

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

Present were:

Adam M. Selisker
Barry Moore
Paula Gasper
Dr. Kimberly Rose
Robert Salzer
Joseph Pizzo
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
Barry Moore
Paula Gasper
Robert Salzer
Dr. Kimberly Rose

Others present were:

Robert M. Pellegrino, Township Manager
William Wert, Assistant Manager
Amanda Fuller, Township Engineer
Joseph Pizzo, 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, emergency service personnel, and those who have succumbed to breast cancer and all cancers in our past.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, a resident expressed concerns that his previous comments were not submitted to the public record.

CONSENT ITEMS

BOARD MINUTES

The Board meeting minutes of September 25, 2024, were presented by Mrs. Gasper.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable for October 9, \$3,447,467.02, and for October 23, 2024, for \$548,562.84 were presented by Dr. Rose.

ACKNOWLEDGE NAME CHANGE OF TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR'S FIRM TO JOSEPH PIZZO & ASSOCIATES

Chairman Selisker announced the Township Solicitor, Joseph Pizzo advised that his current law firm, Rudolph, Clarke, LLC is restructuring and his new firm will now be known as Joseph Pizzo & Associates effective November 1, 2024. Since the Board appointed Rudolph Clarke, LLC as Township Solicitor at its reorganization meeting in January, it is recommended that the Board acknowledge the new firm name. Mr. Pizzo will continue to represent the Township and there will be no impact to the legal services currently provided by Mr. Pizzo or his firm.

A motion was made and seconded by (Salzer-Moore) for the approval of the consent items.

Motion Passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consider an Ordinance to Amend Various Sections of the Township Code Related to Stormwater Management and Grading and to Add Allowable BMP Design and Construction Criteria

Chairman Selisker opened the hearing at 7:06 pm.

Mr. Salzer summarized the proposed ordinance that amends the stormwater management systems for single lots. Subdivisions between two to five lots are required to have underground systems or a communal basin maintained by the homeowners' association. Finally, all subdivisions of six lots or larger are required to have a communal basin maintained by a homeowners' association.

As has been discussed with recent subdivision projects, the intent is to prevent property owners from being adversely impacted by having individual, depressed basin facilities on their lots. With this proposed amendment, this objective is achieved while still meeting the requirements of the stormwater management ordinance.

As required, this ordinance was properly advertised in the Advance of Bucks County and posted on the Township website.

A motion was made and seconded by (Salzer-Rose) to approve Ordinance #620 amending the Northampton Township Code, specifically Chapter 23, Stormwater and Grading, Part 5, Design Criteria and Requirements, to add allowable BMP design and construction criteria for residential uses.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

Chairman Selisker closed the hearing at 7:15 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorization to Advertise an Ordinance to Amend the Northampton Township Code Related to Motor Vehicles and Traffic to Prohibit Parking on a Portion of Treeline Drive

Mr. Moore outlined the proposed ordinance amendment that was recommended by the Township Police Department to establish no parking from Saint Leonard's Road Intersection along the Northern Side of Treeline Drive to the Western Intersection of Seedling Drive.

A motion was made and seconded by (Moore-Gasper) to authorize the advertisement of a public meeting on November 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Township Building to consider an ordinance amending the Northampton Township Code, specifically Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Part 4, General Parking Regulations, Section 402, Parking Prohibited at all times in certain locations, to establish no parking on a portion of Treeline Drive.

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

Motion Passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Dr. Rose made the following announcements:

- The Parks and Recreation Department has begun to offer new programming at the senior center! An Introduction to Mah Jongg class and a Printmaking and Watercolor class are in full swing this Fall. In the winter, we will be offering sewing, knitting, and crocheting during the day as well! We are also on the lookout for new exercise and art opportunities in the evenings, as well as a full menu of special events in 2025!
- Our Fall Festival in September was canceled due to inclement weather (remember that one weekend that rained?) We are rescheduling and look forward to offering a Spring Festival in May! More details will follow!
- This Saturday, October 26 is Northampton Township Parks and Recreation's annual Halloween Happening! Children and Families will parade their favorite costumes, visit Scarecrow Row, and vote for their favorite scarecrows from the community and the first 500 participants will receive a Halloween treat bag!

- For more information about our Programs and Events contact the administration building, or the Parks and Recreation website at www.northamptonrec.com.
- The Northampton Township Senior Center is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to promoting aging as a positive and rewarding life experience. If you are aged 55 or better, stop in and check out the wide variety of programs and activities the senior center has to offer. It's the perfect place to help you stay active, build friendships, and have fun!
- There's something for everyone – exercise classes, dance classes, art classes, book clubs, bocce, darts, shuffleboard, billiards, table tennis, coloring club, cards, Mah Jong and so much more!
- The center offers trips at a discounted rate and special activities for members - including our annual holiday luncheon at Northampton Valley Country Club on December 17th, 12-2 pm. This event features entertainment, dancing, and games along with a fabulous meal!
- Tickets go on sale November 1st at the Senior Center. Not a member? Not a problem! Feel free to stop by the center for a tour and information about joining.
- Mark your calendars! Join us on Friday, December 6th, 5:00-8:30 pm for our annual Holiday Marketplace shopping event. Are you a crafter or an artisan? Vendors wanted!
- Stop by for a tour! You can visit the center Monday through Friday 9 am to 3:30 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 8 pm. The senior center is located at 165 Township Road, directly across the street from the library. You can also access information on the center's website at northamptonsc.com.
- With Breast Cancer Awareness month remember to do your self-examinations it is very important.

Mrs. Gasper made the following announcements:

- The Veterans Day Ceremony will be held this year on November 9, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Civic Center. The Liberty War Birds will be in attendance with a Huey Helicopter on display.
- Wreath Laying will be taking place on December 7, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Union Cemetery.

- Strategic Plan update:
The Library Board, and Strategic Plan Committee would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their support as the Free Library of Northampton Township moved forward with the first step in our Branding initiative. The library is partnering with a local firm, SWELL, and have our initial Kick-Off information-gathering meeting next week.
- Adult Programming update:
The library staff is providing basic computer instruction in 5 classes on Monday afternoons through October. At the same time, we renewed our partnership with Parks & Rec by again offering computer classes for Microsoft Word and Excel in October and November. These classes are provided free for residents through the sponsorship of WIN Waste.
- On November 2, from 1 – 3 PM, appraiser Mike Ivankovich provides an Antiques Roadshow-style program called “What’s It Worth?” where attendees can bring an item to be appraised. Finally, on November 18 at 6 PM, the Heritage Conservancy also presents a program, “Unique Habitats in Bucks County.”

Mr. Salzer made the following announcements:

- Provided an update on the PFOS issue and has been in touch with the Municipal Authority as recently as this afternoon and is pleased to see the coordination among our Local Officials, our Federal Officials, Politicians, and the Authority. It has been all hands on deck and Mr. Salzer is glad to see everyone taking this issue seriously.
- Reminded everyone to be safe this Halloween. Watch for children.

Mr. Moore made the following announcements:

- The Planning Commission met on October 8th to consider development on 27 Almshouse Road which is right next to the Bank of America Drive-In. There is a small vacant piece of land and the developers are proposing a building that is just under 1,000 square feet. This plan should come before the Board sometime in December.
- The Zoning Hearing Board met on November 11th to consider appeals mostly on residential properties.
- The Planning Commission has approved the Redevelopment of the Mill Race Inn, in Holland. This will be a combination of condominiums and offices. This should come before the Board sometime in December.

- The Redevelopment Authority has issued an RFP for the retired and vacant Police building which is due back to the Redevelopment Authority by November 13th. Proposals will be brought in front of the Board for consideration.

Chairman Selisker made the following announcements:

- The Fire Department held their dedication for the two new firehouses on Saturday, October 19th. There were many great speakers and many residents also attended.
- If you notice on the electronic signs a warning has been issued about excessive heat and fire danger. We are in a serious drought and many of the reservoirs are very low. With fall coming a lot of the needles and leaves that have fallen are very dry. No open burning, questions contact the Fire Department or Fire Marshal's office.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- The Administration is working on the 2025 budget and it will be presented at the November 20th Board meeting.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

- No Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- The Board met in executive session this evening immediately before this evening's meeting for approximately one (1) hour, present for the session were the five Board of Supervisors, the Township Manager, the Assistant Township Manager, and Mr. Pizzo. Two matters of pending litigation were discussed during the executive session. No official action was taken by the Board during the executive session and no official action was required at this evening's meeting as a result of that executive session.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Gilmore and Associates submitted the annual report on behalf of the Township that is required as part of our MS4 NPDS permit. This stands for the Municipal separate storm sewer system. The report was submitted on September 30th and it includes all of the inlets and piping systems within the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Johnson, a resident, spoke on the appraisals for the Old Police Station. Questioned the appraisal of the building for 880k and if the value could be improved if it was built out by 20%.

Ken Gruber, a resident, questioned the progress of the PFOS/PFAS issue. Mr. Gruber stated it is difficult to get answers and noted there is a scheduled meeting the first week of November to talk about funding for the whole area.

Chairman Selisker stated the Board is dedicated to pursuing the Federal Government to get answers and let them know the seriousness of this issue affecting the residents.

Mr. Gruber asked about the testing of the wells and the Board stated it might be a good idea to check into getting the well tested privately since there is no definitive date when the Navy will be testing and asked Mr. Gruber to share the results with the Township as the Township is keeping a record.

Rosemarie Ricardo, resident, noted she was in front of the Board in May regarding the creek behind her house and stated nothing has been done to rectify the situation. Stated this is a quality-of-life issue. Trees have fallen from the side of the creek onto the neighbor's property. Only one neighbor has tried to take care of their trees. House on Cedar that you can't see the front door it is so dilapidated. There are still four (4) bridges across the street.

Mr. Pellegrino does not have a property maintenance code. Regarding the overgrown yard, there is nothing the Township can enforce. If there is a safety issue we can get involved. But we cannot force a homeowner to take care of their property. The tree that has fallen and is leaning on a fence is private property if the tree is not impacting or impeding the flow of water in that creek that is a private matter between the property owners. The Township has some authority for impediments to the flow of water in the waterway and that is also a DEP issue as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Gasper, Secretary