

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP MINUTES

THE 2024 REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WAS CONVENED ON JANUARY 2ND, IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING WITH MEMBERS PRESENT AS FOLLOWS: MR. CZAPRACKI, MR. ROKE, MR. ZYLA, MR. VISHNEFSKI AND MS.ZALESKI.

MS.ZALESKI ALONG WITH MESSRS. PAUL CZAPRACKI AND MICHAEL ROKE PRESENTED THEIR CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION TO TOWNSHIP SECRETARY JOSEPH HILLAN AND WERE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE BY THE HONORABLE DISTRICT JUDGE DONALD WHITTAKER.

MR. HILLAN SERVED AS TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND ANNOUNCED IT IS TIME TO ACCEPT NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT MR. CZAPRACKI BE NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES": MS.ZALESKI MESSRS. ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, VISHNEFSKI "NAYS" NONE

NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT

MR. CZAPRACKI MOVED THAT MR. ZYLA BE NOMINATED FOR VICE – PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES": MS.ZALESKI MESSRS: VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED FOR VICE -PRESIDENT

MR. HILLAN THEN CONGRATULATED MR. CZAPRACKI AND MR. ZYLA ON THEIR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT AND VICE –PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THEN TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO MR. CZAPRACKI

MR. CZAPRACKI THEN APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS TO OVERSEE THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS AS FOLLOWS: POLICE - MR. ZYLA

FIRE – MR. ROKE

STREET – MR. CZAPRACKI

CODE ENFORCEMENT – MS. ZALESKI

PARKS / RECREATION - MR. VISHNEFSKI

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT THE SLUSSER LAW FIRM AS THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR FOR THE YEAR 2024. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT JEREMY BLANK AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE YEAR 2024. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO APPOINT JAMES HOFFMAN AS INTERM FIRE CHIEF FOR THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT JASON KOWALSKI AS THE TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO APPOINT PENNEASTERN ENGINEERS AS THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEERS FOR THE YEAR 2024. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO APPOINT BH&W CONSTRUCTION CONSULTATION SERVICES AS NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S CODE ENFORCMENT AGENCY FOR 2024. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MR.VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO APPROVE FNCB AND PLGIT AS THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR 2024. MR.ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE MONTHLY MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:15 PM AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED MR. JOHN ZYLA, MS. DEBORAH FORGACH - ZALESKI, MR JOHN VISHNEFSKI, MR. MICHAEL ROKE AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER, AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FROM DECEMBER 4, 2023 BE APPROVED. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES":MS.ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$109,180.89
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$ 814,800.20
CAPITAL PURCHASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$36,831.80
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$7,476.37
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$69,172.57

LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$47,244.07
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$25,702.17
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF DECEMBER 29, 2023		\$1,115,342.45

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

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST OF RECURING BILLS TOTALING \$175,191.95 PAID DURING DECEMBER BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

APPROVAL OF NONRECURRING BILLS

MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS TOTALING \$121,967.14 PRESENTED TO THE BOARD BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT - MR CZAPRACKI

POLICE REPORT - MR ZYLA

CODE ENFORCEMENT – MS.ZALESKI

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MR ROKE

PARKS & RECREATION - MR VISHNEFSKI

SOLICITORS REPORT

SOLICITOR, CHRIS SLUSSER, HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT:

A. DEMOLITION UPDATES:

28 LINE STREET WILL BE ADVERTISED FOR BIDS FOR DEMOLITION IN JANUARY. THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY LAND BANK HAS PURCHASED 48 NEWPORT STREET. AS SOON AS THE CLEAR TITLE IS OBTAINED THE PROPERTY WILL BE PUT OUT FOR BID FOR DEMOLITION.THE LAND BANK HAS PURCHASED THE FOLLWING PROPERTIES: 5 ARCH STREET, WHICH WILL BE SOLD FOR REHABILITATION, 69-71 WEST MAIN STREET THE GARAGE WILL BE DEMOLISHED, AND 128 WEST MAIN STREET,VACANT LOT. ALL ACTIVITIES WITH THESE PROPERTIES IS ON HOLD PENDING THE ACQUISTION OF THE CLEAR TITLES.

B. THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY COG FUELING STATION SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY APRIL 2024. THIS SHOULD RESULT IN 20 TO 25% SAVINGS IN GASOLINE FUEL COSTS.

C. WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM STEVEN EGENSKI OUR SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INFORMING US THAT THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN HIS RATES BEGINNING JANUARY 2024.

D. ON DECEMBER 12TH MR. RAYMOND INSALACO FROM THE STATE AUDITOR GENERALS OFFICE CONDUCTED AN AUDIT OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S 2022 LIQUID FUELS FUND. MR INSALACO FOUND THE ACCOUNT IN COMPLIANCE AND HIS ADVICE WAS TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE ARE DOING!

E. THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SENT A LETTER TO COUNTY MANAGER ROMILDA CROCAMO REQUESTING A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE NANTICOKE /WEST NANTICOKE BRIDGE AND THE IMPACT THAT IS HAS ON OUR COMMUNITIES.

F. ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH THE GLEN LYON CELL TOWER WAS ACTIVATED.

G. COMCAST CONTINUES TO INSTALL NEW LINES THROUGH OUT THE TOWNSHIP WITH AN ANTICIPATED LATE JANUARY DATE FOR INSTALLATION OF SERVICE.

H. AS OF DECEMBER 29, 2023 NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS \$48,584.95 AVAILABLE IN OUR WVSA STORMWATER SAVINGS ACCOUNT

NEW BUSINESS:

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$16,606.25 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$5,729.75 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER COSTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT, \$ 13,900 FOR 2023 \$14,300 FOR 2024, \$14,700 FOR 2025, WITH KOHANSKI COMPANY PC FOR AUDITING SERVICES FOR NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

MR.VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE NANTICOKE AREA LITTLE LEAGUE THE USE OF THE JOHN ZYLA MEETING ROOM FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024 SEASON ON FEBRUARY 10 & 11TH AND FEBRUARY 24 & 25TH FROM 10:00AM UNTIL 2:00 PM. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO.3 WITH MULTISCAPE GENERAL CONTRACTORS AMENDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

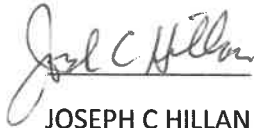
MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING WAGES FOR THE FOLLOWING DPW EMPLOYEES FOR 2024 JORDAN SAGER \$23.00 PER HOUR, RICHARD GUZIAK \$21.00 PER HOUR, JEREMY YOKOVONIS \$20.00 PER HOUR AND PART TIME EMPLOYEE RICHARD J GUZIAK \$15.00 PER HOUR. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES": MS.ZALESKI MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

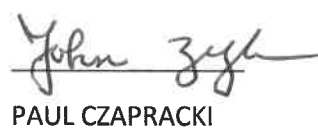
MR.ROKE THANKED JASON KOWALSKI FOR THE TIME THAT HE SERVED THE TOWNSHIP AS FIRE CHIEF AND WISHED JAMES HOFFMAN GOOD LUCK IN HIS NEW POSITION.

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, MR. CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:40 PM.


JOSEPH C HILLAN

TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

 vic. chairman
PAUL CZAPRACKI

PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

