

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1 ,2021

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE VIRTUAL MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:02 PM AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NOTE: DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID 19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING AND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIRTUAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MR. CZAPRACKI STARTED THE MEETING WITH A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF JIM DUPRAS, A DPW EMPLOYEE WHO PASSED AWAY THIS PAST SATURDAY.

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, TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS JOHN AND CAROL JARECKI AND VITO DELUCA

CITIZENS COMMENTS: VITO DELUCA QUESTIONED RESOLUTION #13 OF 2020 THAT WAS PASSED BY THE BOARD CONCERNING THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE NEWPORT SEWER AUTHORITY AS TO WHY IT WAS ONLY GRANTED FOR TWO YEARS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4,2021 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BE APPROVED. MR. VISHNEFSKI 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 JANUARY 31, 2021 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$165,546.62
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,609.40
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$6,140.88

REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$542.65
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$215,619.48
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$55,625.47
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$13,531.49
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$6,754.56
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$19,697.71
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JANUARY 31 ,2021		\$629,068.26

MS. ZALESKI 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, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JANUARY 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER TOTALING \$146,635.01 MR. VISHNEFSKI 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, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY TOTALING \$22,141.58. MR. ROKE 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, ROKE, 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	MR.VISHNEFSKI

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT ALL OF THE REQUIRED DCED REPORTING HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY THE TOWNSHIP AND THAT OUR LIQUID FUELS FUND ALLOCATION FOR 2021 SHOULD ARRIVE BY MARCH 1ST.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. 1,120 REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AS OF JANUARY 31ST COMPARED TO 701 THIS TIME LAST YEAR

B. DEMOLITION UPDATES:

1. 116-118 WEST MAIN STREET, THE NEWPORT AUTHORITY IS IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING 116 FROM THE REPOSITORY AND THE TOWNSHIP IS TRYING TO CONTACT THE OWNER OF 118 TO SIGN A RELEASE FORM TO ALLOW PERMISSION TO DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY.

C. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WILL BE INTRODUCING A NEW PROGRAM CALLED TEXT MY GOV. A NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPED TO OPEN THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE SYSTEM WORKS 24 HOURS A DAY AND CONNECTS WITH OUR WEB SITE AND ALLOWS US TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR RESIDENTS THRU TEXT MESSAGING. THIS SYSTEM SHOULD BE UP AND RUNNING WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

D. THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CONTINUES ON EARTH CONSERVANCY'S NEWPORT TOWNSHIP OFF –HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATIONAL AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY. THERE IS A PUBLIC SURVEY AVAILABLE ONLINE ON THE EARTH CONSERVANCY WEB-SITE AND ON OUR WEB SITE. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.ORG. SO FAR THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC SURVEY ARE AS FOLLOWS 2400 RESPONSES 95.6% POSITIVE 2.7% NO, 1.79% UNSURE.THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH AT 6:00 PM VIA ZOOM. MORE DETAILS ON THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE ON THE EARTH CONSERVANCY WEBSITE.

NEW BUSINESS:

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP ADVERTISED TWO PROPERTIES IN GLEN LYON FOR BIDS AT 121 AND 133 EAST MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON DEADLINE WAS 12:00 PM ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 1ST. THERE WERE NO BIDS RECEIVED. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WILL POST THE PROPERTIES AND READVERTISE FOR BIDS

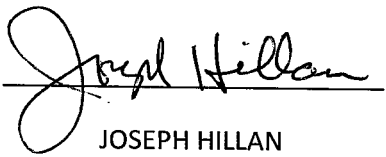
COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

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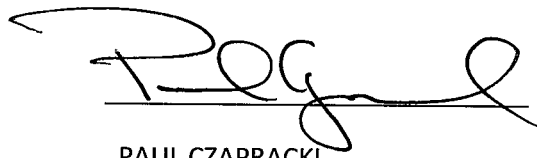
MR. ROKE COMMENTED ON THE RECENT PASSING OF ROBERT RAINERI, A WANAMIE RESIDENT WHO WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY HAVING SERVED MANY YEARS ON THE GREATER NANTICOKE AREA SCHOOL BOARD AND THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD.

ADJOURNMENT:

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