

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with President Luker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners ZAPPONE, SPIEGELMAN, SANCHEZ, MYERS, MARKMAN, KALINOSKI, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, DiPLACIDO, FARREN, GILLESPIE, HECKER, JONES, KLINE, LUKER

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Assistant Legal Counsel GALLAGHER
Chief of Police KELLY
Finance Director BARRON
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL
Director of Public Work MICCIOLO
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Fire Marshal CLARK
Community Development Director STROTHER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS:

Recognition of volunteers of the 2015 National Pre-Night Out

Chief Kelly said so many good programs are held in our Township because of the generosity of the numerous volunteers in Abington. Tonight, we will honor one special group, who made possible our 2015 National Pre-Night Out, and who helped to bring the entire community out for a great evening costing taxpayers' nothing.

There are a total of 30 volunteers who spent 457 hours to put that event together and they are as follows:

Estelle Allen, Nancy Borkowski, Mike and Anne Butera, Brad Cooper, Nick Dahm, Kevin & Dustin Davidson, Tom Finley, Jan Harris, Kevin Fries, Linda Gabbamonte, Rich Hender, Ken and Sue Hoffman, Tamika Holt, Ben Johns, Frank & Rosita Kerringan, Gina Montgomery, Bill Osborne, Barbara Quinn, Frank & Janet Seydell, Steven & Donna Urban, Al Urban Sr., Dan & Kara Wall, and Karen Weaver.

Commissioner Schreiber presented Dave Rondinelli, Volunteer Coordinator for the 2015 National Pre-Night Out, with Certificate of Commendation to acknowledge with sincere appreciation of his continued outstanding and dedicated service to Abington Township's 2015 National Pre-Night Out on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 8th day of October, 2015.

All of the volunteers were presented with certificates as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of September 10, 2015.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Grant Program and Simone-Collins Landscape Architects

Commissioner Bowman announced that this item has been deleted from the agenda.

Settlement Agreement – Delaware River Basin Commission - Total Dissolved Solids Penalty

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize the acceptance of DRBC's "Settlement by Agreement" including authorizing the payment of \$875.00.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Edge Hill Road/Tyson Avenue – Flood Control/Street Reconstruction Project – Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary Use for Drainage

Commissioner Bowman announced that this item has been deleted from the agenda.

Easement for Aqua to Replace Existing Water Main at the Abington Township Incinerator Property

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the easement agreement with Aqua Pennsylvania for a new water main at the Abington Township Incinerator Plant property, located in Upper Dublin Township, at no cost to the Township.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Land Development LD-15-05 – Crest Manor Redevelopment LP – Washington Avenue, Franklin Avenue and Prospect Avenue

Commissioner Sanchez made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the Land Development application of Crest Manor Redevelopment, LP for properties located at 1602, 1604, 1606, 1608, 1620, 1622, 1626, 1628, 1634, 1636, 1640 and 1642 Washington Avenue; 1601, 1603, 1607, 1609, 1613, 1615, 1621, 1623, 1627, 1629, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1645, 1647, 1651, 1653, 1659, 1661, 1665, 1667 Franklin Avenue and 1713, 1715, 1721, 1723, 1729, and 1731 Prospect. The applicant proposes to renovate the existing twin dwelling units and construct a new 10 unit structure, a 4 unit structure and a new Community Building. In addition, one twin dwelling unit will be reconstructed and a new playground will be added. The number of dwelling units is proposed to be increased to 46 units. The applicant proposes to construct an onsite stormwater management system and additional parking. The properties are zoned in the (R-4) Residential District and (AO) Apartment Office District in Ward No. 5 of the Township of Abington.

This motion is subject to the following conditions:

1. Sanitary sewer service is available for this development as the flow from this proposal is not impeded by the sanitary sewer moratorium in place on flows through Cheltenham Township.
An Act 537 Exemption Application has been submitted and will need to be approved for this development.
2. The applicant will comply with items listed in the Staff Revenue letter dated, August 31, 2015.

3. The applicant will comply with items 1 and 2 as listed in the revised review letter from Montgomery County Planning Commission dated, September 8, 2015.

This motion is subject to the following waivers:

1. Waiver from Section 146.11.A – Property Identification Plan
2. Waiver from Section 146.11.B – Existing Features Plan
3. Waiver from Section 146.11.J – Recreational Facilities Plan
4. Waiver from Section 146.11.L – Architectural Plan

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kalinoski said the new playground was discussed in committee and will that remain or be removed from the plan?

Joel A. Johnson, Executive Director of Montgomery County Housing Authority, 104 West Main Street, Suite 1, Norristown, PA, replied per the Township's recommendation, we are willing to remove the tot-lot from the application and place funds in escrow for a possible future development of a tot-lot.

Mr. Matteo added that removal of the playground was discussed for safety reasons.

Commissioner Luker agreed that removing the playground was discussed for safety reasons; however, that was never discussed with the residents, so he feels it would be better to escrow the funds for the time being and revisit it at a later date after safety and traffic calming measures are addressed.

Also, previously discussed were percentages of employment of minorities and women-owned business enterprises during construction; and he asked for further clarification.

Kyle F. Speece, with Pennrose Properties, LLC, One Brewery Park, 1301 North 31st Street, Philadelphia, PA, Senior Developer for the project, said Pennrose Properties is a residential real estate development firm that has been procured to spearhead the development process at Crest Manor.

Established goals of Pennrose Properties for contracting with minority and women-owned business enterprises is 20% of contract dollars for minority; 10% for women-owned business enterprises of contract dollars; and 15% for Section 3 hiring and those terms are defined in applicable regulations.

Commissioner Jones asked would a business owned by a minority female still be 10% and 20%.

Mr. Speece replied an organization owned by a minority female count towards both goals, so if a firm is owned by a minority female individual that happens to be 2% of contracting dollars then that 2% goes towards the 20% and 10%.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, said she is opposed to the project, and urged the Board to vote no, because she feels "public funds are not being safeguarded." Also, she asked how much public money will go into this project.

Commissioner Kline clarified that the budget for this project is public information. Is that correct?

Mr. Johnson replied yes, it is.

Commissioner Kline said the speaker who wants this information can file a "Right To Know" request.

Mr. Johnson replied he has shared the budget for this project with that speaker previously and he will be happy to provide it again. Also, the speaker can file the "Right To Know" request through the MCHA.

Commissioner Myers commented that that Board is considering approving land development tonight. A few years ago, she visited someone who lives in one of these units and this project is so direly needed. These homes are in great disrepair, so she wholeheartedly supports this project and will be voting for the land development because it is very much needed.

Commissioner Spiegelman said he is also in favor of this project for reasons stated by Commissioner Myers as well as other reasons. The logic presented in the speakers' comments was flawed in her assumption that 'the end product is automatically supposed to be worth what is put into it.'

Commissioner Jones commented that these homes are needed in this community, so he would not vote against it and then see people be homeless or have to live in a property that is in dire need of repair.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Ordinance No. 2101- To Amend Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article II – (Traffic Regulations), Section 14 (Stop Intersection), Article III (Parking Regulations), Section 25 (Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here to Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing) and Section 27 (Parking Time Limited)

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2101- amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article II – (Traffic Regulations), Section 14 (Stop Intersection), Article III (Parking Regulations), Section 25 (Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here to Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing) and Section 27 (Parking Time Limited) for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on November 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Disposal of Unclaimed Confiscated Bicycles

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to direct the Police Department to donate to the Bikes for Tykes Program, c/o Sussman Automotive, all unclaimed bicycles and bicycle parts which have been confiscated and are being held by the Department.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she did not hear any mention about lost bikes and to check in.

Victor Krievins, 3505 West Moreland Road, commented that he is in favor of this motion as the police have a monumental job of finding out whose bikes were stolen.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

NFPA 1582 Compliant – Firefighter Physicals

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve Township officials to approve continuation of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Compliant Firefighter Physicals and Wellness Evaluations for ATFD Members.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Child Passenger Safety Grant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize Township officials to accept a grant award from the North Central Highway Safety Network, Inc. in the amount of \$3,500.00 with the Township's matching portion approximately \$51.00.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Buckle Up Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement and Education Project

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize Township officials to accept a grant extension from the North Central Highway Safety Network in the amount up to \$8,000.00. The Department of Transportation previously funded this program through Buckle Up Pennsylvania and is now funding this program through the North Central Highway Safety Network.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Ardsley Community Education Center Lease Renewal

Commissioner Farren made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to approve the Ardsley Community Education Center's lease with the School District of Abington Township for a term of ten years from September 27, 2015 until September 26, 2025.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels that "the amount of monies spent over the course of the contract amounts to \$50,000, and it is a center subsidized by the Township."

Commissioner Kline clarified that the Ardsley Community Center costs the Township approximately \$250,000. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied operating expenses cost approximately \$250,000; however, most of those costs are offset by rental income from the daycare operation at that facility.

Commissioner Myers said no one on this Board ever said it was free. The lease agreement to rent that property for an extended period of time is a \$1.00 per year and that is a huge savings.

Commissioner Zappone said the Ardsley Community Center is the "jewel" of Ardsley. All of the activities that take place there not only benefit Ardsley, but the entire community, and Mr. Wendell and his entire staff do a wonderful job there. Thank you.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Treasurer's Report:

Township Treasurer Jay W. Blumenthal reported for the month of September 2015 monies deposited into Republic Bank from various Township departments was in the amount of \$1,216,483 as compared to last year in the amount of \$3,298,443 representing a decrease of (\$2,081,960): YTD \$14,984,130 as compared to last year in the amount of \$15,276,851 representing a decreased of (\$292,721).

The Tax Office collected \$18,912 in real estate taxes as compared to last year in the amount of \$49,771 representing a decrease of (\$30,859); 97% has been collected leaving a balance of 3%.

Expenditures/Salaries and Wages

Motion to:

- (A) Approve the August expenditures as previously circulated to the Board, in the amount of \$1,998,842.65 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,307,061.06.
- (B) Authorize the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of November 2015.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

Roll Call resulted in motion being passed 15-0.

Training and Conference Expenses

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Advance and Travel Expense activity for August 2015 as previously circulated to the Board. Advance and Travel Expense reports were \$0.00 and \$1,315.52, respectively.

Eight-month expenses totaled \$27,778.81.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Clearing Fund/Deferred Revenue and Expense/Petty Cash

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Clearing Fund, the Deferred Revenue/Expense activity and Petty Cash balances for the month of August as previously circulated to the Board.

Clearing fund receipts and disbursements for the month of August 2015 were \$683.86 and (\$16,363.13), respectively.

Deferred Revenue/Expense receipts were disbursements for the month of August 2015 were \$0.00 and (\$2,255.00), respectively.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Designate Republic Bank as the Official Depository for Abington Township Funds

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Hecker to designate Republic Bank as the official depository for Abington Township Funds for additional three (3) years with two (2) additional years at the option of the Township, beginning March 2016.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Dr. Bob Sklaroff, 1219 Fairacres Road, commented that in Pennsylvania there are four entities that were approved to be members of the STARR Community and one of them has a three star rating; has Abington applied for that as well?

Commissioner Kline replied there is a group of volunteers who are in the process of working with a STARR Community mentor on analysis and evaluations, and following the evaluation period, the Township will get a STARR rating

Victor Krievins, 3505 West Moreland Road, commented that recently Officer Jennifer Doyle helped people at the train station during the Pope's visit to Philadelphia and also Ron Griffith, Animal Control Officer rescued an animal in distress and both of them did a commendable job.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she does not know the amount of public funds that will be used for the \$17 million project.

REMARKS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Zappone announced that 4th Annual Ardsley Family Day was a huge success thanks to his committee and the car show was also a success and he thanked Mr. Micciolo for assistance. Also, on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 6 p.m. will be the 4th Annual Ardsley Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Community Center. This year, we will partner with the North Penn VFW on December 13th for the First Annual Ardsley Family Day Breakfast with Santa.

Commissioner Spiegelman thanked Township staff for their assistance. Also, he reminded everyone that Tuesday, November 3, 2015 is Election Day and the local elections affect our day-to-day lives from the taxes that we pay to the rights that we enjoy, so please come out and vote. Polls are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Commissioner Myers announced that this is an important week for fire prevention, and she visited the Roslyn Fire House last night for their Open House, which was a huge success with all having a tremendous amount of fun.

Commissioner Markman commented that he had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Pennypack Trail going into Lower Moreland. Please take a walk there as it is an incredible resource and the more who know about it the more valuable our Township is.

Commissioner Kalinoski announced that tomorrow night is the Edge Hill Fire Company's Open House and this Sunday, we will be having a pancake breakfast at the North Penn VFW. Also, his thoughts and prayers go out to those suffering in North Carolina due to flooding.

Commissioner Schreiber agreed it was so much fun at the Roslyn Fire House last night. Also, she reminded everyone that the Roslyn Car Show was moved to Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 3 p.m.

Commissioner DiPlacido commented that local elections matter, so please come out and vote. McKinley's Halloween Parade is coming up on Saturday, October 24, 2015. Also, "when driving through Abington, please drive like your kids live here."

Commissioner Farren congratulated everyone who assisted with the Pre-Night Out event. He also congratulated Commissioner Zappone on a successful Ardsley Family Day event. He thanked Mr. Micciolo, Mr. Powers and Mr. Wrigley for their assistance.

He reminded everyone about the value of reading and new research suggests that reading to your children every night can be the most beneficial and he encouraged all parents to read to their children.

This Saturday will be the Fall Festival in Keswick Village from 12-6 p.m. The fun continues on October 24th with the 22nd Annual Trick-or-Treat Festival in Keswick Village. St. Joseph the Protector will be having a Food Truck/Music Festival on Friday, October 23rd from 6:30 p.m. 10 p.m. Also, the Abington Education Foundation will be having a Monte Carlo Night on November 21st.

There is a group in Glenside called, S.W.I.F.T. (Strong Women In Fitness Together) and they recently completed a 200 mile race, and he congratulated them for it.

Commissioner Gillespie commented that the fire hats are complimentary of the Weldon Fire Company and they had a great event. Also, PAL Food Festival will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at the Philmont Country Club beginning at 5:30 p.m. She also thanked Township staff for their assistance in Ward 13.

Commissioner Hecker congratulated Commissioner Tom Farren, who recently was awarded his PhD, which is an outstanding accomplishment.

He thanked his fellow Pension Committee members along with Finance Director Kevin Barron and Township Manager LeFevre for our marathon session earlier this week as it was time well spent.

The Roychester Community House will be sponsoring its Annual October-Fest this year on Saturday, October 24th beginning at 2 p.m. and volunteers are needed.

Commissioner Jones announced that McKinley's Halloween Parade will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 1-3 p.m. On November 7, 2015, at Ethel Jordan Park, there will be a tree planting and riparian buffer put in. Over 170 trees will be planted at Ethel Jordan Park costing zero tax dollars. He thanked Mr. Doug Wendell for the work that he has done.

He also thanked Mr. Micciolo and Traffic Safety Officer Freed for the work they did on intersections and crosswalks in Ward 3.

Also, on October 28, 2015 at Sisters of St. Basils will be a Social Justice Symposium from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Kline reminded everyone that on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7 p.m. in this boardroom will be a zoning ordinance rewrite workshop to update the Board of Commissioners on the zoning rewrite, and it is a public meeting.

Mr. Micciolo said it was mentioned by a speaker tonight that the Roslyn Boys and Girls Club is subsidized by the Township, which is completely false. He has been a member of the Roslyn Girls and Boys Club for 34 years and the building was built by volunteers and it is run by volunteers and the Township does not give this organization any funds.

Commissioner Kline commented that the Board has received their budget books and budget workshops will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2015 and Thursday, October 22nd and the first reading of the budget will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 with subsequent meetings held if necessary.

Commissioner Luker announced that on Sunday, October 18, 2015, the Willow Grove Chapter of the NAACP will be holding their Annual Banquet at Williamsons Restaurant, and on Monday, October 19th, the Willow Grove Chapter of the NAACP will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" Forum at First Baptist Church in Crestmont.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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