

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

Present were:

Adam Selisker  
Barry Moore  
Dr. Kimberly Rose  
Paula Gasper  
Robert Salzar  
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  
Barry Moore  
Dr. Kimberly Rose  
Paula Gasper  
Robert Salzar

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**

None was presented.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None was heard.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The Board meeting minutes of February 22, 2023, was presented by Mrs. Gasper.

## **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The accounts payable of March 8, 2023, for \$903,863.25, and March 22, 2023, for \$1,645,892.53 was presented by Dr. Rose.

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

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **Consider Ordinance Approving Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement**

Chairman Selisker opened the hearing at 7:04 pm

Dr. Rose explained Northampton Township has been in contract negotiations with Verizon for the past several years on a renewal of the existing Franchise agreement that expired on December 31, 2019. The terms of that agreement continue until a new agreement is executed. The Agreement authorizes Verizon to occupy Township rights-of-way in its provision of “cable services”, as defined in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The term “cable services” does not include internet services that may be provided by Verizon through the same infrastructure (FIOS).

The draft Agreement is similar to the previous cable franchise agreement with several key changes as follows:

#### **Conditional Unilateral Termination**

Verizon has the right to terminate the Agreement if at least 6% of its subscribers terminate service over 12 months, with a subsequent 12-month notice. This would give Verizon the ability to cancel its cable television services before the end of the Franchise Agreement.

#### **Cable Services to Public Facilities**

Based on a 2019 FCC regulation, Verizon will no longer offer free basic cable service to Township facilities. The Township currently receives these free services from Comcast through its Cable Franchise Agreement so there is no impact on our budget; however, this may be an issue with any new Comcast Agreement.

#### **Capital Grant**

Verizon will provide a \$25,000 grant for capital expenses associated with our video booth. The grant will be paid within 90 days from the date of the Franchise agreement approval.

Length of Agreement

Verizon will only agree to a maximum term of 5 years for the franchise Agreement renewal. Typical agreements in past years have terms of 10 to 15 years.

An Executive Summary was provided for more detail about the negotiation and reasoning behind Verizon's position in many of the above matters.

The Township negotiated the draft Agreement through the Cohen Law Group, Pittsburgh, PA. CLG represented 33 municipalities, acting as a consortium, to develop a model Franchise Agreement that would ultimately be provided to each municipality for consideration.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Moore) to adopt Ordinance #615 granting a non-exclusive franchise agreement to Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC, for the operation and maintenance of a cable system within the public rights-of-way of Northampton Township.

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

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

Chairman Selisker closed the hearing at 7:09 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Bids for 2023 Road Milling**

Mr. Salzer stated the Board received the bid results and a recommendation from Gilmore and Associates for the 2023 roadway milling project for bid award. The Township received two (2) bids using the PennBid system. The bid results are as follows:

James D. Morrissey, Inc., Philadelphia, PA	\$213,212.48
Rota-Mill, Inc., Oley, PA	\$296,956.17

The bid includes milling Township roads on a list provided by the Public Works Director denoting approximately 6 miles of the Township system.

The Administration recommended a bid award to James D. Morrissey, Inc., Philadelphia, PA for roadway milling for \$213,212.48 based on the quoted price of \$2.08 per square yard for a 1.5-inch maximum depth milling.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Gasper) to award a bid to James D. Morrissey, Inc., of Philadelphia, PA for roadway milling for \$2.08 per square yard for

1.5" maximum depth milling, for a total cost of \$213,212.48 based on the quantities outlined in the bid documents and specifications for roadway milling bids.

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

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Bids for 2023 Road Materials**

Mr. Salzer explained on behalf of Bucks County Consortium, New Britain Township advertised the request for bids for road paving and related maintenance materials on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The tabulation details provided the bid results for the materials the Township intends to purchase along with a summary tabulation we made relative to Northampton Township. A total of 11 companies submitted bids for various materials used in road maintenance and resurfacing.

The Department of Public Works recommends contract awards as follows:

1. **Plumstead Materials, Plumsteadville, PA** – R-5 Stone, R-6 Stone and R-7/R-8 Stone
2. **Eureka Stone Quarry Inc., Chalfont, PA** – 1-B-1/2" Stone, No. 2B ¾" Stone, No. 2A Stone, Rip-Rap Mixed Stone, Super Pave 9.5mm Wearing, Super Pave 19.0 mm, Super Pave 25.0 mm
3. **Heidelberg Materials (formerly Hanson Aggregates), Newtown, PA** – No. 4 Stone Ballast, No. 6S Stone/Anti-Skid (AS2 or AS4), 5-8" Mix Gabion Stone, R-4 Stone
4. **Hei-way LLC, Sarver, PA** - QPR Cold Patch
5. **Continental Concrete Products, Pottstown, PA** – C-top inlets (RC34) with and without grates, M-top inlets (RC34) with and without grates

The Township is expected to pave or micro-surface approximately 9.5 miles of its road system this year. The estimated cost for the materials under this bid is approximately \$922,400 with about \$821,000 related directly to the road paving program.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Rose) to award contracts for various Road Paving and related Maintenance Materials to Plumstead Materials, Plumsteadville, PA; Eureka Stone Quarry Inc., Chalfont, PA; Heidelberg Materials, Newtown, PA; Hei-way, LLC, Sarver, PA; and Continental Concrete Products, Pottstown, PA as recommended by the Public Works Department, at their bid prices to the Bucks County Consortium.

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 quotes from qualified lending institutions for short-term financing to acquire capital equipment including police and public works vehicles, and public works construction equipment.

The Finance Department solicited quotes from six financial institutions and received three proposals. a summary of the quotes received was provided. The Administration recommends the Board authorize a short-term loan through Univest Capital, Inc., D/B/A Municipal Capital Finance to fund the 2023 capital equipment acquisition program. If approved, the Township will enter into a Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Univest Capital, Inc.

The loan amount is \$906,000, payable over 5 years at 4.19%, with an estimated annual installment of \$196,371. The difference in cost over the life of the loan is \$1,444 when compared to the next lowest rate quote. When the loan is repaid, the equipment becomes Township property.

To secure the capital loan described above, the Board must approve a Resolution.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Salzer) that the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution R-23-5 authorizing a 5-year capital loan obligation for \$906,000 with Univest Capital, Inc. for the acquisition of capital equipment under the Township's Capital Equipment Replacement Program, and to authorize the Township Manager and Township Finance Director to execute all documents required in connection with the loan.

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

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

**Consider Appointments to the Veterans Advisory Commission**

Mrs. Gasper announced there are two (2) vacancies on the Veterans Advisory Commission. One is an expired term ending December 31, 2025, and the other is an unexpired term due to the resignation of Faust Capobianco ending December 31, 2024.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Rose) to appoint John Coulbourn to fill a term effective immediately and expiring on December 31, 2024, and to appoint Michael Pinciotti to fill a term effective immediately and expiring on December 31, 2025.

**Motion Passed 5-0.**

## **REPORTS**

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- Spring is off to a great start at the Senior Center with many new and exciting activities, the calendar is packed with a variety of classes and activities throughout the week.
- The Senior Center is starting a new billiards league along with a variety of exercise and dance classes.
- The annual Spring Fling Shopping Event will be held on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 – 9 pm with over 50 vendors available. For more information contact the Senior Center at 215-357-8199 or by email at [nhsc@nhtwp.com](mailto:nhsc@nhtwp.com).
- For more information refer to the center's website [northamptonsc.com](http://northamptonsc.com). Stop by the center at 165 Township Road for a tour or call the center at 215-357-8199.
- The Senior Center is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am until 3:30 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm.
- Peter Cottontail is hiding somewhere in Northampton Township. You will see signs displayed throughout the Township at ten locations with a Secret Word on each sign. Write the secret word down or take a picture of it. Collect all ten words from each sign, and unscramble them to make a sentence about the season. Once you know the secret message you can e-mail it to the Parks and Recreation Department by April 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for a prize. For complete details visit [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com).
- Bunny Hunt Egg Venture is open for registration. For details and to register visit [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com).
- The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for outstanding lifeguards and camp counselors to make this summer memorable for the children of Northampton. To apply visit [www.northamptonrec.com](http://www.northamptonrec.com).
- The Parks and Recreation team is excited to partner with the Northampton Senior Center by offering programming this Spring at the Senior Center Monday – Thursday evenings. Look for new adult exercise programs, painting projects with your grandparent, adult art programs, a nutrition workshop series, and more.

Mrs. Gasper made the following announcements:

- The Library continues to host unique programs for our residents. Contact the Library for more details or check out their website.
- On Saturday, March 11 at 1:00 pm Annie Halliday of the Mercer Museum is returned to the Northampton Township Library to provide an overview of Northampton Township History.

- The Library is in the process of adding eight (8) new museum passes to our collection and is exploring a Museum Pass database and reservation system to better streamline the process for both patrons and staff.
- The Library will be offering new computer classes see the Library's website for more information.
- Richboro Coffee will be returning to the Library to offer its coffee specialties.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission met on Monday, March 20, to discuss the upcoming events, with the first being Memorial Day which is held every year at 9:00 am at Dembowski Park. More information to follow as the event draws near.

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- No Report.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission canceled its March Meeting.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met on March 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the three houses that will be demolished to make way for a Dunkin Donuts with a drive-through and a destination store.
- Bucks County Roses will be coming back before the Board on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The houses that are being torn down were allowed to be used by the Northampton Fire Department for training for the last couple of months.
- The K-9 program won a \$5,000 grant with Officer John Hearn and K-9 Pako receiving over 7,000 votes to win.
- There are two dogs in the Northampton K-9 program. K-9 Pako his handler is Officer John Hearn their job is basic patrol and explosives detection. The second K-9 is Maui and his handler is Officer Eric Freas with their job being basic patrol and narcotics detection.
- March 5 the Northampton Fire Company went 24/7 with career service and support from volunteers. There will be 5 firefighters on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- No Report.

#### **ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

- The Parks and Recreation Board at their meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> presented and heard public comments on a proposed concept plan for the development of the 39-Acre property located on the empty field across Hatboro Road from the Municipal Park. The plan proposes lighted, multi-purpose athletic fields, walking trails, a fitness court, native

grass and wildflower meadows, and accessory structures. The Township will be submitting a grant application next month to help fund design and engineering. Northampton will not know if the grant will be awarded until late fall of this year. If the grant is successful and funding is secured, design and engineering work could begin in 2024. A solid construction timeline has not yet been established as this project isn't funded yet and is in the early phases.

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) awarded Northampton Township a \$500,000 grant to fund Pedestrian Improvements along Route 332. This project includes a crosswalk at Fir Drive and a trail connection from Rock Way to the Spring Garden Mill Playhouse in Tyler Park. More updates to follow in the coming months as the project gets underway.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- No Report.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- No Report.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike McGuire, on behalf of the NADC Centrifuge Museum, stated he has a petition with 69 names on it and would like the Board to reconsider letting the museum be built on a small portion of this property.

Stan Braskey, 26 E. Robin Road, questioned the rise in trash fees, questioned the times the trash trucks are allowed to start operating, and wanted to know which trash can he uses for trash and which one for recycling. Mr. Pellegrino spoke on the contract and explained the trash cans offering to swap out the larger 95-gallon can for a smaller 65-gallon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Paula Gasper, Secretary