

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 5, 2021

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 JOHN VISHNEFSKI AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER, FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO,

- A. MR. ROKE MOVED TO ACCEPT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM MARK BONCAL AS FIRE CHIEF OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP EFFECTIVE APRIL 2, 2021. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE
- B. MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPOINT JASON KOWALSKI FIRE CHIEF OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP EFFECTIVE APRIL 3 2021. 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
- C. MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPOINT JAMES F HOFFMAN AS DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MS. PALMIRA MILLER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE CEO FOOD DRIVE WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK. MS. MILLER ALSO INFORMED THE BOARD ABOUT THE PICK UP PA PROGRAM THAT IS CONTINUING THROUGH APRIL 30TH.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE LERTA HEARING AND THE REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM MARCH 1ST BE APPROVED. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE

MOTION AND IT WAS 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 MARCH 31ST 2021 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$281,746.82
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,612.39
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$4,544.35
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$57,720.00
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$166.96
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$232,106.70
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$160,519.06
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$13,531.77
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$10,565.56
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$19,697.71
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF MARCH 31ST, 2021		\$926,211.32

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, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING MARCH 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH TOTALING \$123,969.16. MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA 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 APRIL 2021:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN APRIL TOTALING \$28,487.97. 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, ZYLA, ROKE, 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 SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE TOWNSHIP IS IN SOUND FINANCIAL CONDITION AND THAT 54% OF THE 2021 REAL ESTATE TAX HAS BEEN COLLECTED IN THE DISCOUNT PERIOD.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. 1,600 REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN SOLD COMPARED TO 1,534 THIS TIME LAST YEAR

B. TEXT MY GOV IS UP AND RUNNING. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INFORMING RESIDENTS OF THIS NEW PROGRAM. DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB-SITE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.ORG

C. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: PENN EASTERN ENGINEERS HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH PENNDOT REGARDING THE CURB REVEAL REQUIREMENTS AND A SOLUTION WILL BE AGREED UPON IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PENNDOT IS ALSO REQUIRING THE TOWNSHIP TO OBTAIN PERMITS FOR ALL OF THE SIDE STREETS THAT CONNECT TO MAIN STREET. PENNEASTERN HAS BEGUN THAT PROCESS

D. ANTHONY FRABLE AUDITOR FOR THE STATE LIQUID FUELS FUND CONDUCTED AN AUDIT ON MONDAY MARCH 15TH OF THE TOWNSHIP LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR THE 2019 FISCAL YEAR. THERE WERE NO FINDINGS

E. THE DOLLAR GENERAL PROJECT IS STILL MOVING FORWARD THE ENGINEER IS WORKING WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO RESOLVE A FEW MORE ISSUES BEFORE A HEARING WILL BE HELD TO APPROVE THE PROJECT

F. I HAVE SENT A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 13% RATE INCREASE REQUESTED BY UGI ELECTRIC

G. I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM COUNTY MANAGER DAVID PEDRI STATING THAT LUZERNE COUNTY HAS BEEN ALLOCATED \$2,105,823.86 FOR A STATE FACILITY CLOSURE TRANSITION PROGRAM. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP IS INTENDED TO BE AWARDED \$536,653.66 FOR THE PAVING OF MAIN STREET IN WANAMIE AND NORTHERN AVENUE IN SHEATOWN.

H. WE ARE WAITING FOR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH WHAT AND HOW OUR ALLOCATION FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WILL BE. I DID RECEIVE AN ESTIMATE THAT OUR SHARE WOULD BE \$528,251.63.

I. NORTHPOINT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: THE TOWNSHIP HAS SENT A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE LUZERNE COUNTY ZONING HEARING BOARD WHO WILL CONDUCT A HEARING TOMORROW NIGHT AT 7:00PM CONCERNING THE REQUESTED VARIANCES FOR THE PROJECT.

THE BID SPECS ARE OUT FOR THE BUILDINGS ON THE BLISS (1 & 2 SITE) BID DUE DATE IS APRIL 8TH.

J. WE RECEIVED THANK YOU NOTES FROM THE WILKES AND TILLETSKI FAMILIES FOR HONORING THEIR MOTHERS WHO RECENTLY CELEBRATED MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS. MRS. WILKES RECENTLY CELEBRATED HER 105TH BIRTHDAY AND MRS TILLETSKI RECENTLY CELEBRATED HER 104TH BIRTHDAY.

K. AT OUR MAY 3RD MEETING WE ARE GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB FOR THEIR RECENT MONETERY DONATIONS TO THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP DPW, FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE POLICE AND PARKS AND RECREATION.

L. 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. 118 WEST MAIN WE ARE STILL TRYING TO CONTACT THE OWNER.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.3 OF 2021 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA NAMING THREE ROADWAYS LOCATED IN THE GLEN LYON SECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP. 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

B. MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE A DEED OF DEDICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING STREETS IN THE WHITNEY POINT DEVELOPMENT LOCATED IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, SCENIC VIEW ROAD, SUNSET VIEW DRIVE, AND THE EXTENSION OF VISTA DRIVE CONTINGENT ON AN AGREEMENT WITH HUD INC TO BUILD THE TWO CUL-DE-SAC'S AS SHOWN ON THE APPROVED SUB DIVISION PLANS. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

C. MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$6,779.75 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$14,435.50 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021. 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

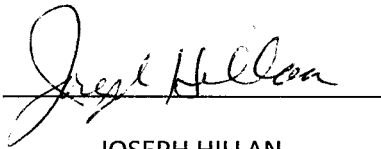
D. MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS PENNSYLVANIA 811 SAFE DIGGING MONTH. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI." NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:


MR. ZYLA COMMENTED THAT AT THE MAY 3RD MEETING THE COMMISSIONERS ARE GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB AND OTHERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:32 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

VICE CHR. 

PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

