN MEUSER THAT NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WAS AWARDED A GRANT FOR \$564,761.90 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMNET AGENCY THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM FOR A NEW FIRE ENGINE.

C. BLIGHT REMEDIATION UPDATE: 77 RIDGE STREET AND 81 WEST MAIN STREET WILL BE PUT OUT FOR BID IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND WILL BE ON THE APRIL AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

D. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: BIDS WORK IS EXPECTED TO RESUME ON THE PROJECT ON MARCH 13TH WEATHER PERMITTING.

E. ON TUESDAY MARCH 7TH AT 7:00PM, THE LUZERNE COUNTY ZONING BOARD WILL HOLD A HEARING AT THE LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE REGARDING THE PROPOSED GLEN LYON CELL PHONE TOWER. THE PROPOSED SITE IS ON A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED BEHIND THE KEN POLLOCK APARTMENTS IN GLEN LYON. AS WE ARE AWARE, CELL PHONE SERVICE IS DISMAL IN MANY AREAS OF THE TOWNSHIP. WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE CELL TOWER UNDER WAY IN WANAMIE AND WITH THE ADDITION OF THE PROPOSED GLEN LYON TOWER, RESIDENTS SHOULD SEE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OF CELL PHONE SERVICE. FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR RESIDENTS, ALONG WITH FIRST RESPONDERS THAT SERVICE OUR AREA, WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO ATTEND AND SHOW SUPPORT EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS FOR THIS PROJECT.

F. ON FRIDAY MARCH 3RD A BID OPENING WAS HELD FOR THE PAVING OF VANDERMARK ROAD AND NEWPORT STREET. THIS WILL BE ADDRESSED UNDER NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION TO PLACE BANNERS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOWNSHIP AND AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMEMORATING THE TOWNSHIP'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO GRANT THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WOMENS ACTIVITY GROUP PERMISSION TO USE THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK AND FACILITIES ON SATURDAY APRIL 1,2023 TO HOST THEIR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO PLACE THE 1976 MACK FIRE ENGINE ON MUNICIBID. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO RECOGNIZE CALEB W.SHELDON OF THE KILMER AGENCY AS OUR EXCLUSIVE AGENT OF RECORD FOR THE INSURANCE FOR THE TOWNSHIP FIRE APPARATUS VEHICLES. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE PAVING OF VANDERMARK ROAD AND NEWPORT STREET TO THE QUALIFIED BIDDER (PENNSY SUPPLY) UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER, PENNEASTERN ENGINEERS, AND THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR CHRIS SLUSSER. . MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:32 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

