

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 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

Members of the Board absent were:

Robert Salzer

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

EMS Week, Police Week, and Public Works Week Proclamations

Chairman Selisker called forward Chief Jason Dowd and members of his team to accept a proclamation recognizing EMS Week and the hard work they perform daily.

Chairman Selisker also read proclamations announcing Police Week and Public Works and thanked and recognized the employees for all of the work they do throughout the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was heard.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable of April 12, 2023, for \$4,538,435.83, and April 26, 2023, for \$2,943,165.09 was presented by Dr. Rose.

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

CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Selisker announced Robert Salzer is absent this evening.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None was heard.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution to Apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant for Improvements to the 39-Acre Property on Hatboro Road

Dr. Rose stated Working with the Parks and Recreation Board and YSM Landscape Architects, a master plan was developed for the 39-Acre parcel located on the corner of Bristol and Hatboro Roads. Like Municipal Park across the street, this land was acquired from the National Park Service Federal Lands Reuse Program. As a component of an overall plan for improvements to the Township's parks system, this 39-Acre master plan provided is consistent with the 2014 Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan and the Federal Lands Reuse Program.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Program is a grant program that funds park development and rehabilitation projects. To request this funding, the Administration has prepared a grant application for Phase 1 development of a 39-Acre Park that includes five dedicated pickleball courts, football fields, a multipurpose sports field, and associated infrastructure such as driveway entrance, parking, stormwater management, and utilities. The grant is a 50-50 matching grant with a maximum

grant amount of \$250,000. Since the estimated budget for Phase 1 is \$1,926,000, if awarded, the Township contribution exceeds the required match.

The grant submission requires to have a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Moore) to adopt Resolution R-23-6 to authorize the Township Administration to submit an application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a grant to help fund Phase 1 of park improvements to the 39-acre parcel located on Hatboro Road.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose reiterated this is a work in progress and that nothing being suggested is set in stone. When working with grant money we would rather have the money come here than go somewhere else.

Mr. Moore noted this is a great concept for use in this area.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Resolution to Amend the Sterling Act

Dr. Rose explained the Sterling Act was adopted by the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1932 and requires that all non-residents working in the City of Philadelphia pay an earned income tax to the City for the privilege of working there. The current tax rate is 3.448% of earned income. The Act was intended to be in place for one year and was designed to help the City with the cost of municipal services during the Great Depression.

The Sterling Act may have made sense in 1932 when the surrounding Counties consisted mainly of farmland with few municipal services; however, much has changed in the suburbs since the 1930s. Growth in the surrounding Counties was followed by an expansion of local municipal services, including police, fire, and emergency medical services, parks and recreation services, public works, public utilities, libraries, and associated administrative support services.

Despite this growth and need for revenue to support the expansion of local municipal services, the Sterling Act continues to allow Philadelphia to tax non-residents without the requirement to remit any earned income taxes it collects to a non-resident's home municipality, even though that community enacted its own earned income tax, which is limited by State law to one (1%) of earned income.

The Sterling Act only applies to the City of Philadelphia and nowhere else in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is an outdated law that creates an inequity in our tax structure by taxing Township residents working in the City and placing a higher tax burden on those residents not working in the City. The Act deprives our Township of approximately \$1.1 Million that could be used to provide essential government services such as police, fire, and emergency medical services.

The attached resolution requests the PA Governor and State Legislature to amend the Sterling Act and require the City of Philadelphia to remit an amount of up to one (1%) percent of the non-resident Earned Income Tax it collects from Township residents working in the City to the Township.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Gasper) to adopt Resolution R-23-7 urging the Governor and Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to amend the Sterling Act and require the City of Philadelphia to remit a portion of the Earned Income Tax it collects from non-residents working in the City to the Municipality in which the taxpayer resides.

Chairman Selisker called for Board comment.

Dr. Rose stated the Township is always looking for ways to fund our 1st responders and with this law in place, it doesn't seem fair.

Mrs. Gasper agreed and noted its time to bring this money home.

Mr. Moore noted it is unfair that none of this money comes back to the Township.

Chairman Selisker noted this causes an increased tax burden on our residents. Senator Frank Ferry, State Representative Joe Hogan, and State Representative Kristin Marcell are working diligently on this.

Chairman Selisker stated the money should come back to our community to be spent and used here.

Chairman Selisker called for public comment. None was heard.

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Resolution Accepting Dedication of Public Improvements for the Estates at Creekside by DeLuca Homes

Mr. Moore stated DeLuca Homes, developer of the Gilmour Tract (Estates at Creekside), has requested dedication of the public improvements. A resolution was provided to accept the dedication of the following:

1. Ironworks Circle;
2. Reservoir Road;
3. A portion of Old Jacksonville Road; and,
4. Easement Areas

Gilmore Associates has certified that all improvements required under the development agreement have been satisfactorily completed except for the few minor items contained in their April 18, 2023 correspondence. As a result, the developer has provided financial security to complete these items and to also guarantee public improvements for eighteen (18) months.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to adopt Resolution No. R-23-8 accepting the Deeds of Dedication for the Gilmour Tract Subdivision (also known as the Estates at Creekside) by DeLuca Homes be approved subject to the posting of a maintenance bond and title insurance per the terms of the development agreement in addition to the submission of executed deeds of dedication by the developer that are all subject to the satisfaction of the Township Solicitor. In addition, the developer shall complete all items contained in the April 18, 2023 correspondence from Gilmore Associates during the maintenance

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Resolution Accepting Dedication of Public Improvements for the 444 Saint Leonards Subdivision by Toner Homes

Mr. Moore stated Toner Homes, developer of the 444 Saint Leonard's Subdivision, has requested dedication of the public improvements. A resolution was provided to accept the dedication of the following:

1. Quinn Circle (including all right-of-way, road, and stormwater improvements)

CKS Engineers has certified that all improvements required under the development agreement have been satisfactorily completed. In addition, the developer has provided a maintenance bond to guarantee public improvements for eighteen (18) months.

A motion was made and seconded (Moore-Rose) to approve Resolution No. R-23-9 accepting the Deed of Dedication for the 444 Saint Leonard's Subdivision by Toner Homes be approved subject to the posting of a maintenance bond and title insurance per the terms of the development agreement in addition to an executed deed of dedication by the developer that is all subject to the satisfaction of the Township Solicitor.

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Resolution for Microsurfacing Certain Township Roads

Mrs. Gasper noted the Township has an opportunity to piggyback on a contract awarded by Whitpain Township, Montgomery County for micro surfacing as part of our annual road maintenance program. Unlike road paving, a micro-surfacing application is intended to extend the life of roads that are not ready for resurfacing but have shown enough signs of wear that resurfacing is imminent in the next 5 to 10 years.

Whitpain Township publicly advertised and awarded contracts for its 2021 road-resurfacing program with the intent of opening the process to other municipalities that are members of the Delaware Valley Consortiums or Montgomery County Public Works Association. Northampton Township belongs to both organizations. This contract between Whitpain Township and Asphalt Paving Systems was extended through 2023. A copy of the extension letter was provided.

To piggyback on the contract, Whitpain Township requires a Resolution from the governing body of any municipality wishing to participate in the bid.

The low bidder for micro-surfacing is Asphalt Paving Systems, Hammonton, NJ for \$4.72 per square yard for a double application, with crack sealing at an additional \$.37 per square yard as recommended by the Public Works Director. Our program this year anticipates using a micro-surfacing application on approximately four (4) miles of the Township road system. A list of the individual roads is enclosed. The total project cost is approximately \$392,337.00

A motion was made and seconded (Gaper-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-23-10 authorizing participation in the Whitpain Township 2023 Road Resurfacing Program for micro-surfacing on approximately four miles of the Township road system and authorizing the Township Manager to execute all required contracts with Asphalt Paving Systems for the micro-surfacing project.

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Resolution for Antenna Site Right of Way with Verizon Pennsylvania for 50 Newtown Richboro Road (Station 3)

Mrs. Gasper noted as part of the construction of the new fire station on Newtown Richboro Road, permanent power lines and communication fiber optics to the cell tower need to be relocated.

To accomplish this, the Township has been working with Verizon of Pennsylvania LLC to move these utilities to a new location.

The Administration recommends the Board of Supervisors approve the provided Resolution and authorize the Township Manager to execute the associated documents including the Right-of-Way Grant, construction of the Building Entrance, Antenna Site facilities, and Underground facilities.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-23-11 authorizing Verizon Pennsylvania LLC a Right-of-Way Grant providing for the construction of Building Entrance, Antenna Site facilities, and Underground facilities on Township property located at 50 Newtown Richboro Road and 55 Township Road, and hereby authorize the Township Manager to execute all associated documents.

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

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.
- On Wednesday, May 3rd a new art class is starting called “Doodles & Drawings”. This is a basic drawing class where you will learn to transform your doodles into beautiful drawings
- The 2023 Bocce League is set to begin. Signing up for the league began on April 24th and extends until May 19th. Last year’s league had 125 participants.
- For more information refer to the center’s website www.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.
- A few positions are still open for camp counselors this summer. Make a difference this summer and apply today by visiting the Parks and Recreation home page at www.northamptonrec.com and clicking on the camp counselor picture.
- The annual Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 20. Register your Northampton Township home for \$10 to participate. Mark the date on your calendar and download a map of participating homes.
- 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.

- For information on more classes or to register visit www.northamptonrec.com.

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.
- The Library's new services are highly popular. Book a Librarian is for those who would like some one-on-one tech assistance with their tablets/phones or simple help on a desktop computer. 60-minute sessions are being offered 4 times a week. These classes are usually booked weeks in advance. The other service is a 5-session set of Computer Classes being held in our computer lab and taught by two staff members. Registration is required for the 12 seats and all 5 classes are booked solid with a few waiting lists as well.
- Interesting statistics comparing the 1st quarter of 2022 to the 1st quarter of 2023: 45% increase in user groups reserving rooms representing a 31% increase in meetings held at the library. 38% more children's programs resulting in 44% more attendance. A 19% increase in the use of our public desktop computers. 105 tests proctored year-to-date compared to 128 tests in all for 2022.
- The Library has teamed with Parks and Recreation to host a few line dancing classes and 3 seminars dealing with healthy body posture between March and July.
- The Library Director represented the library at the 2023 Senior Expo held at Spring Mill Manor and hosted by Representative Kristin Marcell on Friday, March 31.
- Richboro Coffee will be returning to the Library to offer its coffee specialties.
- There will be a dedication ceremony for a George Washington monument to be installed at the Washington Crossing Cemetery
- The Veterans Advisory Commission met on Monday, April 17th, to discuss the upcoming events, with the first being Memorial Day which is held every year at 9:00 am at Dembowski Park.
- Kenneth Elwell's flag will be placed in a framed display case at Council Rock North. More details to follow when a date is set.
- The Veterans Advisory Commission will be collecting information to create a list of Veterans that reside in Northampton Township.
- Chairman Reilly of the Northampton Veterans Advisory Commission invited State Representative Kristin Marcell to discuss Veteran issues.

** Dr. Rose repeated her liaison report due to the loss of video feed during her report**

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- In April Bucks County Roses presented its plan before the Planning Commission and is scheduled to come back before the Board in the next couple of months.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met and discussed the three houses that will be demolished to make way for a Dunkin Donuts with a drive-through and a destination store.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The Fire, Police, and Emergency Medical Services have been working with the Council Rock School District over the past few months holding many safety and security drills at the schools and working with teachers, staff, and security doing what we can to keep the children safe. We are expecting to continue this training.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- No Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, 41 Grant Drive, raised several questions on the Rails to Trails project. He requested an update on the meeting that took place at the Churchville Nature Center on 3/23/23, was a Township representative at the meeting? Why didn't the Township provide notification to the residents that there is a meeting being held? Why wasn't there a report tonight on what took place at that meeting?

Discussion ensued with the Supervisors and the Township Manager explaining this is a County project. The Board endorsed the concept but is not involved going forward. The presentation that was held is on the County's website for viewing. The Board noted that it can influence the design and project safety to protect the residents but it cannot turn the project down.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Gasper, Secretary