

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
Amanda Fuller

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 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
Amanda Fuller, 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Gift of Special Welcome Home Banner

Chairman Selisker called forward Frank O'Donnell and Eileen Zolotorofe. Mrs. Zolotorofe presented a "Welcome Home" banner that will be used during welcome home flag presentations on behalf of herself and David Breidinger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Board meeting minutes of January 6 and January 22, 2020, were approved by unanimous consent.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable for February 12, 2020, in the amount of 1,136,125.90 and February 26, 2020, for \$659,532.90 were approved by unanimous consent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Selisker announced public comment on the Master Trail and Bike Facilities Plan will take place now on items E, F, & G of the agenda, immediately following public comment the resolutions will be discussed and voted on.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment, the following persons spoke on the pros and cons of the plan and the implementation of the project.

Adam Spector, 3405 Stafford Place

Thomas Beerbower, 70 Pine Run Drive

Bob Dunphy, 72 Blackrock Drive

Keith Sevcik, 72 Bustleton Pike

Karl Fetzer, 283 N. Second Street Pike

Chasidy Zubler, 160 Stratford Drive

Fred Fisher, 65 Signal Hill Road

Charles Chak, 74 Lakeview Drive

Joan Chak, 74 Lakeview Drive

Ed Betof, 32 Poplar Drive

Jerry Agasar, 21 Exeter Court

Nancy Sauers, 104 Windmill Drive

Ed Epstein, 59 Arabian Way

David Cutler, 1243 Old Jordan Road

Jeffrey Gold, 57 Grant Drive

David Patterson, 19 Amsterdam Avenue

Brig Masone, 72 Nelson Drive

Joanne Klempner, 283 Magnolia Drive

Steve Benner, 97 Holyoke Lane

Dawn White, 27 Wood Drive

Alyssa White, 27 Wood Drive

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive

Dr. Suzanne Bell, 75 Grant Drive

Lyudmila Slutsky, 36 Thoroughbred Drive

Ann Vaneerden, 79 Bustleton Pike

Consider Resolution to Approve Master Trail and Bike Facilities Plan

Mrs. Silver stated the resolution before the Board tonight is to approve the Master Trail and Bike Facilities Plan prepared by the Bucks County Planning Commission at the Township's request. The Plan identifies potential trails and bicycle facilities throughout all areas of the Township to connect neighborhoods, commercial centers, parks, and other public facilities, and serves as a Master Plan for implementation over an unspecified period.

The Plan provides an overview of the benefits of trails, the steps involved in the planning process, a Township profile, and identifies a priority set of trails and bicycle facilities, consolidating 124 individual segments into 53 facilities, totaling over 57 miles, with 45 miles of neighborhood bike routes. Trail user safety, the feasibility of implementation, and connectivity to commercial areas, parks, schools, and neighborhoods served as the main criteria in evaluating proposed facilities.

The Plan concludes with a set of specific recommendations for ensuring the successful implementation of the Plan's recommendations that includes official adoption of the Plan by the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Moore) to adopt Resolution R-20-5 officially adopting the Master Trail and Bicycle Facilities Plan dated December 2019 as prepared for the Township by the Bucks County Planning Commission.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment. Discussion ensued with each member of the Board either supporting the trail or stating reasons they don't agree with the plan. Mr. O'Donnell stated he doesn't believe the plan addresses the roads and trails specifically that people will be utilizing. Mr. O'Donnell would like to see a committee formed to address these issues for clarity and recommendations.

Motion Passed 4-1 (with Mr. O'Donnell voting nay).

Consider Resolution Supporting the Concept of Constructing a Walking/Biking Trail on the Former SEPTA Rail Line Right of Way

Dr. Rose noted this Resolution is intended to memorialize the Township's support for the County of Bucks proposal to convert the now inactive Newtown Rail Line Corridor into a cross county and multi-use trail.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Silver) to approve Resolution R-20-6 supporting the concept of converting the inactive Newtown Rail Line Corridor traversing Northampton Township into a cross county and multi-use trail.

Discussion ensued with each Board member speaking on this concept and provided input from residents they have spoken to. Mr. Moore stated that the Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission was willing to meet with any resident who wanted to meet with him. The County is willing to help resolve residents' concerns about security and privacy.

Mrs. Silver stated that even after the Engineering Study is done that the Board of Supervisors would still be part of the process moving forward.

Chairman Selisker stated that we would work with the County to insure that the privacy screening would be built out the way the County described it. He asked the motion be amended to include that the Board of Supervisors assigns the Township Manager, Chief of Police, and the Township Engineer to work with the County of Bucks to ensure the safety and privacy of its residents remain a priority during the design and construction phase of the project.

Dr. Rose and Mrs. Silver agreed to the amendment of the motion as stated by Chairman Selisker.

Motion Passed 4-1 (with Mr. O'Donnell voting nay).

Consider Resolution Supporting the Concept of Constructing a Walking/Biking Trail along Newtown-Richboro Road Connecting St. Leonard's Road to Tyler State Park

Mr. O'Donnell outlined the Resolution supporting a trail connection from Big Meadow Park to Tyler State Park using the old roadbed of Newtown-Richboro Road connecting with the existing trail under the Neshaminy Creek Bridge. The proposed trail connection is part of the Master Trail and Bicycle Facilities Plan prepared by the Bucks County Planning Commission at the Township's request. The proposed trail is identified on the Master Plan as Area #3, Segments #30 through #35, consisting of approximately 3.58 miles.

The County has identified this section of the Trail Plan as part of its larger Neshaminy Greenway Trail and its design and construction will be funded by the County if it moves forward with constructing all or a portion of that Plan. The Greenway Trail is identified as Area #3, Segments

#30 through #35 of the Master Plan. A Resolution supporting this component of the Neshaminy Greenway Trail will assist the County with grant applications for engineering design and construction and will identify it as a priority for the Township.

A motion was made and seconded (O'Donnell-Silver) to adopt Resolution R-20-7 supporting the concept of a trail connection from Big Meadow Park to Tyler State Park, as part of a County-funded trail proposal identified in the Master Trail and Bicycle Facilities Plan dated December 2019 and prepared by the Bucks County Planning Commission.

Chairman Selisker asked the motion be amended to include that the Board of Supervisors assigns the Township Manager, Chief of Police, and the Township Engineer to work with the County of Bucks to ensure the safety and privacy of its residents remain a priority during the design and construction phase of the project.

Mr. O'Donnell and Mrs. Silver agreed to the amendment of the motion as stated by Chairman Selisker.

Motion Passed 5-0.

Chairman Selisker called for a recess at 9:03 pm and reconvened at 9:17 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Bids for Traffic Signal Improvements at Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads

Mrs. Silver noted bids were opened on February 21, 2020, for traffic signal improvements at the following intersections:

- Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads
- Jacksonville and Pulinski Roads
- Hatboro and Almshouse Roads

The improvements include new controller cabinets, installation of Omni-directional video detectors and radar dilemma zone detection.

The Township received three bids for this work ranging from the low bid of \$189,642.50 to \$223,530.60. The low bid is from Armour & Sons, Inc., Langhorne, PA. The company currently serves as our traffic signal maintenance contractor.

The Township received a grant from the PennDOT "Green Light Go" program for \$208,850, with a total estimated project cost of \$239,250. Since the low bid is less than the grant amount, we can submit a change in the project scope of work to PennDOT. I suggest we include the installation of a left turn signal at Buck and Middle Holland Roads (a project that we were planning to undertake through the capital budget) and additional improvements such as video detection and battery backup systems for all of the intersections. Depending on the cost of

these additional improvements, the Township share of the cost for all of the work will be approximately \$31,000.

The Administration recommends a bid award to Armour & Sons, Inc. for \$189,642.50 for the initial scope of work, with the understanding that we will submit a revised scope of work to PennDOT so the total project cost is as close as possible to our original estimate of \$239,250. This will allow us to take full advantage of the available grant funds.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Rose) to award a bid for traffic signal improvements at Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads, Jacksonville and Pulinski Roads, Hatboro and Almshouse Roads to Armour & Sons, Inc., Langhorne, PA in the amount of \$189,642.50, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all documents required to complete the project, including any documents required to revise the scope of work with PennDOT for grant funding purposes.

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

Motion Passed 5-0

Consider Amendment Option-Land Lease with New Cingular Wireless the Third Cell Tower at Bristol and Hatboro Roads

Mr. Moore stated this First Amendment is necessary due to delays that New Cingular Wireless have experienced in securing the appropriate easements from the other tenants to access the site necessary for the construction of the third pole. The Amendment is necessary because the current Option to Lease expires on February 29, 2020.

The attached Amendment is changing Subsection 1(c) of the Ground Lease, Option to Lease, deleting the second sentence in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

The Option will be for a term of eighteen (18) months commencing on the Effective Date (the "Option Term").

All other terms of the original Option – Lease Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-O'Donnell) to authorize the Township Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Option and Lease Agreement with New Cingular Wireless to construct the third (3rd) cell tower at the corner of Bristol & Hatboro Roads.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Authorizing Short Term Loans for Equipment Acquisition

Mr. Moore stated each year the Township seeks quotations from qualified lending institutions for short-term loans to finance the acquisition of capital equipment including police and public works vehicles, IT equipment, and public works construction equipment.

Based on the quotes received by the Finance Department, U.S. Bancorp offered the lowest borrowing rates for short-term loans to acquire various capital items as part of the 2020 Capital Equipment Replacement Program.

We propose to borrow \$500,000 over a 4-year period rate of 1.7840%, with an estimated annual payment of \$128,219, and \$975,000 over a 7-year period at a rate of 1.8880%, with an estimated annual payment of 146,641.

A loan document is required for each of the loans. Upon full payment of the loan obligations, the equipment becomes Township property. To secure the capital loan, the Board must approve the attached Resolution.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) that the Board of Supervisors adopts Resolution R-20-8 authorizing a 4-year capital loan obligation in the amount of \$500,000 and a 7-year capital loan obligation in the amount of \$975,000 with U.S. Bancorp for the acquisition of capital equipment in accordance with the Township's Capital Equipment Replacement Program, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all documents required in connection with the loan agreements.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Consider Resolution Approving PennDOT Winter Services Agreement

Mrs. Silver outlined the proposed Resolution and Agreement to provide winter maintenance services on certain PennDOT-owned roads within the Township. The agreement provides for annual base payments of \$42,460.00 for a five (5) year period. This Agreement will replace an existing contract executed in 2015 that provided for a payment of \$37,906. The Township has traditionally provided this service to ensure that clearing of the main thoroughfares within the community is not at the behest of PennDOT maintenance employees, and to ensure that the roads are cleared in the fastest and most efficient manner.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Rose) to approve Resolution # R-20-9 authorizing and designating the Township Manager as the Township official authorized to execute a Winter Services Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Winter Maintenance on the PennDOT roads identified on Exhibit "A" of the Agreement.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Senior Center's Spring Fling will take place on Friday, April 17th from 5 pm until 9 pm.
- The Parks and Recreation Department needs camp counselors and lifeguards for the 2020 summer programs. Contact the Recreation Department or visit the Parks and Recreation website for more information.
- The Library has received a community health grant and will be working in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Senior Center to create programs.
- Improvements to the Municipal Park will begin sometime in late Fall and the rest will be finished in the Spring of 2021
- The Miracle League will hold their first annual Golf outing on Friday, April 17 at the Northampton Valley Country Club
- Miracle League of Northampton Township PA to raise funds to build an ALL-INCLUSIVE Playground on Friday, May 8, 2020, at St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 1410 Almshouse Road, Jamison, Doors open at 6 PM and Games begin at 7 PM.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- A WAWA has been proposed in Holland with 50 parking spots
- Site work has begun at the Spring Mill Country Club

Mrs. Silver made the following announcements:

- Announced National Engineers Week is from February 16 – February 22, 2020. This is to promote public awareness of Engineers. Mrs. Silver thanked Amanda, the Township Engineer of Gilmore and Associates for all her hard work

Mr. Selisker made the following announcements:

- Display your address in compliance with local ordinances, this is a safety measure so first responders can find you in case of an emergency.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Pizzo stated the Board met in executive session for 20 minutes tonight, February 26, 2020, in attendance were the Board of Supervisors, Township Manager, Assistant Manager, Amanda Fuller, and myself the Township Solicitor. The matter of discussion was a matter of pending litigation. No official action was taken during the executive session and none was required at tonight's meeting as a result of the executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Kaplan, 74 Titus Avenue, stated he lives behind the newly constructed Police Station. Mr. Kaplan raised concern over AC units humming, noise, lights, and a general nuisance to his family. Discussion ensued with Mr. Pellegrino explaining the actions that have been taken to remedy the situation and agreed to have further discussion with Mr. Kaplan to try and rectify the situation.

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, raised additional concerns over the Rails to Trails project and the Resolutions that were passed tonight.

Jeff Gold, 57 Grant Drive, echoed Joe Johnson's comments and repeated his concerns over the Rail Trail, and questioned when the community will hear from the Police Chief and his thoughts on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank O'Donnell, Secretary