

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF JULY 6,2020

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI LIFTED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY THAT WAS PUT INTO EFFECT IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP ON MARCH 17,2020

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE: MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI, MS. DEBORAH FORGACH - ZALESKI, MR MICHAEL ROKE AND MR. JOHN ZYLA. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY JOHN SOLT AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO. MR. JOHN VISHNEFSKI WAS ABSENT DUE TO A MEDICAL ISSUE.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: THERE WERE NO CITIZENS COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1 ,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. ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

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

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$381,530.51
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,559.40
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$48,742.80
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$133,485.72
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$49,202.32
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$131,269.78
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$20,149.41
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$6,754.56
WWSA STORM WATER FUND		\$36,107.78
POLICE HOLDING FUND	(FNCB)	_____ \$0
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JULY 1, 2020		\$952,802.28

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

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JUNE 2020:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE TOTALING \$109,666.38. 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. ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JULY 2020:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JULY TOTALING \$89,378.91. MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MS. ZALESKI 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 |
| b. POLICE DEPARTMENT | MR ZYLA |
| c. CODE ENFORCEMENT | MS ZALESKI |
| d. FIRE DEPARTMENT | MR ROKE |
| e. PARKS & RECREATION | |

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SOLT REPORTED THAT HE HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES THAT WILL BE ACTED UPON UNDER NEW BUSINESS: ORDINANCE NO.3 OF 2020 NOISE ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE NO. 4 OF 2020 INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS, ORDINANCE NO. 5 OF 2020 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO.3 OF 2018, ORDINANCE NO.6 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO.7 OF 2006 TO REQUIRE THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROPERTY MANAGER.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT SHE IS CLOSELY MONITORING THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWNSHIP DURING THE COVID -19 PANDEMIC. SHE ALSO REPORTED THAT EARTH CONSERVANCY HAS MADE A \$50,000.00 DONATION TO THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS FROM THE COVID -19 EXPENSES. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS RECEIVED A CHECK FOR \$4,520.16 WHICH COVERS ALL EXPENSES FOR PPE TO DATE.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT: NEW BUSINESS:

- A. 1654 REFUSE STICKERS WERE SOLD AS OF JULY 1. THERE ARE 27 PROPERTY OWNERS CITED AT THE MAGISTRATE FOR FAILURE TO PAY THE 2020 REFUSE FEE. THAT IS 14 FEWER OWNERS CITED THIS YEAR COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.

B. DEMOLITION UPDATES:

1. 129-133 EAST MAIN STREET; (CHARLIE HAYES PROPERTY) NEWPORT TOWNSHIP IS NOW THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND WILL PROCEED TO ADVERTISE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE REMAINING THREE BUILDINGS.
2. 161-162 BROWN ROW; THE APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION WAS SUBMITTED TO LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON JUNE 25TH.
3. 93-95 WEST MAIN STREET SHOULD BE COMPLETE BY JULY 10TH. AFTER A MEETING ON SITE, WITH THE HOME OWNER, JEFF PISANCHYN AND I, THE HOME OWNER DECIDED TO HAVE THE PROPERTY DEMOLISHED.

C. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: PLANS ARE GOING TO BE SUBMITTED TO PENN DOT FOR APPROVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PROJECT HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC.

D. CENSUS UPDATE: AS OF JULY 1ST NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S RESPONSE RATE IS 56.7%. WE ARE CURRENTLY LAGGING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING RATES:

NATIONAL RESPONSE RATE-61.9%

PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE RATE-65.1%

LUZERNE COUNTY RESPONSE RATE-61.3%

E. FOUR STORM DRAIN REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED RECENTLY BY WVSA. THERE WERE TWO ON WEST ENTERPRISE STREET, ONE ON FAIR STREET AND ONE ON PRINCE STREET.

F. THE LUZERNE COUNTY ZONING HEARING BOARD WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC MEETING ON TUESDAY JULY 7TH IN THE 2ND FLOOR JURY ROOM OF THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TO HEAR APPEALS FOR ZONING VARIANCES ONE WHICH IS FROM JOSEH NAPARLO REQUESTING A USE VARIANCE TO CONVERT THE FORMER K.M. SMITH SCHOOL INTO (29) RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND CONSTRUCT (57) TOWNHOUSE UNITS FOR RENTAL PURPOSES

G. I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A TOWNSHIP RESIDENT PRAISING THE INTERACTION OF OFFICER WILLIAM DUBIAK WITH THE YOUTH OF THE COMMUNITY

H. I RECEIVED A THANK YOU FROM KAREN TARNELECKI AND THE NEALON FAMILY FOR OUR KIND EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY SHOWN TO THEIR FAMILY

NEW BUSINESS:

MR ZYLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BRANDON BRADSHAW AS FULL TIME OFFICER WITH THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 18,2020. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO HIRE JUSTIN GILDEA, AS A PART TIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER EFFECTIVE JUNE 22, 2020. 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 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 SECOND QUARTER OF 2020. 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. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO.3 OF 2020: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, COUNTY OF LUZERNE AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA NOISE ORDINANCE. MS ZALESKI 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 APPROVE ORDINANCE NO.4 OF 2020: AN ORDINANCE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP PROVIDING FOR THE INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS PRIOR TO THE RENTING, LEASING, CHANGES IN RESIDENCE AND OCCUPATION AND THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF USE OR OCCUPANCY.MR. ROKE 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 APPROVE ORDINANCE NO.5 OF 2020: AN ORDINANCE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO.2018-3 REGARDING TOWNSHIP PERMIT TO BE DISPLAYED.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 APPROVE ORDINANCE NO.6 OF 2020: AN ORDINANCE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO.7 OF 2006 TO REQUIRE THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENT OR PROPERTY MANAGER.MR.ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION WITH A QUESTION, IF CURRENT LANLORDS WERE EXEMPT FROM THIS ORDINANCE. SOLICITOR SOLT SAID THAT THERE WERE NO EXEMPTIONS AND IT PASSED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI.MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

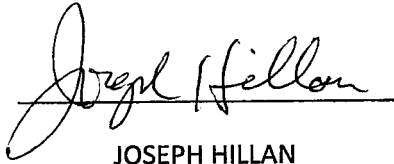
MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.4 OF 2020: A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS APPROVING PAUL CZAPRACKI, PRESIDENT AND JOSEPH HILLAN, TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY AND NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RELATIVE TO A BLIGHT REMEDIATION PROGRAM GRANT AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS. MR. ROKE 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

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:27 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

