

# MINUTES

## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2024

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** MR.SCOTT JASKULSKI COMMENTED ABOUT PARKING, ZONING AND DISPLAYING BUILDING PERMIT ISSUES IN THE COLLEGE HILL AREA.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BE APPROVED. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT 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 FEBRUARY 29, 2024 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$99,773.23
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$775,670.49
CAPITAL PURCHASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$37,155.71
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$21,295.71
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$63,892.83
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$155,982.98

LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$6,327.93
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024</b>		<b>\$1,165,036.26</b>

MR ROKE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. MR.VISHNEFSKI 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 FEBRUARY 2024:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY TOTALING \$116,099.84.MR.ZYLA 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, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN MARCH 2024:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN MARCH TOTALING \$71,767.08. 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, 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 MR.VISHNEFSKI

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

ATTORNEY ROCKMAN HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:**

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE INCOME YEAR TO DATE IS \$271,903.79 AND EXPENSES WERE \$309,512.13.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- A. 834 REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AS OF MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> .

- B. BLIGHT REMEDIATION UPDATE: 28 LINE STREET IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DEMOLISHED. SRI STATED THAT THE PROJECT SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY LAND BANK IS WAITING FOR THE QUIET TITLES FOR THE PROPERTIES AT 48 NEWPORT STREET, 5 ARCH STREET AND 69-71 WEST MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON. THE LAND BANK IS DOING EVERYTHING AS FAST AS THE LEGAL SYTEM ALLOWS ADDRESSING ISSUES AT THESE PROPERTIES.
- C. NANTICOKE/WEST, NANTICOKE BRIDGE UPDATE: THERE IS A PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THIS THURSDAY MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> AT NANTICOKE CITY HALL FROM 5 PM UNTIL 7PM. A FULL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IS THE ONLY WAY TO OPEN ACCESS TO HUNDREDS OF ACRES OF LAND IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP TO COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS HAS BEEN THE TOP PRIORITY FOR THE COMMISSIONERS AND MYSELF OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS PROJECT FOR THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MR.VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2 OF 2024 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT OF \$1,000,000.00 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR A COMBINED PAVING PROJECT FOR THE PAVING OF TEN STREETS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #3 OF 2024 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP TO SUBMIT A PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF POLICE SIMULATOR TRAINING EQUIPMENT TO HELP PREPARE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR REAL-LIFE INCIDENTS SO THEY AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE CAN REMAIN SAFE. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WILL BE ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH NANTICOKE AND HANOVER POLICE DEPARTMENTS THAT WILL OUTLINE THE PARTNERSHIP IN SHARING THIS EQUIPMENT SHOULD THE GRANT BE AWARDED. APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE ALL CERTIFICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPLICATION. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #4 OF 2024 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE PROTECTION LAW, PA ACT 287 OF 1974, AS AMENDED, PROCLAIMING APRIL 2024 AS "PENNSYLVANIA SAFE DIGGING MONTH". MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE

MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI  
MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE


**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI  
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:20 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN  
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRACKI  
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS