

## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP MINUTES

THE 2022 REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WAS CONVENED ON JANUARY 3, 2022 AT 6:20 P.M., IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING WITH MEMBERS PRESENT AS FOLLOWS: MR. CZAPRACKI, MR. ROKE, MR. ZYLA, MR. VISHNEFSKI

MESSRS. JOHN ZYLA, JOHN VISHNEFSKI PRESENTED THEIR CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION TO TOWNSHIP SECRETARY JOSEPH HILLAN AND WERE ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE BY THE HONORABLE DISTRICT JUDGE DONALD WHITTAKER CONSTABLE NORMAN BODEK ALSO PRESENTED HIS CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION AND WAS 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. ROKE MOVED THAT MR. CZAPRACKI BE NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES": MESSRS. ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, VISHNEFSKI "NAYS" NONE

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

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

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

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 THAT ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER BE APPOINTED AS SOLICITOR OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2022. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MR ZYLA MOVED THAT JEREMY BLANK BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF POLICE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2022. MR ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES", MESSRS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE.

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT FNCB AND PLGIT BE APPROVED AS THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR 2022. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES; MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT PENNEASTERN ENGINEERS BE APPOINTED AS THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEERS FOR THE YEAR 2022. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES". MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. CZAPRACKI THEN ADJOURNED THE REORGANIZATION MEETING AND CALLED THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ORDER WHICH STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN BY MR. HILLAN, MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: WERE, MESSRS, VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE ATTORNEY JEFF ROCKMAN AND TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN, MS DEBORAH ZALSKI WAS ABSENT DUE TO AN ILLNESS

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

MS CHARLOTTE EXPRESSED HER OPPOSITION TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED NACERO PROJECT IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

MR. CZAPRACKI THEN READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED NACERO PROJECT:

**STATEMENT ON NACERO PROJECT**

THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE HONORED TO WELCOME NACERO – A TRANSFORMATIVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY TO OUR COMMUNITY. IN OCTOBER, AFTER YEARS OF DUE DILIGENCE, NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AND NANTICOKE CITY WERE SELECTED AS THE SITE OF A \$6 BILLION NACERO FACILITY THAT WILL EMPLOY MORE THAN 3,500 BUILDING TRADE WORKERS AND 450 FULL-TIME OPERATIONAL WORKERS.

THE NACERO FACILITY WILL BE LOCATED ON NEARLY 3,000 ACRES OF MINE SCARRED LANDS THAT HAVE LONG BEEN A SOURCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FOR NEWPORT TOWNSHIP – CONCERNS WITH ACID MINE DRAINAGE AND THE DUMPING OF ILLEGAL WASTE ON LANDS THAT ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO POLICE. NACERO IS COMMITTED TO RECLAIMING THE SCARRED LANDSCAPE AND BEING A STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER WITH NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

AS WE CONTINUE OUR HISTORIC WORK WITH THE EARTH CONSERVANCY TO RECLAIM ABANDON MINE LANDS AND PRESERVE PRISTINE FOREST LANDS IN THE PINCHOT STATE FOREST.

THE NACERO FACILITY WILL CREATE NEARLY 4,000 NEW JOBS IN LUZERNE COUNTY, A WELCOMED BOOST TO NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AS WE CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE THROUGH THE ECONOMIC LOSS OF OUR LARGEST EMPLOYER – SCI RETREAT THAT EMPLOYED 400 STATE WORKERS.

UNDERSTANDING A PROJECT OF THIS SIGNIFICANCE AND MAGNITUDE WILL HAVE TO NAVIGATE MANY REGULATORY HURDLES AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS ARE COMMITTED TO KEEPING RESIDENTS INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NACERO PROJECT THROUGH OUR TOWNSHIP MEETINGS AND OTHER PUBLIC FORUMS. IN THE INTERIM, NACERO HAS ESTABLISHED AN INFORMATIVE WEBSITE THAT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMPANY AND ITS INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING PROCESS. WE ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO VISIT THE WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://NACERO.CO.COM](https://nacero.co.com) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT.

AS NACERO PROCEEDS THROUGH A LENGTHY PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS WILL BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE PROCESS TO ENSURE THE PROJECT MEETS EVERY ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED BY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS. HOWEVER, IT IS PREMATURE, AT-THIS-TIME, TO WEIGH-IN ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT PROCESS THAT HAS YET TO BEGIN.

THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS ARE EXCITED OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE SITE OF WHAT WILL BE THE LARGEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE HISTORY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA. WE RECOGNIZE A PROJECT OF THIS SIZE AND SCOPE GENERATES A LOT OF QUESTIONS AND COMMUNITY INTEREST. AS COMMISSIONERS, WE WILL WORK WITH NACERO AND THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC HAS ACCESS TO ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE NACERO FACILITY IN LUZERNE COUNTY.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FROM DECEMBER 6, 2021 BE APPROVED. MR ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES": MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

**REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE:**

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$375,224.19
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$ 145,623.10
CONTINGENCY FUND	(FNCB)	\$250,069.18
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$ 593.35
RECYCLING FUND	(FNCB)	\$14,421.19
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$47,220.06
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$57,425.91
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$8,906.56
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$21,930.70
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$926,350.26</b>

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

**APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS**

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST OF RECURING BILLS TOTALING \$429,103.11 PAID DURING DECEMBER BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES". MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

**APPROVAL OF NONRECURRING BILLS**

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED THAT THE LIST OF NON REOCCURRING BILLS TOTALING \$20,113.90 PRESENTED TO THE BOARD BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES". MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

STREET DEPARTMENT - MR CZAPRACKI

POLICE REPORT - MR ZYLA

CODE ENFORCEMENT – MR. HILLAN

FIRE DEPARTMENT – MR ROKE

PARKS & RECREATION - MR VISHNEFSKI

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

SOLICITOR, JEFF ROCKMAN, HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:**

MR HILLAN GAVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MS JENNIFER POLITO. THE TOTAL INCOME FOR 2021 WAS \$2,017,223.82 AND THE TOTAL EXPENSES WERE \$1,455,506.15

**TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT:**

A. ON DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO THE 2021 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$593,000.00 FOR A NEW PIERCE FIRE ENGINE

B. DEMOLITION UPDATES: ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR 36-38 AND 40 ROCK STREET AND 260-261 MINER AVE WERE PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES LEADER ON DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> & DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>. BIDS WILL BE OPEN AT 2: 00PM ON JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT 2: 15 PM

C.GLEN LYON SIDEWALK UPDATE: PROJECT WILL GO OUT FOR BID IN FEBRUARY

D.DOLLAR GENERAL UPDATE: THE PROJECT IS ON SCHEDULE TO BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF JANUARY

E.THE 2022 REFUSE AND RECYCLING BILLS HAVE BEEN MAILED. THE FEE FOR 2022 IS \$235.00 PER UNIT IF PAID BEFORE JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING OR BY MAIL.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MR. ZYLA MOVED MR. VISHNEFSKI TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$10,779.75 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$10,435.50 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER COST FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2021 MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES". MESSRS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO ACCEPT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM JASON POREMBA FROM HIS POSITION AS A PART TIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31,2021. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES". MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

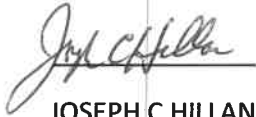
MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #1 OF 2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT REJECTING THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSIONS ADPOTED PRELIMINARY PLAN REGARDING THE SENATORIAL DISTRICTS IN NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES". MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

**ADJOURNMENT:**

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MR. CZAPRACKI  
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:52 PM.



JOSEPH C HILLAN

TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRACKI

PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS