

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Members of the Board present were:

Barry Moore  
Larry Weinstein  
Dr. Kimberly Rose

Members of the Board absent were:

George F. Komelasky  
Eileen Silver

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager  
Dave Connell, Township Engineer  
Mary Stover, CKS Engineers  
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Chairman Weinstein explained that the Noise and ATV Ordinance will be heard at a special meeting on June 28, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. because all parties involved need more information and an opportunity to discuss the ordinance.

He added that another special meeting will be held in September to discuss the Rails to Trails project. The Bucks County Planning Commission will be delivering a presentation and answering questions related to the project.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank O'Donnell, 15 Feather Court, spoke on the flag code, etiquette, and guidelines relating to concerns that have been voiced over the size of the flag at Municipal Park. He stated that, on behalf of the Veterans Advisory Commission and as an American Legion member, the flag meets the requirements due to the structure issue of the cell tower and the Commission is in support of leaving the flag at its current size.

Susan Murphy, 26 Merry Dell Drive, disagreed with Mr. O'Donnell, stating that if the correct, larger flag cannot be properly flown, then the solution should be to remove the flag entirely.

She suggested that the owners of the cell tower be required to purchase a flagpole and have it installed at the entrance to the park so the proper flag size to pole ratio is met. She also noted that Tom Haney, the Commander of the VFW in Warminster, supports her request.

James Rothenburg, 6 Brianna Road, questioned if Rock Road and Holland Road are on the schedule for resurfacing. Mr. Pellegrino stated this area is not on the schedule for this year.

Mr. Rothenburg asked if the Township receives documents for submission in the Planning and Zoning Department electronically. Mr. Pellegrino explained building permits are received in paper form but once approved are scanned in for electronic storage.

Mr. Rothenburg spoke on the Pennsylvania State Legislature relating to liquor licenses, health care and the additional burden of the Cadillac Tax and raised concerns over power outages and the effects on traffic lights. Mr. Pellegrino and Chairman Weinstein responded to the questions.

Natalie O'Donnell, 65 Danby Way, spoke on behalf of the Clean Air and Water Council. She explained that Elcon Recycling is applying for a Phase II permit to build a hazardous toxic chemical waste processing facility in the Keystone Industrial Port Complex in Falls Township, located at 100 Dean Sievers Place (formerly US Steel). The river should not be the location for any additional hazardous waste sites. She added that the site is dangerous to the environment and to people's health, and she encourages Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution against Elcon Recycling from coming into Falls Township and urged residents to contact their local representatives.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Chairman Weinstein presented the May 25, 2016 minutes. The minutes were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Dr. Rose presented the accounts payable for June 8, 2016 in the amount of \$1,127,258.26, and the June 22, 2016 list in the amount of \$1,138,676.92.

The Accounts Payable were deemed approved by unanimous consent.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Authorization to Sell Surplus Equipment**

Dr. Rose stated the Public Works Department is recommending to sell vehicles and/or equipment expected to be valued at more than \$1,000. The vehicles/equipment can only be

sold in accordance with the Second Class Township Code when authorized by the Board of Supervisors.

The following is a list of surplus vehicles requesting to be sold by Mr. Crossland the Public Works Director:

- (2) 2009 Ford Crown Victoria
- (1) 2011 Ford Crown Victoria
- (1) 2011 Ford Expedition

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Weinstein) to authorize the Administration to sell surplus equipment at public auction as recommended by the Department of Public Works in a memorandum dated June 14, 2016.

**Motion Passed 3-0.**

**Consider Appointments to the Veterans Advisory Commission to Fill Two (2) Unexpired Terms**

Chairman Weinstein tabled the Veterans Advisory Commission appointments in order to interview additional applicants.

**Ratify New Police Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Chairman Weinstein explained the Administration and the Township's Police Benevolent Association (PBA) are currently working on a draft of a consolidated police contract incorporating the terms and conditions of the recent negotiation and settlement terms. As part of this process to finalize the agreement, the Board of Supervisors must ratify the new terms and conditions.

Chairman Weinstein outlined the proposed changes to the existing contract. The proposed contract is five (5) years and provides for wage increases, changes in the healthcare plan, on-call pay for detectives, a change in the work schedule from a 9-hour work shift to a 12-hour work shift, an increase in the annual clothing allowance, an agreement to discuss pension language, and the consolidation of steps in the wage scale of detectives, corporals, and sergeants.

The proposed changes to the healthcare plan will save the Township approximately an estimated \$1.3 million over the five-year term. The annual average percentage cost of the proposed contract is 4.34%.

A motion was made and seconded (Weinstein-Rose) to ratify the terms and conditions of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement between Northampton Township and the Northampton Township Police Benevolent Association as outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement dated April 28, 2016.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose thanked Mr. Pellegrino and the staff for a great job in negotiations and stated she is happy that there will be no arbitration. She added that our police officers are excellent and perform their jobs with professionalism.

Mr. Moore stated his appreciation for the representatives from the Police Department that were part of the negotiations. He noted that the possible impending Cadillac tax will have a huge impact on the Township and is glad the Township had the foresight to put a clause in the contract. The Cadillac Tax has been postponed from being implemented until at least 2020.

Mr. Pellegrino stated that both sides were able to reach a fair agreement after more than 20 meetings.

**Motion Passed 3-0.**

Dr. Rose also stated that Mrs. Silver and Mr. Komelasky each reviewed the contract and were in agreement with the rest of the Board.

**Consider a Resolution Authorizing a Grant Application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Civic Center Improvements**

Mr. Moore explained the Commonwealth Financing Authority is offering a grant program which funds park development and rehabilitation. The Administration is recommending that the Township submit a grant application for the upcoming grant round with the deadline for submission of June 30, 2016. If secured, the grant would be used to fund the Phase 2 improvements to the Recreation Complex and Civic Center. He noted the Township recently submitted a grant application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the same project.

The Township must provide a 15% match up to a maximum grant award of \$250,000. The cost for the items earmarked for the grant; i.e. interior park trails, paving of bleacher pads to comply with ADA requirements, construction of a new basketball court with lights, paving of interior park roads and parking lots, is estimated at \$633,000.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to approve Resolution R-16-14 authorizing the Administration to submit an application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a grant to fund improvements at the Recreation and Civic Center Complex.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose stated applying for grants improves our Township and recreation for our youth.

**Motion Passed 3-0.**

**Consider Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Grant Agreement for the PennDot Green Light Go Program for Traffic Signal Improvements at Hatboro and Almshouse Roads**

Chairman Weinstein stated the Township was fortunate to be awarded a \$20,880 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Green Light Go Program be used for traffic signal improvements. The grant requires a 50% match. The Township typically budgets funds each year for traffic signal maintenance and improvements and the grant will allow the Township to perform additional work that was not budgeted. The funds will be used to replace signal loops at Hatboro and Almshouse Roads with cameras and to install a battery backup system.

A motion was made and seconded (Weinstein-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-16-15 authorizing the Township Manager to execute a PennDOT Green Light Go Program Grant Agreement on behalf of Northampton Township for traffic signal improvements at Hatboro and Almshouse Road.

Chairman Weinstein called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose stated this is a perfect traffic location and light to work on with this grant money.

**Motion Passed 3-0.**

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The James E. Kinney Senior Center has won the "Challenge of the Senior Centers" for five (5) years in a row since its inception in 2012.
- Join the Senior Center today for a yearly \$20 fee and enjoy trips, activities, for a reduced rate
- A groundbreaking took place at Holland Middle and Newtown Middle Schools on June 1, 2016 .
- The Council Rock Board of School Directors approved the 2016-2017 Budget. It includes more than 5 million in budgetary reductions but increases taxes by 2.4 percent. Also, to schools will be closed on primary election day. This change would move the last day of school to June 15, 2017 and includes five (5) built in snow days.
- Council Rock North had 433 graduates and Council Rock South had 549. Statistics show 92% of the Council Rock senior classes will be heading to college, 2% to the military and 6% are entering the workforce .

- On June 1, 2016 82 second graders from Hillcrest Elementary visited the Township to learn and participate in how local government works. It was a great time enjoyed by the adults as well as the kids.
- The Southwestern Bucks Solid Waste Committee (SWBSWC), consisting of Northampton Township, Upper Southampton, and Lower Southampton, met on June 13 and decided to extend the trash contract for an additional year under the contract option. The yard waste contract is set to expire on March 31, 2017.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Library will be having Dave DeLuca presented the Star Spangled Notebook on July 9, at 2 p.m. and Civics for Adults on July 21, at 7 p.m.
- The Library Board has hired an outside agency to help raise funds to support Library programs and services. The Library has received over \$7,500 in donations to date.
- The Library is seeking volunteers and will be opening throughout the week now at 10 a.m. based on survey data. Also, the Library will be adding hours on Sundays beginning in September.
- Work is underway at the Civic Center to remove existing poles to proceed with the widening the Newtown-Richboro Road
- The Parks and Recreation Department is gearing up for summer with new and exciting programs, and the Concert in the Park Series is back for another year.
- Discount Tickets for various activities are available from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The swim club located at the Northampton Country Club is still accepting membership for the summer; go online to [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com) to see pricing.

Chairman Weinstein made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on July 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Davis Pontiac Site and the Holland Middle School projects are underway and moving along nicely.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met on June 13 to discuss variances needed for impervious surface on a pool installation and a fence. No action is required on these items by the Board of Supervisors. On June 27 the Zoning Hearing Board

will consider variances requested for Lakeside Day Camp. The next meeting will be July 11, 2016 at 7 p.m.

- The Historical Commission had a meeting on June 16 and a recent Open House at the Baust residence, He thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the Feaster-Van Horn Cemetery in good condition.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission hosted a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30 and a Flag Day Ceremony on June 14.
- The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is holding a Veteran Business Owner networking event on June 30 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
- The Northampton Township Police Department sponsored a 5K run to raise money for the Hero's Scholarship fund.
- A tree dedication was held at the Civic Center in memory of Ryan Lescher. Vice-Chairman Moore spoke at the event.
- Extended well wishes to Dave Connell on his retirement

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Pellegrino spoke on working with Dave Connell and how Dave is the "best of the best" and it was an honor to have worked with him.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Pizzo reviewed a situation regarding the public speaking at meetings and email communication. He explained a person speaking at a public meeting realizes the meeting is being recorded and therefore understands their information is public knowledge. Emails are subject to public dissemination and review. An unattended consequence occurred in connection with the Rails to Trails project whereas the Township received an open records request for all emails relating to the Rails to Trails project. The request included several hundred emails with names and addresses, and under Pennsylvania Law these emails cannot be redacted. He added he felt it was necessary to explain the process in case those who requested the records contacts any of the residents.

Mr. Pizzo provided an update on the Mill Race Inn and explained the Redevelopment Authority determined the property to be blighted and that the Township acquired a condemnation of the property. The property owners brought this matter to Common Pleas Court. The Common Pleas Court decided the Township and the Redevelopment Authority acted appropriately. The

owners appealed to the Commonwealth Court and upheld the decision of the Common Pleas Court. At this time, the Redevelopment Authority and the Township will be moving forward

He announced the Board met in an Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss the Police Contract. No official action was taken by the Board.

He also echoed everyone's comments on Dave's retirement.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Connell thanked everyone for their kind comments and for taking a chance on him 30 years ago.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joanne Klempler, 36 Harriet Drive, thanked the Board for moving forward to set up a date to discuss the Rails to Trails project. Mrs. Klempler asked who the person was that requested the right to know information. Mr. Pellegrino responded with the name and address of the requestor.

Jeff Gold, 57 Grant Drive, raised his objection to Rails to Trails project, citing cost, policing, specialized training, extra crossing guards, and the need for restrooms along the trail.

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Avenue, stated his strong opposition to the Rails to Trails project and echoed the same objections as previous speakers.

Ann VanEerden, 84 Bustleton Pike, thanked the Board for setting up a meeting with the Bucks Planning Commission and giving the residents a chance to speak in an open forum on the Rails to Trails project. She thanked Mr. Pizzo for his explanation on the Right to Know request.

Aaron Goldfinger, 5 Penn Circle, questioned how the meeting was established with the Planning Commission. Chairman Weinstein explained how discussions took place.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Eileen Silver, Secretary