

The agenda meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6:00 pm.

Present were:

Adam Selisker
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Paula Gasper
Robert Salzer
Robert Pellegrino
William Wert
Joseph Pizzo Esq., Township Solicitor
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Adam Selisker
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Paula Gasper
Robert Salzer

Members of the Board absent were:

Barry Moore

Others present were:

Robert Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo Esq., 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Girl Scout Gold Award Recognition-Sara Osterhout

Chairman Selisker called forward Sara Osterhout where Dr. Rose presented her with a proclamation recognizing her achievement of receiving the Gold Award from the Girl Scouts of America. Sara's project to receive this award was to create raised garden beds and to start a gardening club for the seniors at Brookdale Nursing Home.

Proclamation -National Library Week

Mrs. Gasper presented a Proclamation to Wayne Lahr, Library Director for the Northampton Township Library posteriorly recognizing National Library Week that occurred April 23-29, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board meeting minutes of April 26, 2023, were presented by Mrs. Gasper.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable of May 10, 2023, for \$547,730.32, and May 24, 2023, for \$2,177,164.26 was presented by Dr. Rose.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Gasper) to approve the consent items. All consent items were approved by Unanimous Consent.

CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Selisker announced Barry Moore is absent this evening.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None was heard.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution Authorizing PA DCED Restoration and Protection Program Grant Application for Northampton Crossing Basin Retrofit Project

Mr. Salzer stated in early 2022, the Township was awarded a partial DEP Growing Greener Program grant to retrofit the stormwater basin at the intersection of Holland Road and Upper Holland Road, in the Northampton Crossing neighborhood. The purpose of this project is to improve an existing basin by constructing new Best Management Practices (BMPs) which include the design and construction of Bioretention areas to improve water quality; reduce sediment release, and plant water tolerant perennials/plantings to reduce flow. The estimated project cost is \$600,000.00 and the DEP grant award was \$300,000.00.

Because of this shortfall in funding, the Administration is recommending that the Township seek an additional grant through the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program from the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority. The grant would cover the remaining \$300,000.00 difference in the project costs. If awarded, the Township would not need to contribute any funds toward this project. The grant program requires a Resolution from the governing body authorizing the application on behalf of the Township. A draft Resolution was provided for review.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer- Rose) to adopt Resolution R-23-12 authorizing the Township Manager to file a grant application with the PA DCED Watershed Restoration Protection Program to improve the detention basin on Holland and Upper Holland Roads as required by the Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all documents and agreements required by the grant program.

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Services Agreement with Bucks County Redevelopment Authority

Mrs. Gasper stated a proposed Agreement with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to engage its services to assist with the potential redevelopment of properties in Richboro and Holland has been provided to the Board for review.

More specifically, there is an opportunity to redevelop and expand the existing shopping center and develop adjacent property near the proposed Richboro Roundabout. We have already been in discussions with the property owner about redevelopment potential. There is also a need to address conditions at the former Shell Station in Holland which has fallen into significant disrepair. Improvements to these properties will enhance the Township tax base and help minimize the need for future tax increases.

The Agreement authorizes the Authority to act on behalf of the Township and assist with redeveloping vacant and/or blighted properties under the provisions of the PA Urban Redevelopment Law; however, the Authority may not obligate the Township in any way without its specific approval.

Under the Agreement, The Authority may act as an agent for the Township in coordinating redevelopment efforts between property owners and governmental agencies, market properties to potential developers, seek proposals, and provide information to the Township on the viability of potential uses. The Authority can also assist in declaring a property such as the former Shell Station blighted, potentially condemn it on behalf of the Township, and assist with its redevelopment.

Any work performed by the Authority will be at the direction of the Township. While the Township is obligated to pay all direct costs incurred by the Authority for each specific project including planning, administrative, and legal expenses, these costs are typically paid by property owners and developers through the land development process.

The Township has successfully used the services of the Authority to redevelop the former Richboro Schoolhouse, and more recently the Authority is assisting with the redevelopment of the former Mill Race Inn property. That property is currently under an Agreement of Sale, and

land development plans were recently filed with the Township. Under the proposal, the original Grist Mill built in 1767 will be preserved and the property will be mixed-use with both residential and commercial units designed under our Village Overlay regulations.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Salzer) to approve a Cooperation Agreement with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority to assist the Township with redevelopment efforts in Richboro and Holland and to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Township.

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Northampton Valley Swim Club received quite a facelift! Fresh paint in and outside of the main pool and baby pool, new basketball and volleyball courts and renovated grounds are what members and campers will enjoy this summer. Weather permitting, the pool will open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th. Check the Parks and Recreation website for up-to-date opening and closing information.
- The Summer Brochure has been delivered to your mailboxes! Be sure to check out all that is happening this summer! There is still room in the one-week specialty camps, but they are filling fast – register today!
- Discount tickets are available at the Parks and Recreation Office from 8:30 – 4:15 PM at the Township Administration Building for many popular attractions all summer long! Call the Parks and Recreation Office at 215-357-6800 to make sure we have the tickets you need before coming in!
- The Parks and Recreation Summer Concert Series will kick off on Thursday, June 1st at the Municipal Park Amphitheatre with a special Concert from the Council Rock Jazz Band! Summer Concerts are held every Thursday at 7 pm. Check the Parks and Recreation website for the full summer 2023 schedule.
- The Northampton Township Preschool Potpourri has openings for a lead and assistant teacher for the 23-24 school year. Contact Barbra Primavera, Recreation Manager at 215-357-5396 for further details.

- The Parks and Recreation Department would like to extend a very big “Thank You” to the Public Works Team. Public Works has been spending countless hours completing work on the pool grounds, new basketball court and volleyball courts, building new tables at the park and repairing the Gaga Pit.
- The 2023 Bocce League is set to begin. Memorial Day marks the start of the senior’s bocce league. It’s the most popular league at the center with 17 teams signed up
- Check out the new basic drawing class “Doodles and Drawings”.
- The Senior Center will be hosting two events for the 40th Annual Bucks County Senior Games again this year. The Senior Games are a time when residents of Bucks County ages 50 and better come together to participate in friendly, relaxed sports and game competitions that are held throughout the county. On Friday, June 2nd the bocce competitions are scheduled through the day at the Northampton senior center’s beautiful bocce courts. Wednesday, June 7th is the day the pool players will meet at the center’s pool room for some very lively rounds of pool. More details regarding the senior games can be found at buckscounty.gov/senior-games. It’s past the deadline to register for the games but come out and cheer on the participants.
- There is a party room at the Senior Center available to rent. It is a beautiful 3,000-square-foot room that is the perfect venue for your next celebration, meeting, or special event.
- If you have questions please do not hesitate to call (215) 357-8199 for more information or stop by the center located at 165 Township Road for a tour. The center’s hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 am – 3:30 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 8 pm. Another great source of information is the center’s website at northamptonsc.com.

Mrs. Gasper made the following announcements:

- The Veterans Advisory Commission met on Monday, May 15, 2023, to discuss the upcoming events, with the first being Memorial Day which is held every year at 9:00 am at Dembowski Park and the next being Flag Day on June 14th at 6:00 pm to be held at the Recreation Center.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission will be collecting information to create a database of Veterans that reside in Northampton Township so they can be sent pertinent information on upcoming events.
- After an overwhelming response from our Library patrons from our first 5-part series of beginner computer classes, we’ve scheduled a 2nd offering of the same 5 classes for June and July. This new series is almost fully booked with 12 computer workstations in our computer lab. The classes being offered are Basic Computer

Skills; Email Essentials; Internet Searching Skills; Library Account & Catalog; and eBooks & Library eResources.

- A few upcoming programs include one of our long-time presenters, Norm Rubin who presents a look at the History of Unions on June 10 @ 1 PM. On Thursday, June 22 @ 6:30 PM, the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles is providing a program titled Pennsylvania Turnpike: America's First Superhighway.
- The Summer Quest summer reading program kicks off on Saturday, June 17 at 11 AM at the library. This year's theme is "All Together Now." Michelle Kiker, our Youth Services Librarian, and staff have scheduled 76 programs over 8 weeks including new Storytime, five different kids' books clubs, a chess club for kids, computer lab drop-in coding challenges: kids' art lab, and family programming in the evenings. Our featured programs include Eyes of the Wild on June 27 and Magician Ran'd Shine on July 10. The library's website has a new page dedicated entirely to the 2023 Summer Quest programming.
- The library director and the director of Parks & Rec have begun discussions on how to collaborate on a few additional events to be hosted by both departments at the library.
- Lastly, the library has filled the position of Archives Custodian for the Township Archives hosted by the library. The new full-time staff member will be serving as an integral member of the library's Reference Librarian staff focused on ensuring the library continues to meet the required standards to maintain their Gold Star Library status in the PA Forward program. She also has extensive training and background in local history and archives and will be serving as the township archivist. Regular public hours for the Archives will be announced shortly.

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- Welcomed Kristi Chase as the new reference Librarian and Archivist.
- PennDot will be paving 2nd Street Pike, and Almshouse to Jacksonville Road since they are State Roads and are expected to do this work starting Mid-Summer. In the meantime, they have patched some of the holes to put a band-aid on it until the full paving can be done.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The week of May 22nd is officially EMS week. Say thank you to our Emergency Medical Responders. Tri-Hampton does an amazing job here in Northampton Township.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- No Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, reiterated the same questions and statements from the previous Board of Supervisors Meeting held on April 26, 2023. Mr. Johnson feels Rails to Trails is different from other County projects. Septa owns the land, and the County would be leasing it with approval from every Township. He read the last two paragraphs of Resolution R-20-6. Still feels the Township should have let residents know a meeting was being held. Mr. Johnson stated the Resolution was for the concept and the Board could change its mind and cancel the project if they wanted to.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Gasper, Secretary