

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP MINUTES

THE 2020 REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WAS CONVENED ON JANUARY 6, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING WITH MEMBERS PRESENT AS FOLLOWS: MS. ZALESKI, MR. CZAPRACKI, MR. ROKE, MR. ZYLA, MR. VISHNEFSKI

MS. DEBORAH ZALESKI AND MESSRS. PAUL CZAPRACKI AND MICHAEL ROKE PRESENTED THEIR CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION TO TOWNSHIP SECRETARY JOSEPH HILLAN AND THEN 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. "NAYS" MR. VISHNEFSKI

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED THAT MS. ZALESKI BE NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. MS ZALESKI DECLINED THE NOMINATION.

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": MS. ZALESKI, 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. ZALESKI, MESSRS: VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. CZAPRACKI MOVED THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED 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, 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 2020. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE

MR ZYLA MOVED THAT JEREMY BLANK BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF POLICE OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2020. MR VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSRS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS": NONE.

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED THAT MR. JOHN ELMY AND MR. JOHN WILKES BE APPOINTED AS ADVISERS TO THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSRS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED THAT FNCB AND PLGIT BE APPROVED AS THE FINANCIAL INSTITUIONS FOR NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR 2020. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES; "AYES": MS. ZALESKI MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYES" NONE

MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT PENNEASTERN ENGINEERS BE APPOINTED AS THE TOWNSHP ENGINEERS FOR THE YEAR 2020. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. CZAPRACKI THEN ADJOURNED THE REORGANIZATION MEETING AND CALLED THE REGULAR MONTHLY JANUARY 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, ALL MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE: MS. ZALESKI, MESSRS, VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS WERE GIVEN TO NORMAN BODEK FOR HIS 37 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TO MICHAEL DZIAK FOR HIS DEDICATION TO NEWPORT TOWNSHIP THRU OUT HIS TWENTY-SIX YEARS AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF EARTH CONSERVANCY

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

- A. HEIDI JARECKI COMMENTED ON THE FEASABILTY STUDY THAT IS BEING DONE ON THE ATV PARK SHE WOULD LIKE THAT THE RECREATION BOARD BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PROJECT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MS. ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISIONERS FROM DECEMBER 17 BE APPROVED .MR ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NYE VOTES. "AYES": MS. ZALESKI. MESSRS VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$68,550.54
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$ 219,599.01
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$ 2,262.33
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$14,314.63
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$596.42
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$43,758.91
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$12,065.00
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$6,754.56
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$27,333.57
POLICE HOLDING FUND	(FNCB)	<u> \$0</u>

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF DECEMBER 31 2019 \$395,234.97

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

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS

MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST OF RECURRING BILLS TOTALLING \$83,189.56 PAID DURING DECEMBER BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS": NONE

APPROVAL OF NONRECURRING BILLS

MS. ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE LIST OF NON REOCCURRING BILLS TOTALLING \$9,612.59 PRESENTED TO THE BOARD BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, 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

UPON COMPLETION OF THE FIRE REPORT MR.ROKE EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING DUE TO A WORK RELATED COMMITMENT

SOLICITORS REPORT

SOLICITOR, CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER, HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT:

1

A. THE MS-965 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT WAS COMPLETED TODAY JANUARY 6, 2020 AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL.

B. THE TOWNSHIP RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM A CITIZEN IN RUSSIA INQUIRING ABOUT OLEG MELINKOV A RESIDENT OF ENGLE STREET WHO PASSED AWAY LAST JANUARY. I PROVIDED HIM WITH CONTACT INFORMATION AT THE LUZERNE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE AND WITH THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE HOPEFULLY THIS WILL RESOLVE THE ISSUES WITH THE PROPERTY SINCE MR MELINKOV DID NOT HAVE ANY SURVING RELATIVES

C. DEMOLITION UPDATES:

1246 CENTER STREET (SUSAN HEINZ PROPERTY) WE ARE ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR DEMOLITION WHICH WILL BE OPEN ON JANUARY 24, 2020

D. 125-133 EAST MAIN STREET (CHARLIE HAYES PROPERTY) I AM MEETING WITH OUR ATTORNEY AND MR HAYES ON JANUARY 8 TO SIGN THE DEED TO THE PROPERTY, THE \$60,000.00 GRANT FOR DEMOLITION OF THE PROPERTY SHOULD BE DEPOSITED IN OUR ACCOUNT BY JANUARY 30

E. 161-162 BROWN ROW (FORMER LINDA GREY PROPERTY) STILL WAITING FOR THE DEED.

F. RAILROAD ST DRAINAGE PROJECT IS PROGRESSING, WORK SHOULD BE DONE WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH, PAVING WILL BE DONE IN THE SPRING

G. STARTING ON JANUARY 23 AND CONTINUING ONCE A MONTH EMPLOYEES FROM EACH DEPARTMENT WILL PARTICIPATE IN A SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

H. AS OF 12:00 THIS AFTERNOON 115 - 2020 REFUSE AND RECYCLING STICKERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT OF \$10,683.75 AND \$10,000.00 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES. "AYES" MS, ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR. ZYLA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A 3% WAGE INCREASE FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES; "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, WYOMING VALLEY LODGE NO. 36 AND HIRE TWO FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS AT A STARTING SALARY OF \$45,760.00. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

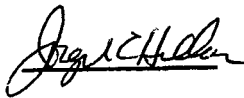
MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE NANTICOKE AREA LITTLE LEAGUE TO UTILIZE THE COMMUNITY ROOM FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SIGNUPS ON THE FOLLOWING DATES JANUARY 25TH AND 26TH, FEBRUARY 1ST, 2ND, 8TH, 9TH FROM THE HOUR OF 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSRS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS" NONE.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

MR. ZYLA COMMENTED ON THE GREAT WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALL THE DEPARTMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP AND ABOUT THE GREAT PROFESSIONALISM SHOWN BY THE SLUSSER LAW FIRM

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



PAUL CZAPRACKI

PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS