

# MINUTES

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## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 2, 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, MR JOHN VISHNEFSKI, MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI AND MS. DEBORAH FORGACH -ZALESKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY JEFF ROCKMAN, FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO. MR. MICHAEL ROKE WAS ABSENT.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** MR. STEPHEN PHILLIPS PRESENTED A CHECK FROM THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOR A \$1000.00 TO BE USED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR RECREATION IN THE TOWNSHIP. THIS DONATION WAS MADE DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF RIELLY PLATING OF NANTICOKE WHO HOLDS AN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING PROJECT. MR. PHILLIPS ALSO THANKED THE TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN MAKING THE HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS PROJECT, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY NEWPORT UNITED, AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS.

COMMISSIONER ZYLA THANKED MR. PHILLIPS FOR ALL OF HIS HELP WITH THE HANGING OF THE HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS. MR. ZYLA ALSO THANKED FELLOW COMMISSIONERS VISHNEFSKI, ZALESKI, THE TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES, THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE POLICE, AND VISHNEFSKI ELECTRICAL FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION WITH THIS PROJECT.

MR. DAVID FANOGLA PRESENTED A HAND CRAFTED WOODEN AMERICAN FLAG TO BE DISPLAYED IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

MS. HEIDI JARECKI ADDRESSED THE BOARD ABOUT THE TOWNSHIP'S UPCOMING 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND FORMING A COMMITTEE TO PLAN THE CELEBRATION.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> BE APPROVED. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS" NONE

**REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:**

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

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$455,836.99
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,617.50
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$43,289.15
RECYCLING FUND	(FNCB)	\$3,629.32
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$15.79
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$175,547.69
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$112,012.01
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$8,906.19
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$3,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$29,437.57
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JULY 31 2021</b>		<b>\$963,792.01</b>

MR. VISHNEFSKI 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, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JULY 2021:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JULY TOTALING \$167,203.11. MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST 2021:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST TOTALING \$22,382.09. 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, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA 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 HILLAN
e. PARKS & RECREATION	MR.VISHNEFSKI

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

ATTORNEY ROCKMAN REPORETD THAT AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWNSHIP'S PARKING ORDINANCE WITH PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON WAS PREPARED AND WILL BE ADVERTISED FOR APPROVAL AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. HE ALSO GAVE HIS

APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:**

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE AUDITOR HAS BGAN WORKING ON THE 2020 FINANCIALS AND A REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- A. 14 HEARINGS FOR FAILURE TO PAY THE 2021 REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEE WERE HELD AT MAGISTRATE WHITTAKER'S ON JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>. ALL RESIDENTS WERE FOUND GUILTY AND ORDERED TO PAY THE 2021 REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEE.
- B. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: PENN DOT HAS ISSUED THE HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT AND THE PROJECT WILL BE OUT FOR BID WITH CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN THE SPRING OF 2022
- C. BLIGHT REMEDIATION GRANT UPDATE: WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE CONTRACT FROM DCED WITH THE PROJECT DETAILS
- D. NORTHPOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS MOVING FORWARD, CLOSING TOOK PLACE ON JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>. THE PROJECT SHOULD BE ON THE AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> AGENDA OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.
- E. DOLLAR GENERAL UPDATE; WAITING FOR APPROVALS FROM DEP TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION
- F. K M SMITH APARTMENTS PROJECT IS PROGRESSING AT A STEADY PACE. IF EVERYTHING STAYS ON SCHEDULE APARTMENTS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY EARLY FALL.
- G. ON JULY 20<sup>th</sup> NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MULLERY THAT WE WERE AWARDED THREE GRANTS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY THROUGH THE LUZERNE COUNTY LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT PROGRAM: \$250,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES, \$72,830 TO PURCHASE A DUMP TRUCK WITH SNOWPLOW ATTACHMENTS, AND \$80,000.00 TO PURCHASE A NEW POLICE CRUISER.
- H. MAIN STREET WANAMIE AND NORTHERN AVE IN SHEATOWN PAVING WHICH WILL BE DONE WITH THE PRISON CLOSURE FUNDS WILL BE PUT OUT FOR BID DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. BIDS WILL BE SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN AND AWARDED AT THE SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> COMMISSIONERS MEETING. THE WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR.

I. THE TOWNSHIP HAS COMPLETED THE INSTALLATION OF THE CONCRETE PAD FOR THE BUS SHELTER AT THE CORNER OF DEPOT AND WEST MAIN STRETS IN GLEN LYON. LCTA WILL BE INSTALLING THE SHELTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

**NEW BUSINESS**

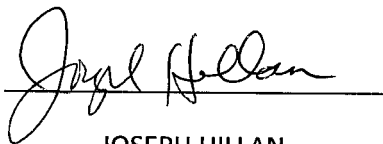
MS ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AND THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, WYOMING VALLEY LODGE NO.36. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA AND CZAPRACK. "NAYS" NONE

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**


MR. ZYLA COMMENTED ON AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED AT 12:00 NOON ON JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2021 AT CENTRE CONCRETE IN THE SHEATOWN SECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP. A CEMENT TANKER WAS FINISHING UNLOADING AND A SILO BAG FILTER POPPED OFF AND LET SOME DUST OUT INSTEAD OF CLEAN AIR. BOTH MR. ZYLA AND CHIEF OF POLICE BLANK RESPONDED TO THE AREA AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF DUST ON VEHICLES THAT WERE PARKED NEAR THE VICINITY OF THE PLANT.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:38 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN  
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRCKI  
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS