

MINUTES

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI, 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. PAUL CZAPRACKI, 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.JOHN VISHNEFSKI WAS ABSENT.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: MR.PAUL DUDA HAD QUESTIONS ON THE INTERPRETATION AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BURNING ORDINANCE.

MR. JOHN HILLAN ASKED FOR UPDATES ON THE COMCAST AND GLEN LYON VERIZON CELL TOWER PROJECTS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MS.ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING FROM OCTOBER 2ND BE APPROVED. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ZYLA, CZAPRACKI, "NAYS" NONE MR.ROKE ABSTAINED

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 31 2023 IS AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$339,980.36
CAPITAL PURCHASE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$36,361.56
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$869,186.05
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$7,498.77
REFUSE FUND	(FNCB)	\$7,689.69
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$25,148.10
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$57,492.66
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$4,934.38
WVSA STORM WATER FUND		\$42,268.88
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 31 2023		\$1,390,560.45

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

APPROVAL OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING OCTOBER 2023:

- MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER TOTALING \$106,747.14. MR.ZYLA MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER 2023:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN NOVEMBER TOTALING \$181,357.36. 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, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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| a. STREET DEPARTMENT | MR CZAPRACKI |
| b. POLICE DEPARTMENT | MR ZYLA |
| c. CODE ENFORCEMENT | MS.ZALESKI |
| d. FIRE DEPARTMENT | MR ROKE |
| e. PARKS & RECREATION | MR.HILLAN |

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT: FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH THE TEN-MONTH REVENUES \$3,212,957.67 AND EXPENSES \$3,226,170.66. MS.POLITO ALSO SATATED THAT RFP'S WERE BEING PREPEARED FOR AN ANNUAL AUDIT.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. *2024 PROPOSED BUDGETS PRESENTATION: THE 2024 BUDGETS TOTAL \$2,591,380.00 .THE 2024 TAX RATE IS 4.00 MILLS FOR GENERAL PURPOSE IS A .25 INCREASE FROM 2023, THE 2024 TAX RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION IS .50. THIS IS A .10 INCREASE FROM 2023.THE PROPOSED BUDGETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ONLINE ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE AND AT THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING UNTIL DECEMBER 4,2023*
- B. THE DEMOLITION OF 101 NEWPORT STREET AND REAR 4 WEST ENTERPRISE STREET IS COMPLETE. 100 RAILROAD STREET IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 9TH . THE NEXT GROUP

OF HOMES THAT THE ENGINEER IS PREPARING FOR DEMOLITION ARE 28 LINE STREET AND 48 NEWPORT STREET

- C. WORK ON THE TWO PAVILIONS AT THE RECREATION PARK IS COMPLETE. WORK IN THE RESTROOMS AND STORAGE FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER
- D. ADDITIONAL WORK ON THE SIDEWALK PROJECT AT THE CORNER OF COAL STREET AND EAST MAIN STREET WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE SPRING OF 2024. MULTISCAPE COULD NOT COMPLETE THE WORK THIS YEAR DUE TO CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS IN NANTICOKE.

NEW BUSINESS

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE A 10 % COLA INCREASE FOR 2024 FROM THE POLICE PENSION PLAN REQUESTED BY CARL SMITH AND AUTHORIZED BY THE PLANS ACTUARY FOSTER & FOSTER. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WOMEN'S ACTIVITY GROUP THE USE OF THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH FROM 3 UNTL 4:30 PM FOR THEIR SANTA ON THE FIRE TRUCK EVENT. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.13 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT OF \$295,900.00 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.14 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT OF \$261,191.70 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ON MAIN STREET IN GLEN LYON, NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.15 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT OF \$134,750.00 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF STRALKA LANE AND RAILROAD STREET IN GLEN LYON, NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS, ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.16 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT OF \$803,926.20 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE PAVING OF TWO STREETS IN THE WHITNEY POINT SECTION OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.17 OF 2023 A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER JOSEPH HILLAN TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT OF \$873,889.50 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE PAVING OF EIGHT STREETS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP. MR. ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. ROKE, ZYLA AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE


COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

MR.ZYLA ANNOUNCED THAT THE COAL MINERS STATUE HAD ARRIVED EARLIER IN THE DAY AND THAT THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DETAILS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE

MR.CZAPRACKI WISHED EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:29 PM



JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY



PAUL CZAPRCKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS