

The agenda meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6:30 pm.

Present were:

Adam Selisker
Eileen Silver
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Frank O'Donnell
Barry Moore
Robert Pellegrino
William Wert
Joseph Pizzo
Jacob Rigg
Supervisor Elect Paula Gasper

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Adam Selisker
Eileen Silver
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Frank O'Donnell
Barry Moore

Others present were:

Robert Pellegrino, Township Manager
Jacob Rigg, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Selisker led the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence in support of military and emergency services personnel.

CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Viewing of the Board of Supervisor's meeting is available in three ways: In person, live on the website, or live on the Township cable channel, through Comcast or Verizon. Anyone wishing to comment on tonight's agenda, the sign-up sheets are made available in the back of the room or you can send an email to publiccomment@nhtwp.org. Make sure to list your name and address for the record and keep your comments to 300 words or less.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, questioned the following: Which Departments or any other funds are in the red due to Covid or otherwise? Why are these Departments or funds still in the red? What is the total debt for the Township? What is the payoff date for this debt?

Mr. Pellegrino responded the end-of-year projections are showing the Parks and Recreation Department has a negative fund balance of \$257,000 and seems to be getting worse. The Country Club has a negative fund balance continuing into 2022 of 444,000 but appears to be getting better. The Capital Reserve has a negative balance of \$667,000. All of these items are addressed in the 2022 budget from General Fund to the Capital Reserve. There will be American Rescue Funds received that will be going to the Parks and Recreation Department to help with their negative fund balance. The Country Club is seeing a significant increase in sales and golf outings which is helping to reduce their negative fund balance.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board meeting minutes of October 27, and November 9, 2021, were approved by unanimous consent.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable of November 3, 2021, for \$345,000.80 and, for November 17, 2021, for \$1,029,091.37 were approved by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Bid Award for Yard Waste

Mrs. Silver stated that the Southwest Bucks County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWBSWAC) opened bids on November 10 to secure a new contract for yard waste disposal. The current contract with Waste Management expires on December 31. SWBSWAC received three bids. The proposed unit price per ton is as follows:

	Waste Management	Britton Industries	J.P. Mascaro & Sons
2022	\$42.00	\$44.95	\$89.00
2023	\$43.50	\$47.45	\$91.00
2024	\$45.00	\$49.95	\$94.50
2025	\$46.50	\$52.45	\$98.50
2026	\$48.00	\$54.95	\$103.00

The bids were submitted and opened through the PennBid system as required by the bid specifications.

The SWBSWAC communities currently pay \$39.85 per ton for yard waste disposal. Based on the approximate 4,500 tons of yard waste generated by Northampton residents each year, the contract cost increase in 2022 is \$9,675, and \$115,875 for the total contract period. A copy of the PennBid tabulation was provided to the Board members.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-O'Donnell) to award a bid for yard waste disposal for five years from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026, to Waste Management of Pennsylvania, as received by the Bucks County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and authorize the Township Manager to execute all contract documents required for the bid award under the bid specifications for this service.

Chairman Selisker called for Board and public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Appointing the Township Manager as the Designated Agent to Execute all Agreements with FEMA and PEMA for Disaster Assistance Related to Hurricane Ida

Mr. Moore noted a resolution designating the Township Manager as the Township agent authorized to execute agreements with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Township's disaster assistance application related to tropical depression IDA.

The Township sustained approximately \$34,000 in damages.

The resolution is part of the application submission process and must be approved before filing for reimbursement of eligible costs.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to adopt resolution R-21-23 authorizing the Township Manager to execute for and on behalf of Northampton Township, Bucks County all required forms and documents to obtain financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment and public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Authorizing an Ordinance to Update Various Sections of the Township Code to Modify Outdated and Inconsistent Regulations

Mr. O'Donnell outlined the proposed general ordinance amendment addressing administrative and inconsistent items in our current code. Specifically, these items include membership requirements of the Blight Committee, eliminating the residency requirement for the Township Manager, deleting the fire insurance proceeds escrow requirement, amending soliciting requirements, modifying building numbering requirements, and adding Board and Commission expectations.

A motion was made and seconded (O'Donnell-Silver) to authorize advertisement of a public meeting for an ordinance amending the Northampton Township Code related to general administrative requirements and the elimination of inconsistent provisions for Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 7:30 PM at the Northampton Township Administration Building.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment and public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Presentation of 2022 Preliminary Budget

Dr. Rose briefly described the budget process noting the Board is required by the Second Class Township Code to adopt a Preliminary Budget and advertise its availability for public inspection for 20 days. The budget must be adopted by December 31.

The Board may make whatever changes it deems appropriate to the Preliminary Budget before its adoption. The Board may also make changes to the adopted Preliminary Budget before its final adoption scheduled for December 15, 2021, meeting within the limits established by the Second Class Township Code. The Code states that a line item (Department total) may not be changed more than 25% and the total budget may not be changed by more than 10%.

Dr. Rose deferred to Mr. Pellegrino to present the 2022 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Pellegrino presented a thorough review of the proposed 2022 budget and explained the variables that affect revenues and expenditures. He noted changes from 2021 to 2022 and stated the recommendation is an increase in the General Fund from 6.0247 mills in 2021 to 8.8747 in 2022, and in the Ambulance Fund from 0.5000 mills in 2021 to 0.7500 mills for 2022. The increase is 1.5 mills for Fire Protection and 2.5 mills for Emergency Services.

The 2022 budget is broken down as follows;

General Fund	8.8747 mills
Fire Fund	3.0000 mills
Parks and Recreation Fund	1.6280 mills
Ambulance Fund	0.7500 mills
Debt Service Fund	4.5597 mills
Library Fund	1.7284 mills

Road Maintenance Fund	0.5000 mills
Road Equipment Fund	<u>0.5703 mills</u>
	21.6111 mills

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Each Board member complimented Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Armelin, and finance and administration staff on the budget. Discussion ensued with a question and answer period between the Board and Mr. Pellegrino on various aspects of the budget relating to allocations, grants, the sterling act, and the Fire service tax.

Chairman Selisker called for Board and public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Chairman Selisker introduced Supervisors Elect Paula Gasper and Robert Salazar and announced their attendance at tonight's meeting.

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Senior Center annual Bags and Bling Bingo was another huge success.
- The Senior Center will also be holding a Wreath Fundraiser and a Holiday Marketplace check their website at nhsc@nhtwp.org or call 215-357-8799 for more information.
- If you are 55 or older memberships are available for the Senior Center, call 215-357-8199 for more information, or all things happening at the Senior Center go to their new website www.northamptonsc.com.
- November 3rd, the STAR Center held its grand opening. This is a beautiful facility.
- Special thank you to all who helped make the Annual Halloween Happening a success.
- The Parks and Recreation winter brochure will be arriving in mailboxes the first week of December.
- The Parks and Recreation Departments are providing virtual and in-person classes, and programs. Go to northamptonpa.myrec.com for current information on the various classes, activities, and programs being offered. Masks are required for in-person classes.
- Parks and Recreation gift certificates are available and would make great holiday gifts.
- Mrs. Clause will be visiting the Wetzell Pavilion on Saturday, December 4th. Register for this event on the Parks and Recreation website.

- Go to Northamptonrec.com to register or to find information for all the latest upcoming winter events, such as the light the night contest where a resident can decorate their home and win a prize.

Mr. O'Donnell made the following announcements:

- The Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority has reviewed its budget and has stated there will not be a rate increase this year for the 5th year in a row.
- On November 11th the Veterans Advisory Commission held their annual Veterans Ceremony. Dr. Marcus Carr was the speaker and Congressman Fitzpatrick also made time to make a few remarks.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Township is remaining very busy with several developments and projects underway.

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- The Library has moved its December meeting from Thursday, December 2nd to Wednesday, December 1st at 7:00 pm. Thanked each member for their hard work on the Board.
- Yard waste will be the same day as trash starting December 16th through March 31st. Residents are allowed a maximum of 5 bags and are put with the regular trash.
- On December 16th all dumpsters will be removed from all locations.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- Halloween Happenings was a great time.
- The Council Rock School District Achieve Program has been doing internships with the Northampton Valley Country Club since 2019. This is a great program for these kids, they are at the Country Club 1-3 times a week, and are learning many skills.
- Remember to check your fireplace and chimney and have them cleaned, follow the instructions on the turkey fryers, and check your ovens that there is nothing stored in them to prevent a fire.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

An executive session was held before tonight's meeting for approximately 30 minutes. The five members of the Board, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Wert, the Township Engineer, Supervisor Elect Paula Gasper, and Mr. Pizzo himself were in attendance. Two matters of pending litigation were discussed. No action

was taken during the executive session for either of these two items and no official action was taken tonight regarding the executive session.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chairman Selisker questioned who was overseeing the sidewalk project. Mr. Pellegrino responded that McMahon, the Township's Traffic Engineer is supervising the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Selisker called for public comment.

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, questioned the total debt for the Township and the payoff date for this debt? Mr. Johnson also asked for paving to be done again on Elm Avenue and stated it is in disrepair and would like to see it on the 2022 paving schedule.

Mr. Selisker responded to Mr. Johnson by stating the Fire Station keeps up on our fire protection rating as it is important to keep our insurance rates down.

Mr. Pellegrino responded to Mr. Johnson's questions. The Total debt obligation for the Township is approximately 63 million, with 2.8 million a year being paid towards the debt. There are approximately 24 more years until we reach the payoff date for this debt.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank O'Donnell, Secretary