

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 5, 2023

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MS. VICKI FRACE COMMENTED ON THE CONDITIONS OF THE PROPERTIES AT 2 ORCHARD STREET, 19 CHESTNUT STREET AND 48 NEWPORT STREET.

MS. MARIANNE CAPECE COMMENTED ON THE CONDITION OF THE GARAGE AT 135 EAST MAIN STREET SHE ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT OCCUPANCY INSPECTIONS AT 146-148 EAST MAIN STREET, AND ALSO COMMENTED ON THE WATER COMING UP OVER THE CURB ON TO THE TREE LAWN DURING THE RECENT HEAVY RAIN.

MS. HEIDI JARECKI ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IS SELLING COMMERATIVE 250TH ANNIVERSARY TEE SHIRTS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MS. ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM JUNE 5TH. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE 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 JUNE 30, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	FNCB)	\$512,701.74
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$1,249,102.34
CAPITAL PURCHASE ACCT	(PLGIT)	\$35,907.50
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$37,272.86
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$50,857.58
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$165,527.23
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$107,660.72
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$16,926.08

RECREATION USE FUND (FNCB)	\$4,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND	\$35,984.70

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JUNE 30, 2022 \$2,216,875.16

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. MS.ZALESKI 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 JUNE 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE TOTALING \$173,243.91. MS.ZALESKI 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, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JULY 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JULY TOTALING \$137,988.96. 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, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| 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 IS REPORT:

ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

MS. JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE TOWNSHIP INCOME YEAR TO DATE IS \$2,032,458.35 AND THE EXPENSES ARE \$1,366,432.65. MS.POLITO ALSO REPORTED THAT THE AUDITOR HAS COMPLETED THE 2022 AUDIT AND A REPORT IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

TOWNSHIP MANAGER’S REPORT:

- A. SIXTY CERTIFIED LETTERS WERE MAILED ON FRIDAY JUNE 16TH TO RESIDENTS WHO DID NOT PAY THE 2023 REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEE. IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY JULY 5TH, CITATIONS WILL BE FILED AT MAGISTRATE WHITTAKERS.
- B. PAVING UPDATE: WORK IS COMPLETED ON VANDERMARK ROAD AND NEWPORT STREET AND ALSO THE TWO ALLEY'S ALONG SIDE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE APPROVAL FROM THE COUNTY ON THE LIST OF ROADS THAT WAS SUBMITTED FOR THE REMAINING GRANT FUNDS.
- C. CELL TOWER UPDATES: WORK IS CONTINUING ON THE WANAMIE TOWER AS THE EQUIPMENT IS ARRIVING. START UP DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY AUGUST. VERIZON HAS OBTAINED THE BUILDING PERMIT FOR THE GLEN LYON TOWER AND CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MID JULY.
- D. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE; WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THERE WILL BE A FINAL WALK THRU INSPECTION AND ALL REPAIRS WILL BE MADE BEFORE THE CONTRACTOR LEAVES THE JOB SITE.
- E. THE PAPER SHREDDING THAT WAS HELD ON SATURDAY JUNE 17 WAS A SUCCESS, OVER 450 LBS OF PAPER WAS SHREDDED. THE NEXT PAPER SHREDDING WILL BE OCTOBER 21 FROM 9 AM UNTIL NOON. THE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING WHICH WAS HELD ON SATURDAY JULY 1 WAS ALSO A SUCCESS. WE WILL BE HOLDING ANOTHER ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT IN 2024.
- F. PENN EASTERN HAS PREPARED COST ESTIMATES FOR THE REBUILDING OF JAMES AND MARK STREETS AS WELL AS THE REPAVING OF VISTA, AND OVERLOOK DRIVE IN RIDGEVIEW TO SUBMIT FOR A DCED MULTI MODEL GRANT . THIS GRANT REQUIRES A 30% MATCH. THE TOTAL COST OF THIS PROJECT WILL BE \$1,095,255.70. THE TOWNSHIP MATCH WILL BE \$328,576.71.
- G. WE WILL BE SUBMITTING OUR 2024 APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING. DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 8TH.
- H. COMCAST IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN INSTALLATION OF THE UNDERGROUND CABLE IN THE RIDGVIEW SECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP THIS WEEK. WORK WILL BEGIN IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP ONCE UGI ISSUES THE PROPER PERMITS.

NEW BUSINESS:

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$7,848.75 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$14,687.25 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2022. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #7 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN, TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT MONEY FOR \$255,540.00 FOR CULVERT REPAIRS AND STORM DRAIN REPAIRS UNDER THE FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES", MS.ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #8 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT FOR GRANT MONEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$766,678.99 FOR THE PAVING OF JAMES AND MARK STREET, VISTA DRIVE AND OVERLOOK DRIVE UNDER THE DCED MULTI MODEL TRANSPORTATION FUND MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS.ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO AWARD THE ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK IMPROVEMENTS TO PENN EASTERN ENGINEERS UPON THE APPROVAL OF SOLICITOR CHRIS SLUSSER. FUND MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN HANOVER TOWNSHIP, NANTICOKE CITY AND NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FOR JOINTLY FUNDING AN ACT 537 PLAN UPDATING PROJECT THAT IS FUNDED BY ARPA FUNDS FROM LUZERNE COUNTY. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES", MS.ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "NAYS" NONE

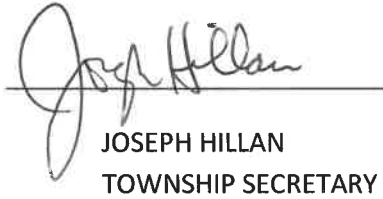
MR.ROKE MOVED TO HIRE HAILSTONE ECONOMIC TO ASSIST WITH THE MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING OF THE ARPA FUNDS AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROCESS FOR THE UPDATING OF THE ACT 537 PLAN FOR THE SEWER CONVEYANCE SYSTEMS FOR NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, HANOVER TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF NANTICOKE. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES", MS.ZALESKI MESSERS.VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, "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 6:33 PM


JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY


JOHN ZYLA
VICE- PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

