

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023

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. MICHAEL ROKE, AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY JOHN SOLT. MS. DEBORAH ZALESKI WAS ABSENT DUE TO AN ILLNESS

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MRS. TINA WRUBLE INQUIRED IF THE BOARD HAD ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE VACANT PROPERTY AT 54 SPRUCE STREET IN ALDEN

KRISSY BLANK COMMENTED ON THE CONDITION OF THE FRONT OF THE PROPERTY AT 77 EAST MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON AND ABOUT THE CAT RESCUE IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD.

ALINA TESMER VOLUNTERED TO NOTIFY CODE ENFORCMENT OF PROPERTIES THAT HAVE AN ACCUMULATION OF JUNK AND GARBAGE

PALMIRA MILLER THANKED THE BOARD FOR THE USE OF THE DPW GARAGE FOR THE MONTHLY CEO FOOD DISTRIBUTION. FEBRUARY 11TH IS THE NEXT SCHEDULED DISTRIBUTION DATE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BE APPROVED. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$289,898.54
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$843,413.58
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$586.51
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$153,731.52
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$32,787.81
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$16,614.51
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$26,809.78
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JANUARY 31, 2023		\$1,381,997.38

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

APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JANUARY 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY TOTALING \$291,848.89. 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. MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY TOTALING \$81,281.36. 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" . MESSERS, ZYLA, ROKE, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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| a. STREET DEPARTMENT | MR CZAPRACK |
| b. POLICE DEPARTMENT | MR ZYLA |
| c. CODE ENFORCEMENT` | MR.HILLAN |
| d. FIRE DEPARTMENT | MR ROKE |
| e. PARKS & RECREATION | MR.VISHNEFSKI |

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SOLT HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

MR.HILLAN REPORTED THAT THE INCOME FOR JANUARY WAS \$282,643.14 AND EXPENSES WERE \$257,345.94.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. ON TUESDAY JANUARY 17TH JOHN MAZUR FROM THE LIQUID FUELS FUND RECONCILED THE TOWNSHIP'S MS-965 REPORT FOR 2022. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WILL BE RECEIVING THEIR 2023 LIQUID FUELS FUNDS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH.
- B. ON MONDAY JANUARY 30TH , EDWARD KARDISCO FROM THE AUDITOR GENERALS OFFICE COMPLETED AN AUDIT OF THE TOWNSHIP'S THREE PENSION PLANS. THEY WERE NO FINDINGS IN THE FIRE AND NON-UNIFORM PLANS. THERE WERE TWO FINDINGS DISCOVERD IN THE POLICE PENSION PLAN. 1) AFTER THE THIRD FULL TIME OFFICER WAS HIRED IN 2019 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ACT 600 SHOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED. 2) A MINOR MISCALCULATION AND CERTIFICATION OF WAGES FOR FORMER OFFICER BLAKE BROWN. THESE FINDINGDS WILL BE ADDRESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- C. DEMOLITION UPDATE: WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED ON REAR 61 COAL STREET. THE NEXT TWO PROPERTIES THAT WILL BE GOING OUT FOR BID WILL BE 77 RIDGE STREET AND 101 NEWPORT STREET. ON JANUARY 12TH THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR FILED A COMPLAINT IN THE LUZERNE COUNTY COURT AGAINST THE OWNER OF 69-71 WEST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON TO HAVE THE PROPERTY DEMOLISHED.
- D. ON DECEMBER 21ST A MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN PENNEASTERN ENGINEERS, PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER, AND NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CONCERNING PROPOSED NEW WATERLINE INSTALLATIONS IN THE GLEN LYON AREA. NEWPORT STREET FROM PARK TO MAPLE IS SCHEDULED FOR 2023. WEST ENTERPRISE, RAILROAD STREET FROM STRALKA LANE TO WEST MAIN, APPLE, MAPLE, CHESTNUT AND ORCHARD ARE SCHEDULED FOR 2024 WITH A POSSIBILITY OF LATE 2023.
- E. VERIZON CELL TOWER UPDATES: CONSTRUCTION ON THE WANAMIE TOWER IS SET TO BEGIN IN MARCH. THE GLEN LYON TOWER IS SCHEDULED FOR A HEARING BEFORE THE LUZERNE COUNTY ZONING BOARD ON MARCH 7TH.
- F. ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8TH AND THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9TH, STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALEC RYNCAVAGE WILL HOLD COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAYS AT OUR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 AM AND 3:00 PM IN THE JOHN ZYLA COMMUNITY ROOM TO ASSIST RESIDENTS WITH RENT OR TAX REBATE FORMS AND TO HELP WITH ANY OTHER CONCERNS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE .
- G. WE WILL BE ADVERTISING FOR BIDS IN FEBRUARY FOR THE PAVING OF VANDERMARK ROAD AND NEWPORT STREET. BIDS WILL BE OPENED ON MARCH 3RD AND AWARDED AT THE MARCH 6TH COMMISSIONERS MEETING.
- H. CABLE TV UPDATE: COMMCAST PLANS TO START INSTALLATION FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER. BREEZELINE'S FRANCHISE ORDINANCE WILL BE ADVERTISED IN FEBRUARY AND VOTED ON AT THE MARCH COMMISSIONERS MEETING.

I. AS OF JANUARY 31ST 550, REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN SOLD.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #1 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS TERM OF EXISTENCE FOR TWO YEARS. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

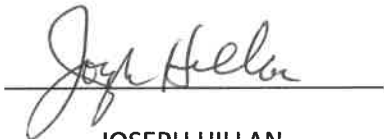
MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO APPLY FOR A 2023 SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYLCING GRANT FROM THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO BE USED FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EARTH CONSERVANCY LEAF AND YARD WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. MESSERS., ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:


MR. CZAPRACKI COMMENTED ON HOW RESIDENTS AND OUR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN REPORTING VARIOUS CODE VIOLATIONS TO THE OFFICE SO THAT THEY CAN BE ADDRESSED.

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:25 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS