

# MINUTES

## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2020

### ROLL CALL:

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** MS. PALMIRA MILLER THANKED THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE POLICE FOR THEIR HELP IN MAKING THE FOOD BANK A SUCCESS. THE FOOD BANK IS HELD AT THE RECREATION PARK ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH. MS. MILLER ALSO THANKED THE BOARD FOR HAVING A DANGEROUS PINE TREE REMOVED FROM TOWNSHIP PROPERTY IN FRONT OF HER HOME.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MR. ZYLA MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 6 ,2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING BE APPROVED. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT WAS CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE MR. VISHNEFSKI ABSTAINED

### REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF AUGUST 3, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$355,732.60
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$145,585.01
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$35,352.80
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$86,015.45
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$42,991.92
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$97,009.27
VEHICLE LEASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$13,526.84
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$6,754.56
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$21,224.28
POLICE HOLDING FUND	(FNCB)	_____ \$0
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF JULY 1, 2020</b>		<b>\$804,192.75</b>

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING JULY 2020:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF JULY TOTALING \$127,385.08. 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, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

**APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST 2020:**

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN AUGUST TOTALING \$53,436.59. MS. ZALESKI 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, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| a. STREET DEPARTMENT  | MR CZAPRACKI             |
| b. POLICE DEPARTMENT  | MR ZYLA                  |
| c. CODE ENFORCEMENT   | MS ZALESKI               |
| d. FIRE DEPARTMENT    | MR HILLAN                |
| e. PARKS & RECREATION | MR.VISHNEFSKI(NO REPORT) |

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

ATTORNEY SOLT HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

**FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:**

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT SHE IS CLOSELY MONITORING THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWNSHIP (EARNED INCOME TAX) DURING THE COVID -19 PANDEMIC. SHE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE 2021 BUDGET PROCESS WILL BEGIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT: NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. 29 PROPERTY OWNERS DID NOT PAY THE 2020 REFUSE FEE AND ARE SCHEDULED FOR HEARINGS AT THE MAGISTRATE ON AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>.
- B. DEMOLITION UPDATES:

1. 129-133 EAST MAIN STREET; (FORMER CHARLIE HAYES PROPERTY) NEWPORT TOWNSHIP IS NOW THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY BIDS FOR DEMOLITION WERE OPEN THIS AFTERNOON AT 2:00PM. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER NEW BUSINESS
  2. 161-162 BROWN ROW; THE APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION WAS SUBMITTED TO LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>.
- C. GLEN LYON SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE: PLANS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO PENN DOT FOR APPROVAL. PROJECT HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC.
- D. CENSUS UPDATE: AS OF JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> NEWPORT TOWNSHIP'S RESPONSE RATE IS 57.2%. WE ARE CURRENTLY LAGGING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING RATES:
- NATIONAL RESPONSE RATE-62.8 %  
 PENNSYLVANIA RESPONSE RATE-65.9%  
 LUZERNE COUNTY RESPONSE RATE-62.1%
- E. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION WITH THE BLIGHT REMEDIATION PROGRAM FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$298,870.00 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF EIGHTEEN PROPERTIES THROUGH OUT THE TOWNSHIP
- F. WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ATLANTIC BROADBAND THAT WAS SENT TO ALL OF THEIR CUSTOMERS IN THE TOWNSHIP INFORMING THEM OF RATE INCREASES THAT WILL TAKE EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO HIRE NICHOLAS KOWALSKI AS A PART TIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER EFFECTIVE JULY 13,2020. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MS. ZALESKI MOVED TO HIRE DAVID WOJCIECHOWICZ AS A PART TIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER EFFECTIVE JULY 27, 2020. MR. VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS" NONE

MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.5 OF 2020 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR THE WHITNEY POINT IMPROVMENTS PROJECT, PHASE I.MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAYE VOTES: "AYES" MS ZALESKI MESSERS VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MS. ZALSEKI MOVED TO APPROVE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AND LUZERNE COUNTY FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00.

OF WHICH \$125,000.00 WILL BE USED FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND \$25,000.00 WILL WE USED FOR DEMOLITION.MR. ZYAL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

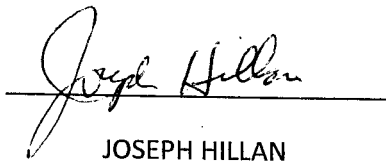
MR. ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH BRDARIC EXCAVATING OF LUZERNE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE REMAINING BUILDINGS ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 133 EAST MAIN STREET GLEN LYON FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$42,000.00. DEMOLITION WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER SEPT 1<sup>ST</sup> AS PER THE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP AND THE PREVIOUS PROPERTY OWNER. MS. ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT PASSED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

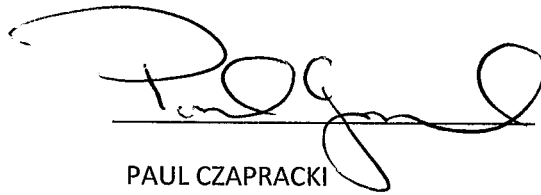
THERE WERE NO COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

**ADJOURNMENT:**

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:20 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN  
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRACKI  
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS