

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF OCTOBER 5,2020

VICE- PRESIDENT JOHN ZYLA, 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 JOHN VISHNEFSKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO. MR PAUL CZAPRACKI WAS ABSENT DUE TO A MEDICAL ISSUE.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MS. HEIDI JARECKI COMMENTED ON THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CRIME WATCH FUND RAISER. THEY ARE SELLING SIGNS THAT READ WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL POLICE. SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING ANY MEMBER OF THE CRIME WATCH.

MR. ROKE MOVED TO HIRE, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, ANGEL BRAZDONIS AS A PART TIME POLICE OFFICER WITH THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

MR. ZYLA CONDUCTED THE SWEARING IN OF ANGEL BRAZDONIS AS APART-TIME POLICE OFFICER WITH NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

MR. ROKE MOVED TO HIRE, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, THOMAS MERCADANTE AS FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER WITH THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSERS.ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8 ,2020 COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING 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, “NAYS” NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$311,095.78
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,603.86
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$34,332.92
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$38,481.77
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$43,655.75
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$85,171.82
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$13,530.98
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$6,754.56
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$21,240.97
POLICE HOLDING FUND	(FNCB)	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 1		\$699,868.41

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

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING SEPTEMBER 2020:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JULY TOTALING \$179,870.21. MRVISHNEFSKI 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, “NAYS” NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN OCTOBER 2020:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST TOTALING \$83,730.29. MS. ZALESKI 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, I “NAYS” NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT SHE IS CLOSELY MONITORING THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWNSHIP (EARNED INCOME TAX) DURING THE COVID -19 PANDEMIC. SHE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE 2021 BUDGET PROCESS HAS BEGUN AND THAT THE 2019 AUDIT WILL BE COMPOLETE BY THE END OF OCTOBER.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

A DEMOLITION UPDATES:

1. 129-133 EAST MAIN STREET: (FORMER CHARLIE HAYES PROPERTY) THERE WAS A DELAY WITH THE ASBESTOS REMOVAL. DEMOLITION SHOULD BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF OCTOBER.
 2. 161-162 BROWN ROW: BIDS FOR DEMOLITION WERE OPEN THIS AFTERNOON. THIS WILL BE ADDRESSED UNDER NEW BUISNESS
- B. CENSUS UPDATE: AS OF SEPTEMBER 30TH NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S RESPONSE RATE IS 60.3 %. WE ARE CURRENTLY LAGGING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING RATES:

NATIONAL RESPONSE RATE-69%

PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE RATE-68 %

LUZERNE COUNTY RESPONSE RATE-63.7%

- C. GBT REALITY CORPORATION HAS DONE THEIR DUE DILIGENCE AND HAS SUBMITTED THE BUDGET TO THE DEVELOPER FOR A PROPOSED DOLLAR GENERAL STORE THAT WOULD BE LOCATED ON A 2 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND WEST OF OUR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. THE FINAL DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED ON OCTOBER 7TH.
- D. ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP OHV RECREATIONAL PARK FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK. IT WAS A VERY INFORMATIVE MEETING, EACH MEMBER GAVE THEIR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS OF WHAT THIS TYPE OF FACILITY WOULD BRING TO THE AREA. A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
- E. THE 2020 LUZERNE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN IS COMPLETE. I HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS REGARDING THE UPDATING OF THE PLAN WHICH IS UP FOR ADOPTION UNDER THE NEW BUSINESS SECTION OF THIS MEETING.

- F. LUZERNE COUNTY ZONING HAS SUBMITTED A NEW ZONING ORDINANCE TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION. THE FIRST ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED IN 1964 WITH THE LAST MAJOR AMENDMENT COMPLETED IN THE 1980'S. THIS NEW ORDINANCE IF ADOPTED WILL GREATLY BENEFIT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS.
- G. AFTER RECEIVING NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ABOUT THE LONG WAIT TIMES WHEN CONTACTING ATLANTIC BROADBAND I REACHED OUT TO CUSTOMER CARE MANAGER GREG KOSICKI. HE STATED THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE WAIT TIMES AND ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO IMPROVE THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE. THEY INSTITUTING A CALL BACK FEATURE SO CUSTOMERS CAN LEAVE A PHONE NUMBER AND GET A CALL BACK WHEN AN AGENT CAN ASSIST THEM. THEY ARE ALSO WORKING ON ADDITIONAL SELF SERVICES TO LOWER WAIT TIMES.
- H. A LETTER OF APPRECIATION WAS SENT TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION THANKING THEM FOR THEIR TIME SERVING ON THE BOARD DURING THE RECENT TESTING.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$7,293.75 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$13,390.00 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2020 MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI" NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE A MUTUAL RELEASE AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DANIEL KOWALSKI AND NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES" AYES"MS ZALESKI MESSERS ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO PASS THE LUZERNE COUNTY 2020 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RESOLUTION NO.5 OF 2020. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERSROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI "NAYS" NONE

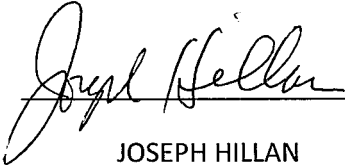
MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO BRDARIC EXCAVATING FOR THE DEMOLITION AND SITE CLEARANCE OF 161-162 BROWN ROW WANAMIE FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$8,200.00. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS ZALESKI MESSERS ROKE ZYLA VISHNEFSKI

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR ZYLA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:25 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



JOHN ZYLA
VICE - PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

