

# MINUTES

## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2024

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. JOHN VISHNEFSKI, MR. MICHAEL ROKE, AND MS DEBORAH ZALESKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE FINANCIAL CONSULTANT, JENNIFER POLITO, TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN AND ATTORNEY CHRIS SLUSSER. MR.PAUL CZAPRACKI WAS ABSENT DUE TO AN ILLNESS.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

THERE WERE NO CITIZENS COMMENTS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MS.ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2024 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BE APPROVED. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES"MS.ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

**REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:**

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF JANUARY 31, 2024 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCFB)	\$73,049.47
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$771,979.30
CAPITAL PURCHASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$36,993.99
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$21,459.21
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$155,815.35
REFUSE FUND	(FNCFB)	\$17,289.96
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$21,459.21

RECREATION USE FUND (FNCR) \$4,934.38

**TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JANUARY 31, 2024 \$1,102,980.87**

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. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JANUARY 2024:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY TOTALING \$161,682.20. 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. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY 2024:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN FEBRUARY TOTALING \$57,479.74. 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. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "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 HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:**

MS. POLITO REPORTED THAT ALL OF THE DCED REPORTS HAVE BEEN FILED AND THAT THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE RECEIVING THE LIQUID FUELS FUNDS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH. MS POLITO ALSO STATED THAT THE 2022 AUDIT AND SINGLE AUDIT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND GOING FORWARD AN AUDIT WILL BE PREFORMED EACH YEAR NOT A COMPILATION.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- A. ON TUESDAY JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> CHRIS GOETZ FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES RECONCILED THE TOWNSHIP'S MS-965 LIQUID FUELS REPORT FOR 2023.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WILL BE RECEIVING THEIR 2024 LIQUID FUELS FUNDS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH.

- B. DEMOLITION UPDATE: BIDS FOR 28 LINE STREET WERE OPENED AT A SPECIAL MEETING THAT WAS HELD ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 2:00 PM. THIS WILL BE ADDRESSED LATER IN THE MEETING UNDER NEW BUSINESS.
- C. PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER PLANS TO START THE 2024 GLEN LYON WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN LATE APRIL OR MAY. THE FOLLOWING STREETS WILL BE AFFECTED APPLE, ORCHARD, MAPLE AND WEST ENTERPRISE.
- D. ON TUESDAY JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> I, COMMISSIONER ZYLA, NANTICOKE FIRE CHIEF MARK BONCAL AND GAIL CONRAD ADVISOR TO THE PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF THE NANTICOKE/WEST NANTICOKE BRIDGE. A COMPLETE REPLACEMENT IS THE ONLY WAY THAT THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY WILL HAVE ACCESS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.
- E. ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND I ALONG WITH NEWPORT AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS MR. STEVE PHILLIPS AND MR. RON JONES TOURED THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LOWES DISTRIBUTION CENTER LOCATED IN THE ALDEN SECTION OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE 50 EMPLOYEES ON SITE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT GROWING TO 250 OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.
- F. CABLE TV UPDATE: COMMCAS IS NOW OFFERING SERVICE TO ALL AREAS OF THE TOWNSHIP
- G. AS OF JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 570, REFUSE STICKERS HAVE BEEN SOLD THAT IS AN INCREASE OF TWENTY FROM THE SAME TIME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WOMENS ACTIVITY GROUP TO USE THE RECREATION PARK FOR THEIR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT ON MARCH 23, 2024 FROM 11AM THROUGH 3:30 PM. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

MR. ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.1 OF 2024 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT, LUZERNE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING FIVE(5) DISTINCT TEN YEAR LEASES OF FIVE VEHICLES FROM THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIREMAN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION AT AN ANNUAL LEASE COST OF \$1.00 PER YEAR FOR EACH OF THE LEASED VEHICLES. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO HIRE THOMAS NOVAKOWSKI AS A PART TIME DPW EMPLOYEE. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MS.ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO SMART RECYCLING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,800.00 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 28 LINE STREET GLEN LYON PA UPON APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR AND THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES MS.ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA, VISHNEFSKI, "NAYS" NONE

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

**ADJOURNMENT:**

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR. ZYLA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:16 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN  
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



JOHN ZYLA  
VICE PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS