

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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.

FOLLOWING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, TWO DIFFERENT BADGES THAT WERE PURCHASED FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BY THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CRIME WATCH AND THE R BAR & GRILL WERE PRESENTED TO CHIEF OF POLICE JEREMY BLANK. NAT NOONE PINNED THE BLUE BADGE FOR AUTISM AWARENESS AND COMMISSIONER DEBORAH ZALESKI PINNED THE PINK BADGE FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS ON CHIEF BLANK.

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE: MR. JOHN ZYLA, MR JOHN VISHNEFSKI, MR. MICHAEL ROKE AND MS. DEBORAH FORGACH -ZALESKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRIS SLUSSER, AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO. MR.PAUL CZAPRACKI WAS ABSENT.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

ASHLEE RITENHOUSE EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AT 54 SPRUCE STREET IN ALDEN.

THOMAS KASHATUS PRESENTED A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING AN OBSCENE FLAG DISPLAYED ON WEST MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON.

HELEN WYLIE EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE REFUSE FEE. SHE REQUESTED THAT THE BOARD OFFER PAYMENT PLANS.

THERESA JOHNSON PRESENTED THE BOARD WITH PICTURES OF HER NEIGHBORS YARD AT 133 WEST MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON, WHICH IS OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS.

MS. PALMIRA MILLER INFORMED THE BOARD THAT THE MONTHLY CEO FOOD DISTRIBUTION WILL BE ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH AT THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RECREATION PARK BEGINNING AT 11:00AM. RESIDENTS MUST BE REGISTERD IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FOOD FROM THE CEO.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MS.ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM OCTOBER 3RD BE APPROVED. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE, "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2022 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$597,476.66
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$1,034,891.70
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$14,604.57
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$74,121.72
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$51,871.56
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$16,473.38
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$39,668.37
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF OCT 31, 2022		\$1,834,042.64

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 AND ZYLA "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING OCTOBER 2022:

- MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER TOTALING \$152,770.78. MR. ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE AND ZYLA "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER 2022:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER TOTALING \$112,239.44. MR.ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ROKE AND ZYLA. "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: ATTORNEY SLUSSER COMMENTED ON THE DECISION OF THE BOARD TO REBID THE REFUSE CONTRACT AND HOW THE COST SAVINGS WILL BENEFIT THE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT: JENNIFER POLITO PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH THE TEN-MONTH REVENUES \$4,084,624.88. AND EXPENSES \$3,406,822.36. MS.POLITO ALSO STATED THAT EACH DEPARTMENT HEAD SHOULD CLOSELY MONITOR THEIR BUDGETS TO SEE THAT THAT THEY ARE STAYING WITHIN THEIR YEARLY REVENUES.

TOWNSHIP PRESENTATION: MANAGER’S REPORT:

A. 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION: GENERAL FUND BUDGET THE 2023 TAX RATE 3.7500 MILLS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES REMAINS THE SAME AS 2022,THE 2023 TAX RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS 2022 .40. THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ONLINE ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AND AT THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING UNTIL DECEMBER 5, 2022.

B. DEMOLITION UPDATES: THE DEMOLITION OF GROUP #5 STARTED ON OCTOBER 7TH AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE THREEE TO FOUR WEEKS TO COMPLETE. THE BLIGHT REMEDIATION COMMITTEE IS PREPARING GROUP #6 TO BE ADVERTISED FOR BIDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

C. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: WORK WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE WEATHER PERMITS.

D. CELL TOWER UPDATE: LUZERNE COUNTY WILL APPROVE THE SUBDIVISION PLANS NEXT WEEK AND BUILDING PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL.

E. REFUSE BIDS WERE OPENED ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3RD AT 3:00PM THIS WILL BE ADDRESSED UNDER NEW BUSINESS.

F. ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 25 MR ZYLA, MS.ZALESKI, AND I ATTEND THE LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION IN REGARDS TO SECURING THE FUNDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE NANTICOKE/WEST NANTICOKE BRIDGE. PUBLIC SAFETY AND FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE KEY FACTORS FOR THIS PROJECT.

G. ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3RD MR.ZYLA AND I ATTENDED THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LUZERNE COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN REGARDS TO THE CLOSING ON THE LOAN FOR THE LUZERNE COUNTY PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD AND HOPEFULLY THE BRIDGE PROJECT WILL BECOME A REALITY.

H.DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE ADVERTISING A NEW CABLE TV FRANCHISE ORDINANCE. THIS WILL GIVE RESIDENTS A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO CABLE/INTERNET PROVIDERS BREEZELINE AND COMMCAS.T.FINAL APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DECEMBER COMMISSIONERS MEETING.

I. THE PAVING OF THE ROBERT STREET ALLEY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED THIS WEEK. THE PAVING OF THE BASKETBALL COURTS AND TENNIS COURTS IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT WEEK. THE ACRYLIC SURFACE WILL BE APPLIED IN THE SPRING.

J. THE TOWNSHIP WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TO THE TOWNSHIP POLICE AND DPW. A PICTURE WILL BE TAKEN WITH THE GROUP IN THE FUTURE WITH THE TOOLS THAT WERE PURCHASED.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO APPROVE AN 8.7% COLA INCREASE FOR 2023 FOR NORMAN BODEK FROM THE FIREMANS PENSION PLAN REQUESTED BY NORMAN BODEK AND AUTHORIZED BY THE PLANS ACTUARY FOSTER & FOSTER. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, AND ROKE, "NAYS" NONE

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR TO FILE SUIT IN THE LUZERNE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES: 80 WEST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON, 69-71 WEST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON, AND 48 WEST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON.

MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT (OPTION B FROM THE RFP) WITH ANTRACITE WASTE TO COLLECT THE REFUSE IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, AND ROKE, "NAYS" NONE.

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO HIRE ANDREW HASHAGEN AS A PARTIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER AT THE RATE OF \$19.00 PER HOUR. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, AND ROKE, "NAYS" NONE

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #9 OF 2022, A RESOLUTION OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING JOSEPH HILLAN AS A MEMBER TO THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY LAND BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, AND ROKE, "NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

MS. ZALESKI READ A LETTER FROM JESSICA SHOUP OF TALEN ENERGEY COMPLIMENTING ALL OF THE TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS ON THE EXCELENT JOB THAT WAS DONE BY ALL WHO

PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT FEDERALLY OBSERVED DRILL THAT WAS HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

MR.ROKE COMMENTED ON THE BENEFIT OF HAVING THE CHOICE OF TWO CABLE/INTERNET PROVIDERS IN THE TOWNSHIP.

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR ZYLA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:15 PM



Handwritten signature of Joseph Hillan in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



Handwritten signature of John Zyla in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

JOHN ZYLA
VICE PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

