

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

Present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Barry Moore
Paula Gasper
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert Salzer
Kenneth Ferris
Amanda Fuller
Robert M. Pellegrino
William Wert

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Barry Moore
Paula Gasper
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert M. Salzer

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer
Kenneth Ferris, Township Solicitor
William Wert, Assistant Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Special Recognition – Mark Showmaker

Chairman Selisker called forward Frank Fenton, Fire Marshal, and Mark Showmaker. Mr. Fenton thanked Mr. Showmaker for his efforts and cooperation over the years with Northampton

Township. Chairman Selisker echoed Mr. Fenton's comments and read a Certificate of Recognition in his honor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board meeting minutes of August 23, 2023, were presented by Mrs. Gasper.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable of September 13, 2023, for \$3,069,646.13, and September 27, 2023, for \$1,342,549.51 were presented by Dr. Rose.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Adoption of the Northampton Township Free Library Strategic Plan

Mrs. Gasper explained that in April 2022, the Library Board, the Library Director, and the Staff created the library's first-ever Mission and Vision Statements that best reflect our public library and growing community in Northampton Township. This became our foundation to develop a first-ever Guiding Principles and Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2026.

After months spent gathering input from the community at large, the library staff, user group interviews through surveys, in-person meetings, and a retreat with key stakeholders and partners, the strategic plan committee used the rich data it received from more than 1,000 responses to develop this new strategic plan for 2023 – 2026.

By focusing on four strategic areas of service, the Free Library of Northampton Township will be in the best position to meet the needs of our changing community. The outcome of this public process has established four (4) Strategic Priorities: Build a Culture of Learning; Community Partnerships; Effective Communications; and Contemporary Facilities.

At their September 14, 2023, meeting, the Library Board unanimously approved the final draft with the recommendation the Board of Supervisors formally adopt the newly created 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Rose) to adopt the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan as presented by the Northampton Township Library Board to help guide the future direction and development of the Northampton Township Free Library.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Mr. Wert thanked Elenora Rosso, Dr. Michael May, and Janet Braker for their hard work and dedication in identifying projects and goals and coming up with a solid plan.

The Board all agreed this plan is well done, and a great influence on the community. The hard work and passion can be seen in this project and how well it is put together.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Report on 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plan

Mr. Moore stated the Administration is required by law to submit a report to the Board of Supervisors on the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for each of the employee pension plans by September 30 each year for the following fiscal year. The MMO represents the funding level required by the Township to maintain the actuarial soundness of each plan.

The Township Actuary calculated the required contribution amounts for the 2024 plan year and these amounts must be budgeted as expenditures in the 2024 budget. The MMOs for each plan in 2024 are as follows:

Police Pension Plan	\$1,003,293
Non-Uniformed Employees Plan	819,871
Money Purchase Pension Plan	<u>235,937</u>
	\$2,059,101

The total MMO for 2024 is an increase of \$51,449 from the previous year.

The Township expects to receive approximately \$984,000 in Municipal Pension System State Aid that will reduce the required local contribution. The balance of \$1,075,101 will be budgeted in the General Fund.

A vote to approve the MMOs is **NOT** required but this information must be included in the meeting minutes for auditing purposes.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Senior Center has many classes, educational programs, special events, parties, and bus trips for ages 55 and older. 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 a.m. – to 3:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. – to 8 p.m. Another great source of information is the center's website at northamptonsc.com.

- It's Boscov's Friends Helping Friends time again and anyone can participate! Who doesn't love a day of shopping with coupons? If you purchase a ticket in advance at the senior center for only \$5 you receive a 25% off all-day shopping pass to Boscov's for use on Wednesday, October 18th. The center will benefit from every ticket sold. So why not join in the fun, invite your friends and family, and start your holiday shopping early?
- The center's annual Holiday Marketplace is scheduled for Friday, December 1st from 5:00 – 8:30 pm. Everyone is invited to enjoy this wonderful event featuring over 50 vendors selling beautiful, handcrafted items, home décor, clothing, candles, jewelry and much more!
- The Recreation Center is now hosting programs on Council Rock scheduled days off! The first was hosted on Monday and twenty-five children participated. Morning or afternoon only or full day programs are available. The next classes are October 11 and November 7.
- Northampton Day is this Sunday! Our young entrepreneur program will be represented with twenty children, ages 5 – 14 will be launching their own businesses that they have learned to price and market through a free workshop that took place on September 21.
- Star Gazing in the Park: October 13 – bring your own telescope and meet at the Playground Pavilion at 6:30 PM
- The annual Scarecrow Row will be displayed at the Municipal Park beginning October 16th. Create an amazing scarecrow and you could win a prize!
- Halloween Happening: Family fun! Wear your costume and come to the Municipal Park starting at 11 AM. Bring a chair or blanket and watch the parade! Prizes awarded for best costumes.
- The Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure is in resident mailboxes and online. To view the full schedule of classes, visit our website www.northamptonrec.com for up-to-date class information.
- There will be parking at Council Rock South and a shuttle will take you to Richboro Middle School. A flag raising will take place at 10:00 am and performances will be taking place all day. Thank you to all of the Public Works Employees and First Responders who work so hard to make the day great for the community.

Mrs. Gasper made the following announcements:

- Summer Quest 2023, the county libraries' annual Summer Reading Program was a huge success. Over the span of 8 weeks, the library provided 78 Summer Quest-related programs resulting in a total of 3,968 attendees. Our most popular programming was in the evenings when we held family programs from a variety of "performers." These programs averaged almost 160 attendees at each. The library also gave away at least 689 free books.
- Once again, the library has thanked Giuseppe's Pizza & Restaurant, Gianni's Pizza, and Rita's of Richboro for their generous supplies of food for our programming. Acme Market continues to supply water and snacks for one of our children's book clubs – 6 in all.
- The library will be participating in a few outreach activities this week beginning with tomorrow's Senior Expo being held at the Country Club and hosted by Senator Farry. Our Youth Services Librarian, Michelle, will be returning to the Wrightstown Farmers Market on Saturday for her third visit and will be holding A Storytime on the Road at this location. Both the Library and the Archives will be represented on Sunday at Northampton Day.
- The library is a location for people that need to take tests remotely and have them proctored. In 2022, our staff proctored 128 tests. With the 4th quarter remaining, we have already proctored 207 tests this year.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission has added ten (10) new veterans to their Veterans Roster.
- On October 12th Dr. Spadafora of Bucks County Dental Design is offering free dental service for Veterans in the area.
- Veterans Day will be held on November 11, 2023, at 10:00 am in front of the Administration Building. The Veterans bricks that have been purchased will be unveiled along with the plaque that has been moved from Bristol Road.

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- The Municipal Authority will be conducting their Fall fire hydrant flushing. Check either NBCMAtoday.org or northhamptontownship.com for the full schedule.
- The Sanitary Sewer rehabilitation is now in Phase 3 of the project and will start in October. This is for the lining of the sewer mains and laterals in portions of the Township. Three miles of pipe have been rehabilitated this year and another five miles is planned for next

year. The purpose of this is to prevent groundwater from entering sewer systems, helping to reduce the overall treatment costs.

- Do not dispose of fats, oil or grease down the drain or the garbage disposal, they will congeal causing blockages in the pipes. Place these items after they have cooled in your household trash.
- The water smart portal is a free way to monitor your water and sewer usage and to receive leak alerts, and to monitor your water usage and invoices.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on October 10th.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met on September 11th and is scheduled to meet on October 23.
- The Old Mill Race Inn is in Land Development to construct 39 Residential Condominiums above commercial offices. This plan should come before the Board in either October or November.
- There is scheduled to be an expansion of a business on Richard Road in the Industrial Park.
- The Bucks County Planning Commission held a Rails to Trails Meeting on September 20 at the Churchville Nature Center. They announced a target date of the summer of 2024 for the connection of Bristol Road to the Churchville Nature Center. Concerns were heard about crime and off-hour activities. Upper Southampton had been contacted and has reported no issues with the trail in their area.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- Fire Prevention Open House will be taking place on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Park.
- Remember cooking safety starts with you.
- For up-to-date information sign up to be part of the Fire Department's Facebook page.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Katarina Kogan, resident, spoke on her concerns regarding an accident on Middle Holland Road involving a child hit by a vehicle. She asked the Board to consider installing a traffic light at Rolling Hills and installing speed humps on Liberty and Justice Drive and to prevent speeding on Independence Drive.

Johanna Vaughn, resident, raised concern over the code violations and suspicious activities in Tapestry Development.

Jason Joines, resident, interested in pursuing his civic duty and wants to get involved in local government, including elections, and the Board of Supervisors. He wishes the Board good luck during the budget season.

John Brown, resident, spoke on a issue with the Northampton Valley Country Club Golf Course and a window that was broken by a golfer using the course. Mr. Pellegrino explained the procedures of filing a claim with Mr. Brown's insurance company.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Gasper, Secretary