

DRAFT

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 3, 2021

VICE –PRESIDENT JOHN ZYLA, 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 AND MR JOHN VISHNEFSKI ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER, FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO, MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI WAS ABSENT DUE TO AN ILLNESS.

CITIZENS RECOGNITION: THE FOLLOWING CITIZENS WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: JOSHUA BUKOFSKI, DAVID HOFFMAN, AND NICHOLAS KOWALSKI WERE HONORED FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS AT THE FIRE ON NORTH MARKET STREET IN GLEN LYON ON MARCH 18. JOHN ELMY, MURPH FLETCHER, RICHARD STEWART, IRENE BEZDZIECKI, DORRIS DAVIES, THOMAS KASHATUS, PALMYRA MILLER, PATRICIA YUDICHAK AND THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB WERE HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MS. KERRI HIGGINS COMMENTED ON THE PROPERTY AT 1115 WALNUT ST IN ALDEN. SHE NOTED THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS THAT SHE HAS WITH THE PROPERTY: 1) ILLEGAL STORAGE CONTAINER (NOW REMOVED) 2) PROPER PERMITS (ZONING & BUILDING) 3) SNOW REMOVAL 4) ALCOHOL USAGES 5) PUBLIC URINATION 6) WATER RUNOFF 7) LOGS, GRASS CLIPPINGS, DEBRIS 8) SPRAY PAINT ON HER CAMPER. THE BOARD INFORMED MS. HIGGINS THAT THE PROPERTY WOULD BE INSPECTED AND IF THERE WERE ANY VIOLATIONS OF ORDINANCE NO.3 OF 2018 THE PROPERTY OWNER WOULD BE CITED ACCORDINGLY.

JAMES RIECHERS SIGNED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD. HE STATED THAT HE HAD THE SAME CONCERNS AS MS. HIGGINS.

MS. PALMIRA MILLER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE CEO FOOD DRIVE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY MAY 8TH AT THE RECREATION PARK IN WANAMIE. MS. MILLER ALSO INFORMED THE BOARD ABOUT THE KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL GRANT PROGRAM THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM APRIL 5TH BE APPROVED. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE

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FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF APRIL 30, 2021 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$553,722.25
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,613.71
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$4,074.30
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$43,286.08
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$116.57
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$220,446.47
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$140,612.32
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$15,531.90
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$10,565.56
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$24,566.05
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF APRIL30TH 2021		\$1,159,026.60

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

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING APRIL2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL TOTALING \$136,277.61. 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. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN MAY 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN MAY TOTALING \$59,859.75. MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

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ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE INCOME FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR WAS \$803,947.69 AND THE EXPENSES WERE \$403,754.65. SHE ALSO REPORTED THAT ALL OF THE MARCH BANK STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN RECONCILED.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. 1,642 REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN SOLD COMPARED TO 1,595 THIS TIME LAST YEAR. 46 RESIDENTS HAVE NOT PAID, CHARGES WILL BE FILED AT THE MAGISTRATE ON MAY 15TH. SO FAR THIS YEAR TO DATE THERE ARE 16 MORE PEOPLE THAT DID NOT PAY THEIR REFUSE FEE.

- B. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: WE ARE IN DISCUSSION WITH PENN DOT CONCERNING CURB AND PARKING ISSUES

- C. THE DOLLAR GENERAL PROJECT IS STILL MOVING FORWARD. THERE IS A HEARING SCHEDULED WITH THE LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ON MAY 13TH AT 2:00 PM IN THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM.

- D. THE KIRKLAND M SMITH APARTMENTS PROJECT IS UNDERWAY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE, TWO AND THREE BEDROOM CONDOS. ALSO THERE ARE THREE NEW HOMES BEING DEVELOPED IN THE WHITNEY DEVELOPMENT (RIDGEVIEW SECTION) WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIXTEEN MORE HOMES PENDING THE APPROVAL OF THE NPDES PERMIT FROM DEP.

- E. DEMOLITION UPDATE: 116-118 WEST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON: 116 WEST MAIN THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY IS STILL WAITING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE FROM THE LUZERNE COUNTY REPOSITORY SALE. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO CONTACT THE OWNER OF 118 WEST MAIN STREET.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. MR. ROKE MOVED TO PASS RESOLUTION NO.4 OF 2021 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, LUZERNE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A FIVE YEAR LEASE TO PURCHASE WITH REAL LEASE LLC A 2021 POLICE INTERCEPTOR FORD EXPLORER, COMPUTER HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND CAMERA BASED UPON COSTARS PRICING. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

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B. MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE A WATER LINE LATERAL EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT AND NANTICOKE (3004) DPP, LLC MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE. "NAYS" NONE

C. MR. ROKE MOVED TO REMOVE PAUL MIERZWA FROM THE POSITION OF CHIEF ENGINEER WITH THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT AND APPOINT FIRE CHIEF JASON KOWALSKI AS CHIEF ENGINEER WITH THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

D. MR. ROKE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION OF ANGEL BRAZDZIONIS FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 12TH 2021. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE. "NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR ZYLA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:10 PM

JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

JOHN ZYLA
VICE- PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS