

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

Present were:

Barry Moore  
Eileen Silver  
Dr. Kimberly Rose  
Frank O'Donnell  
Robert Pellegrino  
William Wert  
Joseph Pizzo  
Kurt Schroeder  
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:

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

Others present were:

Robert Pellegrino, Township Manager  
Kurt Schroeder, Township Engineer  
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **FLAG PRESENTATION**

Chairman Moore called Peter Palestina forward. Mr. Palestina introduced Sue Reichart the mother and Kaitlin Reichart the sister of United States Army Specialist Tyler Reichert. Specialist Reichert recently deployed to Kuwait from Ft. Bragg and from there he will deploy to Iraq. Sue and Kaitlin will be placing Tyler's personalized Army flag in the display where it will stay until he returns from his deployment to exchange it.

Also in attendance to recognize Specialist Reichert was Peter Chong from Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick's Veterans Advocates, and Kerry Judge from Senator Tomlinson's Office.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. O'Donnell gave a small presentation on the Northampton Township 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Gala to take place on October 19 starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$50 and still available in person or online. Mr. O'Donnell stated this year a mentalist will be in attendance along with the Washington Crossing Winery, a special buffet, music, and many exciting raffle baskets. Mr. O'Donnell encouraged everyone to come out and support their local Library.

### **Certificate of Appreciation for George Croak**

Dr. Kimberly Rose called George Croak forward and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition for his years in the Military, as a volunteer for the Fire Company, and his time working with the Northampton Indians Football team.

### **Presentation on the Buck Road Streetscape and Bridge Replacement Project**

Chairman Moore called forward Joe Desantis, the President of McMahan and Associates. Mr. Desantis outlined the proposed project and then turned the presentation over to Stephanie Butler, the Senior Project Engineer for the project.

Ms. Butler provided a presentation outline, a project overview, bridge history, a summary of improvements, traffic operations, Rights of Way & Easements required, approximate project schedule, construction staging, and funding sources. Ms. Butler will then answer any questions from the Board and the public.

Chairman Moore called for Board comment.

Discussion ensued among the Board members asking questions of Ms. Butler such as:

Will two lanes be maintained, will it be safe to use until it's finished, costs associated with project, will the dip in the road be addressed as traffic comes off of the bridge.

Ms. Butler stated one lane each way will remain open, the dip is of concern with the profile and geometry, the drainage, so part of the improvement project will be elevate that dip and make it a smoother, vertical profile throughout the project. This will require some adjustments to driveways in that area.

Chairman Moore and Mr. Pellegrino addressed the issue with cost. This is a long-term project and is a joint effort between the township, the state and the federal government with the township paying \$460,000 in engineering fees with the balance of the estimated \$8 - \$9 million dollar project funded by the state and federal government. Mr. Pellegrino gave a shout out to Mr. Rich Brahler, Senior Transportation Planner from the Bucks County Planning Commission for all his help with this project.

Chairman Moore called for public comment.

Bill Hanson, 252 Holland Road raised several concerns over past, present and future traffic in this area. This work is going to cause even more of a bottleneck in that area. Mr. Hanson also doesn't understand the need for a walkable village since no one walks anywhere. Chairman Moore responded stating there will be no change in traffic patterns, and it is always the goal to make communities more walkable for safety reasons.

Keith Feldman, 56 Trailwood Drive, where is extra space coming from to make these lanes wider. Ms. Butler stated they are proposing 11 foot travel lanes with a two foot curbed gutter which means the through lanes will be 13 feet in width which is the most narrow we can provide. There is not a lot of space but it can be done.

Steve McGill, 103 Briarwood Drive, questioned if the right turn off Chinquapin will be regraded. Ms. Butler stated the project stops before this area. Therefore, no regrading should need to occur since it's not part of the project.

Glenn Wright, property owner of 287 Holland Road questioned how extensive and definite are these plans for Phase 2 considering the length of time this project is going to take. As property owners it could potentially affect their business. Mr. Pellegrino stated the concept of phase 2 is outlined in the Holland Master Plan. Mr. Pellegrino reminded Mr. Wright this is only a planning document and is subject to change depending on what they find in the field once the project begins. Phase 2 is approximately 10 years away.

Pamela McCullough, 282 Holland Road, stated she lives approximately ¼ mile away from the Bridge project and was never notified this was happening until she received a certified letter on this meeting tonight. Mr. Pellegrino stated the Holland Master Plan has been discussed for approximately 5 years. Discussions have been held at several meetings during that time. Going forward the Township will make sure to notify all neighbors surrounding this project and the Holland Master Plan can be reviewed by anyone at any time.

Barb Traub, 19019 Bromley Commons, doesn't understand why sidewalks are being put in across intersections going nowhere, this is not going to improve the situation only cause more accidents.

Chairman Moore thanked everyone for participating and stated if anyone has any further questions Ms. Butler will be outside the meeting to answer and provide follow up.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None was heard.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board meeting minutes of August 22, August 28, and September 13, 2018 were approved by unanimous consent.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The accounts payable for September 12, 2018, in the amount of \$972,673.55, and September 26, 2018, in the amount of \$1,049,166.55, was approved by unanimous consent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Authorization to Advertise an Ordinance Amendment Regulating the Use of Electronic Message Signs**

Mr. O'Donnell outlined the proposed ordinance for advertisement. The draft ordinance amendment would allow for message center signs subject to numerous criteria, including the following:

- Size of the message sign area related to the total sign square footage;
- Restrictions on the sign from flashing, scrolling, or imitating movement;
- Restrictions on time intervals;
- Restrictions on sign lighting, illumination levels, and glare intensity;

As part of this process, this ordinance has been reviewed by the Township Solicitor.

Upon authorization for advertisement, this ordinance will be forwarded to the Township and County Planning Commissions as required by the Municipalities Planning Code. Also, due to the required 30 day review period, this ordinance will have to be placed on the November agenda, not October.

A motion was made and seconded (O'Donnell-Rose) to authorize a public hearing on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:30 PM at the Township building for the consideration of an Ordinance amending the Northampton Township Zoning Ordinance, specifically Chapter 27, for the purpose of amending sections related to sign requirements to permit message center signs.

Chairman Moore called for board and public comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

**Consider Resolution to Approve Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update**

Mr. O'Donnell stated earlier this year, the Board approved the Township's Act 537 Plan Update, which has been prepared by Gilmore Associates who took the project over from CKS. Throughout the process, the Municipal Authority has also reviewed and provided input into the draft.

Mr. O'Donnell explained overall, the plan is a detailed document that includes background information, physical conditions and demographic analysis, existing sewage facilities, future growth and development, identification and evaluation of alternatives, institutional evaluation, and an implementation schedule. Tables and exhibits are also included as supporting documentation.

Since the Board's initial approval of this document, DEP has identified items that needed to be corrected necessitating re-adoption of the plan. Primarily administrative in nature, the following correspondences outlined the items raised by the Department of Environmental Protection and Gilmore's response on how they were addressed.

1. DEP Correspondence - June 21, 2018;
2. Gilmore & Associates Response Letter – September 12, 2018; and,
3. Draft Copy of the Approval Resolution.

A motion was made and seconded (O'Donnell-Silver) to approve Resolution No. R-18-19 adopting the revised Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update as prepared by CKS Engineers and Gilmore Associates dated February 2018, last revised September 2018.

Chairman Moore called for public and board comment. None was heard.

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

#### **Consider Bid Award for Rock Salt**

Dr. Rose stated on behalf of the Bucks County Consortium, Doylestown Borough advertised for bids for rock salt in the Intelligencer on July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

A proof of publication and bid tabulation sheet prepared and provided by Doylestown Borough.

It is recommended by Mr. Crossland of the Public Works Department that a contract be awarded to Morton Salt, Inc., Chicago, IL at their bid price of \$47.92 per ton delivered. Currently Northampton Township is paying \$48.82 per ton and used approximately 7,000 tons last year due to the severe winter season. Morton Salt, Inc. was the provider for this year's winter season. Mr. Crossland stated he has been satisfied with Morton Salt, Inc. services for salt delivery.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-O'Donnell) that a contract for rock salt be awarded to Morton Salt Inc., Chicago, IL at the bid price of \$47.92 per ton delivered to the

Bucks County Consortium.

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

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

**Report on 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police and Non-Uniformed Employee Pension Plans**

Dr. Rose noted the law requires the Administration to submit a report by September 30 of each year to the Board of Supervisors on the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for each of the employee pension plans for the forthcoming year. The MMO represents the funding level required from the Township to maintain the actuarial soundness of each pension plan. The calculations from the Township Actuary for the record showing the required contribution amounts for the 2019 year. These amounts must be budgeted as expenditures in the 2019 budget. The MMO's for each plan in 2019 are:

Police Pension Plan	\$955,096
Non-Uniformed Employees Plan	<u>\$929,489</u>
	\$1,884,585

The total MMO for 2019 is an increase of \$251,900 over the 2018 MMO.

The Township implemented a Defined Contribution Pension Plan (Money Purchase Plan) for new hires in 2016 and the above MMO is an estimated contribution to the plan rather than a required contribution. The Township contributes 5% of payroll for participants in this plan and members contribute 5% of their annual compensation.

The Township expects to receive about \$640,000 in Municipal Pension System State Aid to help offset the required contributions. The balance of \$124,660 will be budgeted in the General Fund. A vote to approve the MMO's is not required, but this information must be included in the meeting minutes.

**Consider Bids for Installation of a School Flashing Signal on Upper Holland Road**

Mrs. Silver stated Council Rock School District requested that the Township modify the School Zone and Flashing Signal system on Upper Holland Road to accommodate the use of Richboro Middle School as a temporary elementary school while renovations to Wrightstown Elementary School are completed. In response to the request, the Township Traffic Engineer, McMahon Associates completed a revised signal permit plan that has been approved by PennDOT to extend the existing School Zone to accommodate both elementary schools on Upper Holland Road.

Bids were opened on September 13 for installation of a new flashing signal. The Township received four bids ranging in price from \$25,149 to \$44,473. The low bid is from Armour & Sons Electric, Inc.

The Administration is recommending a bid award to Armour & Sons Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$25, 149. All costs for this project are being funded by the School District.

A motion was made and seconded (Silver-Rose) to award a bid for installation of a School Flashing Signal and School Zone modifications on Upper Holland Road to Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$25,149, with all costs being funded by the Council Rock School District and to authorize the Township Manager to execute all contracts required for this project.

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

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

**Consider Resolution Authorizing the Township Manager to Execute a Grant Agreement with PennDOT for Signal Improvements at Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads**

Mrs. Silver stated the Township was recently awarded a \$208,850 “Green Light Go” Program Grant for traffic signal improvements at Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads. The improvements include video detection to make the signal to be more traffic sensitive, a new controller to improve efficiency by adding more options for signal timing, and a battery backup system so the signal will continue to operate during power outages.

As part of the grant requirement, the Board of Supervisors must adopt a resolution authorizing an individual to execute the Grant Agreement and all future grant-related documents on behalf of the Township.

A motion as made and seconded (Silver-O’Donnell) to adopt Resolution R-18-20 authorizing the Township Manager to execute a “Green Light Go” Program grant agreement and all future grant-related documents as required by PennDOT for traffic signal improvements at Jacksonville and Almshouse Roads.

Chairman Moore called for Board comment.

Discussion ensued with Mrs. Silver explaining how the submission for the grant process occurs. Chairman Moore explained with the help of Bucks County Planning Commission the Township doesn’t have to do Preliminary Engineering due to this grant.

**Motion Passed 4-0.**

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Township is looking for a new Archivist, if you are interested and have experience, send in an application to the Township Manager.
- The Senior Center is actively holding programs and fundraising events, free flu shots are just one of the programs, call the Senior Center for more information on upcoming programs.
- The Boscov's shopping event is being held on October 16<sup>th</sup> for a cost of \$5.00 you will receive 25% off all you're shopping for the entire day.
- The annual Senior Center Bags and Bling Bingo will take place on Friday, October 26 starting at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.
- The Historical Commission did not meet this month due to a lack of a quorum. The Commission, however, will be going out to Rolling Hills Elementary to take pictures and document the history of this school.
- If anyone would like to show their support for the Resolution opposing HB 2564 regarding cell towers please contact state Representative Helen Tai's office.

Mr. O'Donnell made the following announcement:

- The weather really impacted the paving this year, but the Public Works has finally finished and is moving on to the Micro-surfacing of approximately 27 roads. All impacted persons will receive ample notice.
- Congratulations to Mr. Thomas Zeuner, Executive Director of the Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority as he was just appointed as Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authority
- The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Gala will take place on Friday, October 19 from 7:00 until 10:00 pm. The cost is \$50.00 per person and includes live music and a mentalist. You can purchase your tickets online or in person at the Library.
- The Library has many programs available see their website for a complete listing.
- The Library was notified it received approximately \$18,000 in grant money from the State to help with programming and half of that money will be used to purchase Narcan doses.

Eileen Silver made the following announcement:

- The Northampton Township Veterans Advisory Commission held their annual Wreath fundraiser which will be held on December 1, 2018 at the Union Cemetery. Any questions or to donate contact the members of the Veterans Advisory Commission.

- The Civic Center Restrooms are in progress and on schedule.
- CRUSA announced more members are signing up to play soccer.
- Northampton Parks and Recreation in conjunction with Newtown Township is not offering pickleball. Contact the Parks & Recreation Department for more information.

Chairman Moore made the following announcement:

- The Spring Mill Country Club Land Development Plan is expected to go before the Planning Commission on October 9 and will come before the Board on October 24, 2018.
- Fire Prevention Week is the week of October 8<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. The open house will be held on Friday, October 12, 2018.

Manager's Report:

- The New Police Department Headquarters is under construction and although there has been a few slight delays due to weather the project is going smoothly.

Eileen Silver Report cont'd:

- Reminded everyone the DAS bill is very important that is being put up in the State Legislation. Mrs. Silver noted this same bill was opposed last year, it never made it out and now it's being reintroduced. It's important all of the legislatures oppose this, as it is a very bad bill and our representatives need to protect our rights.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marge Weiner, Worthington Mill Road, spoke on the burials held at the Washington Crossing Cemetery. Encouraged everyone to come out during one of these services to support our Veterans who may not have any family or friends.

Stanley B, (no address is given) spoke on the high cost of ambulance services regarding an article he read in the Bucks County Courier Times on August 27, 2018. Discussion ensued among the Board and it was decided Mr. Pellegrino would look into his concerns.

James Rothenburg, 6 Brianna Drive, stated enforcement is needed by the Police Department on Handicap parking. Too many people are parking in these spots that are not authorized. Mr. Rothenburg spoke on brain damage caused by football and soccer and concussion issues. Would like a Resolution passed that a proper investigation is done on protecting the players of these sports. Questioned if the Northampton Valley Country Club Golf Course is making or losing money.

Andrew Gannon, 500 Bustleton Pike, announced the annual Tour of Honor will be held on October 1, come out to the Parx Casino and welcome and thank a veteran as they return. The

2<sup>nd</sup> annual Veterans Expo will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The Veterans Discount Card program is still available.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Frank O'Donnell, Secretary