

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF MAY 6, 2019

PRESIDENT, PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00pm AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT: MR CZAPRACKI, MR ZYLA, MR VISHNEFSKI, MR ROKE, AND MS ZALESKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE SOLOICITOR REPRESENTATIVE, JOHN SOLT, TOWNSHIP MANAGER, PETER WANCHISEN, AND FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT ANALYST, JENNIFER POLITO.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

1. JUDY PAZGAN, VANDERMARK ROAD, WANAMIE PROVIDED AN UPBEAT REPORT ON THE RECENT SPRING FLING FAMILY FUN DAY HELD IN THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK. THE SUCCESSFUL EVENT WAS ENJOYED BY APPROXIMATELY 600 RESIDENTS AND NETTED MORE THAN \$2,700. PLANNING HAS ALREADY BEGUN FOR NEXT YEAR'S SPRING FLING, AND LESSONS LEARNED WILL BE INCORPORATED.
2. TONY MOLSKI, GLEN LYON, ALERTED THE COMMISSIONERS OF A PROBLEM HE HAS OBSERVED REGARDING PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. HE HAS SEEN INDIVIDUALS WALKING THE STREETS WITH OPEN CONTAINERS DURING ALL HOURS OF THE DAY. COMMISSIONER JOHN ZYLA TOOK NOTE AND WILL ENSURE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MONITORS THE SITUATION.
3. HEIDI JARECKI, GLEN LYON, INFORMED THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SUCCESS SHE HAS EXPERIENCED WITH THE FREE BOOK SHARING STATION SHE INSTALLED ON WEST MAIN STREET. SHE ENCOURAGED THE COMMISSIONERS TO CONSIDER MORE SITES, AND SUGGESTED ONE AT THE ALDEN PLAY GROUND AND ANOTHER ON THE EAST SIDE OF GLEN LYON. THE COMMISSIONERS WERE UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE PLACEMENTS AND ENCOURAGED HEIDI TO SEARCH FOR EVEN MORE PLACEMENTS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WAS MADE BY MR ROKE. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS ZALESKI. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR WANCHISEN PROVIDED A REPORT OF CASH ON HAND AS FOLLOWS:

a.	GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$363,377.92
b.	CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$97,894.32
c.	RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$31,491.10
d.	REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$172,479.94
e.	UDAG FUND	(FNCB)	\$1.79
f.	LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$126,952.18
g.	WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$26,732.00
h.	POLICE HOLDING FUND	(FNCB)	<u>\$815.99</u>
	TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF MAY 3, 2019		\$819,745.24

Note: Cash on Hand same time last year \$792,341.07 (up \$27,404)

MR VISHNEFSKI MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF CASH ON HAND. MR ROKE SECONDED THAT MOTION. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING APRIL, 2019.

MR WANCHISEN PROVIDED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING APRIL, 2019 TOTALLING \$93,074.64. MR ZYLA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENTS. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS ZALESKI. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS DUE TO BE PAID DURING MAY, 2019.

MR WANCHISE PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS TO BE PAID DURING MAY, 2019 TOTALLING \$39,108.59. MR VISHNEFSKI MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENTS. THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR ZYLA. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

WRITTEN REPORTS WERE SUBMITTED BY RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT HEADS AND READ BY THE COMMISSIONERS RESPONSIBLE AS FOLLOWS:

- 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**
 - I. **THANK YOU LETTER SENT TO THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO REPLACE A BROKEN WATER FOUNTAIN IN THE WANAMIE RECREATION PARK.**
 - II. **GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO DEPT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES**
 - III. **GRANT APPLICATION BEING PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO GREENWAYS TRAIL & RECREATION PROGRAM. DEADLINE MAY 31, 2019**

ALL WRITTEN REPORT WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THESE MINUTES AND WILL BECOME A PERMANENT PART THEREOF.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY JOHN SOLT OF THE SLUSSER LAW FIRM REPORTED THAT HE CONTINUES TO WORK WITH JOSEPH HILLAN OF ISSUES REGARDING BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN THE TOWNSHIP, AND PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO, FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT ANALYST PROVIDED AN UPDATE TO CASH FLOW (REVENUES & EXPENSES) AND STATED THAT THE ANNUAL AUDIT BY C.P.A. JOSEPH ALICIENI & COMPANY IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAY.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

PETER WANCHISEN, TOWNSHIP MANAGER, PROVIDED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

- a. REFUSE STICKER SALES AS OF MAY 6, 2019 TOTALED 1,634 VS 1,635MAY 2018. 62 HOME OWNERS HAVE YET TO PAY THE 2019 FEE. MAGISTRATE COLLECTION WILL BE INITIATED.
- b. ON APRIL 16, 2019 A GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000 WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM. THAT AMOUNT IS THE ANTICIPATED SHORTFALL OF COSTS FOR THE RAILROAD STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT SINCE THE STATE GAMING GRANT DID NOT COVER THE TOTAL LOW BID PRICE TAG. THE 15% TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATION FLOOD MITIGATION GRANT DECISION IS EXPECTED DURING JUNE AND IS BEING SUPPORTED BY SENATOR YUDICHAK AND REPRESENTATIVE GERALD MULLERY. THE ACTUAL PROJECT START DATE FOR CONTRACTOR DON E. BOWERS, SUCCESSFUL BIDDER, IS ON HOLD UNTIL THIS GRANT DECISION IS ANNOUNCED.
- c. NEW CASE BACKHOE ORDERED FROM MEDICO INDUSTRIES, A COSTAR APPROVED DEALER. TOTAL COST OF THE UNIT IS \$89,050.58. A FIVE YEAR ZERO BALANCE TAX EXEMPT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH M&T BANK WITH AN INTEREST RATE OF

4.25% WAS DETERMINED TO BE THE BEST FINANCING OPTION. PARTIAL SUPPORT FUNDING IS COMING FROM EARTH CONSERVANCY IN THE FORM OF MONTHLY DONATIONS OF \$1,500 PER MONTH FOR A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD (\$18,000 ANNUAL). NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY IS CONSIDERING A SIMILAR CONTRIBUTION SINCE THE BACKHOE IS USED BY SEWER AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED. REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #2-2019 AUTHORIZING PETER F. WANCHISEN TO SUBMIT A LEASE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEASE. A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 3-2019 WAS MADE BY MR ROKE AND SECONDED BY MS ZALESKI. ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED YES, AND THE MOTION PASSED.

- d. A PERFORMANCE RECYCLING GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$958 WAS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S COMINGLE COLLECTION ACTIVITIES UNDER ACT 101.
- e. REQUEST FROM LUZERNE COUNTY 911 DATA DEPARTMENT TO CHANGE THE STREET ADDRESSES FOR RESIDENTS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIVING ON WEST RAILROAD STREET FROM FINE STREET TO THE DEAD END. LOUIS ROMANELLI COMMITTED TO DOING THE NOTIFICATION AND ADDRESS CHANGES FOR THE AFFECTED RESIDENTS. AFFECTED RESIDENTS WERE INVITED TO PROVIDE THEIR INPUT AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 6, 2019 AT 5:30PM IN THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING. THE RESULT OF THAT MEETING WAS THAT RESIDENTS OF THE AFFECTED AREA STRONGLY OPPOSED THE CHANGE TO THE STREET NUMBERS. MR ROKE THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE 911 REQUEST AND CAUTIONED THE RESIDENTS THAT DISPATCHING OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND RESOURCES IN TIMES OF CHAOTIC SITUATIONS TO NON CONFORMING HOME ADDRESSES COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. HE EMPHASIZED THIS CAUTION BY SITING A SITUATION WHERE A MISTAKE IN DISPATCHING LEAD TO THE DEATH OF AN INDIVIDUAL IN CONYNGHAM TOWNSHIP. THE WEST RAILROAD STREET RESIDENTS REJECTED THE MOVE TO CHANGE STREET NUMBERS AND AGREED TO SEND A LETTER SIGNED BY ALL RESIDENTS IN THE AFFECTED AREA ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL DANGER AND ARE WILLING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. 911 DATA CENTER WILL BE NOTIFIED.
- f. DEMOLITION OF PROPERTIES AT 161 / 162 BROWN ROW, WANAMIE, AND 116 / 118 WEST MAIN STREET, GLEN LYON IS MOVING FORWARD. PROPERTY SEARCHES ARE BEING PROCESSED AND EXPECTED BY MAY 7, 2019. ATTORNEY JONATHAN SPOHRER REPORTED THAT THE PROPERTY AT 161/162 BROWN ROW HAS A SEVERELY CLOUDED HISTORY OF OWNERSHIP AND THOUSANDS OF BACK TAXES THAT WILL REQUIRE EXCESSIVE AND COSTLY LEGAL WORK TO CLEAR & SATISFY. THAT FACT, AND THE CONSIDERABLE COST OF DEMOLITION, MADE THAT PROJECT COST PROHIBITIVE. WE WILL NOW APPROACH LUZERNE COUNTY FOR DEMOLITION ALTERNATIVES SINCE THE PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY IN THE COUNTY REPOSITORY AND PRESENTS A DANGER TO PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE BROWN ROW SECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP.

