

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

Present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Paula Gasper
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert Salzer
Ken Ferris
Amanda Fuller
Robert M. Pellegrino
William Wert

Agenda items were reviewed and discussed.

The regular business meeting of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 pm. Members of the Board present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Paula Gasper
Robert Salzer
Dr. Kimberly Rose

Others absent were:

Barry Moore

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer
Ken Ferris, Township Solicitor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Selisker led the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence in support of the military, and emergency service personnel and for Firefighter Corey Comperatore who was shot and killed at the Trump rally held on July 17, 2024.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Parks and Recreation Presentation

Dr. Rose presented a proclamation to Mrs. Jennifer Fean, Parks and Recreation Director designating July as Parks and Recreation month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, a resident, praised the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Johnson also asked for verification that the documents he provided at the June 26, 2024 Board meeting were made part of the minutes.

CONSENT ITEMS

BOARD MINUTES

The Board meeting minutes of June 26, 2024, were presented by Mrs. Gasper.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable for July 10, for \$1,115,946.24, and for July 24, 2024, for \$455,096.82 were presented by Dr. Rose.

A motion was proposed by (Salzer-Gasper) for the approval of the consent items. All of which received unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution Authorizing a Comcast Franchise Agreement Renewal

Mrs. Gasper explained the Township Administration has been in contract negotiations with Comcast for the past year on a renewal of the existing Franchise Agreement that expired on January 5, 2024. The terms of that Agreement continue until a new agreement is executed.

A Cable Franchise Agreement authorizes the cable company, in this case Comcast, to occupy the 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 Comcast through the same infrastructure.

The proposed Agreement is similar in form and language to the previous Cable Franchise Agreement and is based on a model Agreement recently negotiated collectively by municipalities in Montgomery County. Our respective consortiums have often joined together in the past to negotiate these contracts and share in the legal costs.

The Agreement is for a 10-year term and includes a \$60,000 contribution toward technology initiatives and maintenance of our TV studio, the standard 5% franchise fee, subscriber complaint procedures, requirements for clear, concise, and understandable itemized bills, free basic cable service to all Township and School District facilities, and an Education and Government channel on the channel lineup.

There is also new language in the Agreement requiring Comcast to pay franchise fees on any service not currently allowed that may be permitted in the future by a change in Federal or State

statutes or regulations. For example, if Federal or State law changed to allow franchise fees to be charged on internet services.

A motion was made and seconded (Gasper-Rose) to adopt Resolution R-24-9 granting a non-exclusive Franchise Agreement to Comcast, Southeast Pennsylvania, LLC. for the operation and maintenance of a cable system within the public rights-of-way, and to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Township.

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Bids for Roadway Micro Surfacing

Mr. Salzer stated the Township participated in a joint bidding process with Upper Dublin 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.

Upper Dublin Township publicly advertised and awarded the contract for its 2024 road maintenance program at a recent Board of Commissioners meeting on July 9, 2024. The contract is for three (3) years and includes the option to extend the contract for two additional one-year periods.

The low bidder for micro-surfacing is Asphalt Paving Systems, Hammonton, NJ at \$6.89 per square yard. This is the same contractor who has been performing micro-surfacing work in the Township for the last several years. This price includes a double application and crack sealing as recommended by the Public Works Director.

Our program this year anticipates using a micro-surfacing application on approximately 3.5 miles of the Township road system which encompasses 64,327 square yards. A list of the individual roads is attached along with the Asphalt Paving Systems bid proposal. The total estimated project cost is \$443,213.03.

A motion was made and seconded (Salzer-Gasper) to authorize participation in the Upper Dublin Township Bid for Micro Surfacing on approximately 3.5 miles of the Township road system at their bid price of \$6.89 per square yard and authorize the Township Manager to execute all required contracts with Asphalt Paving Systems for the 2024 micro-surfacing project.

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

Motion Passed 4-0.

Consider Approval for Wall of Honor Nominee

Dr. Rose outlined the Wall of Honor program and the nomination process. The Northampton Township Wall of Honor is an award to recognize individuals who have made lasting contributions to the community and have contributed to the quality of life for the residents of Northampton Township, Bucks County PA. The objective of the Wall of Honor Program is to see that individuals who have made valuable and lasting contributions to the community are recognized. The honoree is selected by a committee based on the following specific criteria.

The individual or individuals selected will be honored with the placement of a plaque that will be mounted on the Wall of Honor located in the Township's Municipal Park for all to see and become a part of Northampton Township's history.

To be considered for this award, nominees: must have been a resident during the time of community service, contribution, or accomplishment; must have participated as a volunteer in activities and/or accomplishments that benefited or have had a positive impact on the lives of the residents of Northampton Township; demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership, community spirit and would be considered a role model.

Each year, the Township solicits nominations from the public. The nominations are reviewed by the Wall of Honor Committee and if a nomination is deemed worthy, the Committee makes a recommendation to the Board on the recipient(s) for the Wall of Honor Award.

After careful and thoughtful deliberation, the Committee unanimously recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the 2024 Honoree for the Community Wall of Honor Award be Steven Bryer.

A motion was made and seconded (Rose-Salzer) to confirm the recommendation of the Wall of Honor Committee to Award Steven Bryer as the 2024 Recipient of the Northampton Township Wall of Honor Award. The quality of life for the residents of Northampton Township has been enhanced by Mr. Bryer who through his volunteer service made valuable and lasting contributions that make this community a great place to live, work and play! His life shall be celebrated and honored forever!

Motion Passed 4-0.

REPORTS

Chairman Announcement

Chairman Selisker announced Barry Moore is absent tonight and Ken Ferris, Esq. from Rudolph and Clarke is filling in for Joe Pizzo, the Township Solicitor.

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- July continues to be a very busy month at the senior center. It's a great time to check the center out to see what the over 900 members do there!
- If you're over age 55 or better, it's a perfect time to stop by and take a tour. The opportunities are endless for socialization, participation in activities, educational programs, parties, day trips, and FUN! The center provides a wonderful support system to keep you active, vital, and independent. It's a terrific way to help maintain your general well-being.
- You can visit the center Monday through Friday 9 am to 3:30 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 8 pm for a tour and see what lies behind the doors at 165 Township Road, directly across the street from the library. You can also access information on the center's website at northamptonsc.com. Any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to call (215)357-8199 for more information or stop by the center located at 165 Township Road for a tour. The center's hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 am – 3:30 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 8 pm. Another great source of information is the center's website at northamptonsc.com. The senior center is an awesome community resource!
- So many exciting things are happening in the Parks and Recreation Department! On Thursday, July 18, 2024, the Parks and Recreation Department was spotlighted by the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Society for Parks and Rec Professionals Day! Preschool Teachers, Facility Attendants, Camp Counselors, Park Maintenance, and full-time staff gathered for a brief ceremony before the concert. Bill Wert, Adam Selisker, and our biggest cheerleader, Kim Rose as well as members of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Northampton Township Fire Department were there to support and celebrate the department.
- Summer is still going strong in Parks and Rec! Our summer concerts on Thursday evenings are more popular than ever with food trucks and popular bands! There are only 3 more chances to come out and join us – you don't want to miss our Thursday nights!
- Looking ahead to Fall, the new brochure will hit resident mailboxes at the end of August. We are excited about the Friends TV Show Murder Mystery night and residents can look forward to trips to Broadway's Wicked and & Juliet, Folio Winery and Winterthur.

- For more information about our Programs and Events contact the administration building, or the Parks and Recreation website at www.northamptonrec.com.

Mrs. Gasper made the following announcements:

Strategic Plan Update:

- The Library Director, Library Board, and Committee members are advancing the strategic plan to shape future library services for our community.
- Under the Effective Communication Priority, the Library Board will recommend to the Board of Supervisors rebranding the library to enhance its visibility. This includes selecting a branding vendor, a new logo, colors, style guide, publicity messaging, and a new website.
- As part of the Contemporary Facilities Priority, the strategic plan committee reached out to architectural firms that have experience in library improvements to understand the process and to get an idea of associated costs. The purpose of this exercise is to assist the Township in selecting an experienced architect to develop a master plan for the building in 2025.
- Library Board members and staff are excited and engaged in making the Free Library of Northampton Township a "destination library," enhancing the profile of the Township of Northampton.
- The Library Board aims to present recommendations and proposals to the Board of Supervisors for both priorities at the September Board of Supervisors meeting for consideration and inclusion in 2025 budget preparations.
- Saturday, November 9th a Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at the STAR Center at 11:00 am. The Liberty War Birds will be in attendance with a restored Huey Helicopter.

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- The Municipal Authority has completed the rehabilitation and lining of nearly 200 manholes in the Southampton Basin following the main line project is a reinvestment in the Authority's infrastructure.
- The Municipal Authority has a report involving polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Department of Defense, specifically the United States Navy as many people are aware the base in Warminster many years ago used these substances as a fire retardant with the intended use for firefighting exercises now these toxic chemicals have now infected and poisoned our water table. Many residents are aware of this issue as they have well water on their properties. There are several neighborhoods effectively between Bustleton and Second Street Pike along Bristol Road. At this juncture, the Municipal Authority is in negotiations with the U.S. Navy to figure out how best to remediate the situation. The plan is to get well-water customers onto public water. The problem itself can not be remediated since the PFAS is in the water table. The Federal Government is trying to scale back on what was part of the initial negotiations in terms of the area they were initially going to

connect to public water. The Navy is expected to approximately 6 million dollars in the area of Upland Drive, Penland Road, Second Street Pike, Fairhill Drive, and Charlotte Drive. Which is a 20 to 25% fraction of the area that needs public water. Based on estimates to take care of the areas that are affected by the PFAS issue would cost upwards of 30-35 million dollars. The Department of Defense's budget is 2.13 trillion dollars. The Federal Government spent 33 million dollars in South Carolina to house monkeys to later be shipped for research. Spent six million to boost tourism in Egypt. Sent 38 million to Egypt, and we are asking for 30-35 million to remediate to connect our residents to public water where 38 million was sent to dead people during the COVID pandemic. They are saying they can't fix what caused our resident's water to be poisoned. Unfortunately, the Board has its hands tied in this matter, but the Board will do everything in its power to make sure this matter does not get swept under the rug. Residents who are having issues should contact Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick.

Chairman Selisker stated that four wells were taken offline and this affected every resident in this Township. It affects every resident, taxpayer, and ratepayer in the Township. It's just not the people that live on Bristol Road. Chairman Selisker reiterated Mr. Salzer's statement that the Board is committed to seeing this issue through, everybody deserves clean water and clean air.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements: (Absent)

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The Township held its annual food drive and it was another success in delivering much-needed food to Bethanna's local food bank. A big thank you to Melissa Kenyon, Stacey Schwengels, Amanda Goodwin, Public Works, and the Fire Department.
- A grand re-opening of both Fire Stations with an open house and walk-through is planned for September 14th.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- The Board met in an Executive Session immediately before tonight's meeting to discuss litigation. Present for that meeting were the four Board Members, the Township Manager, the Assistant Township Manager, the Township Engineer, and himself Ken Ferris. No official action was taken during the Executive Session regarding this matter and no official action was or is required at tonight's meeting as a result of that Executive Session.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Joe Johnson, a resident, presented a document to the Board and stated he was here tonight to discuss the sale of the old Police Station and the transfer of ownership over to the Re-Development Authority which was approved at the last meeting. Mr. Johnson stated he submitted an appraisal from the Bucks County Board of Assessments stating the property value was \$4,115,000. Everyone seemed to think the number was high but didn't have an explanation of how the Board of Assessments came up with that number. Under the Right-To-Know Act, Mr. Johnson asked for and received the appraisal on the property. He read into the record page 19 where it stated the total real estate taxes on the property are estimated to be \$553,040.23 which is equivalent to the property value of \$4,115,000 or \$550 per square foot. Mr. Johnson about appealing the taxes, valuing the building, and the programs available such as LERTA. Mr. Johnson believes this should be put up on the private market.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Gasper, Secretary