

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Monday, April 4, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners HECKER, KLINE, MYERS, ROTHMAN
Excused: FARREN

Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Community Director STROTHER

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, SPIEGELMAN, KALINOSKI, SCHREIBER, SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, DiPLACIDO, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE

MINUTES: Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2016 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Bid Award for 2016/2017 Consortium Sign Bid

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to accept the lowest responsible bids and enter into contracts with the following companies for the purchase of materials as shown:

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| Garden State Hwy. Prods. | Sign Posts Material Portion – Items #5, #6, #7, #15, #18, #19, #22 thru #24 and #27 |
| Protective Services, Inc. | Items #1 and #16 |
| Chemung | Items #2, #3, #4, #8 thru #14 and #17 |
| Lightle Enterprises | Items #20, #21, #25, #26 and #28 |
| Garden State Hwy. Prods. | Aluminum Blanks Material Portion – Complete. |

Garden State Hwy. Prods.	Reflective Roll Goods – Type III Material – Items #1 thru #7, #9, #10, #12 thru #20.
Protective Services, Inc.	Items #8 and #11.
Garden State Hwy. Prods.	Reflective Sheeting and Sign Faces – Finished Signs – Type III Material – Complete
Garden State Hwy. Prods.	Reflective Sheeting and Sign Faces – Type III Material – Complete
Flint Trading Inc.	Hot Tape Pavement Markings- Complete
Garden State Hwy. Prods.	Miscellaneous Items Portion – Items #1, #2, #3, #5, #9, #10, #16, #17 and #20
Protective Services, Inc.	Items #4, #11 thru #15 and #19
Lightle Enterprises	Items #6, #7, #8 and #18

Commissioner Hecker called on Director of Public Works, Mr. Micciolo.

Mr. Micciolo explained that for past 11-12 years, bids are sent for the entire consortium, and by buying in large quantities, costs are reduced tremendously. The Township has done business with these companies previously over the years.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Resolution No. 16-015 – Montco 2040 Grant Application

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to adopt Resolution No. 16-015, authorizing the proper officials to apply for a grant for improvement at the intersection of York Road and the Fairway.

Commissioner Hecker called on Director of Public Works, Mr. Micciolo.

Mr. Micciolo explained that several improvements made to this intersection have helped, but the configuration makes it hard to resolve all concerns. By installing a bump-out at the corner will reduce the distance for the pedestrians who are crossing to get from one side to the other. A walking study was performed recently and one of the recommendations was to install a bump-out.

Montgomery County is offering a 20/40 grant and Abington Township would be a good candidate because this bump-out was recommended in the Montco Walk Plan.

Approximate cost is \$90,000 to \$110,000 with a 20% match. Match includes preliminary work as well as design, engineering and implementation of the project. Approximate costs are in the range of \$20,000-\$22,000.

Commissioner Hecker called on Commissioner Sanchez.

Commissioner Sanchez commented that this intersection has been a very difficult situation, and hopefully, this along with other improvements that have been made will be the solution. He asked for support by his fellow Board members as we would not be able to pursue a solution of this magnitude without such a grant.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers said it was mentioned that the Township is a good candidate, and she asked Commissioner Sanchez if he feels the Township will be awarded this grant.

Commissioner Sanchez replied he feels the Township is a good candidate because this project is supported by the walkability study that was done by the County.

Commissioner Markman commented that he spoke Jody Holton, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, who indicated that the County has been focused on the Noble area, which is a prime area to enhance walkability.

Commissioner Myers asked is there a timeline for this grant.

Commissioner Kline replied there is \$1 million allocated in the County's budget for the next five years and it is a rolling application for this grant. Applications will be reviewed in May.

Mr. Micciolo added that the Township's application will be submitted before May 1st.

Commissioner Sanchez noted there has been a group of residents working diligently with us on this matter providing their input, and they wrote a draft letter directed to officials of PennDOT indicating their support of these efforts in which he will provide a copy of it to Township Assistant Manager Wehmeyer.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Ordinance No. 2116-Old Welsh Road Sanitary Sewer District and Sewer Assessment

Information Only –

Commissioner Hecker announced that Ordinance No. 2116 establishing the Old Welsh Road Sewer District, assessing the branch of sanitary sewers on Old Welsh Road, will be considered by the Abington Township Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

2015 HUD Program – Tennis Avenue/North Hills Avenue/Fairview Avenue Storm Sewer Projects

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to add Fairview Avenue and remove East Avenue from N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. contract for the 2015 HUD Program. The contract amount will remain the same.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline said although, East Avenue is being removed from that contract; will there still be a storm sewer project for East Avenue?

Mr. Powers replied yes, it was moved to the capital list and it has already been funded.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she understands that East Avenue was no longer covered by HUD; was that the reason why it was taken out and when will the East Avenue project begin?

Mr. Powers replied that is correct. East Avenue project will begin in a few weeks.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Rockwell Road Sidewalk Project

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve and enter into contract with Biase Landscaping, LLC for the Rockwell Road Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$97,500.00 to be funded from Fund Balance.

Commissioner Hecker expressed his gratitude to the members of the Board as well as to Township staff who worked diligently over the last year to help bring this to fruition.

A community meeting was held last Saturday morning to talk with residents of Rockwell Road who are deeply appreciative of the measures being taken to improve pedestrian/traffic safety conditions on Rockwell Road. He appreciates the support of his fellow Board members and he thanked all Township staff who was involved.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there are any concerns about how low Biase's bid price was for this project.

Mr. Powers replied he spoke with Biase, who indicated that this project can be done for the bid price quoted.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that these sidewalks are very important to those residents of Ward 11 who live on Rockwell up towards Edge Hill Road. He knows how tirelessly Commissioner Hecker has worked on this effort and has advocated for it nonstop, and he thanked Commissioner Hecker for it.

Commissioner Kalinoski questioned how Biase's work holds up 10-15 years later.

Mr. Powers replied we have used this company extensively on other sidewalk projects in the Township, and since this is the type of work they do that is why the price was low.

President Luker commended Commissioner Hecker for doing a marvelous job on Saturday at the meeting with residents supported by Township staff as well as Commissioner Spiegelman.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there was discussion with the residents about the fact that after the one-year maintenance bond expires with Biase, the residents are responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks.

Commissioner Hecker replied that was addressed directly at that meeting and he will be sure to address it with those who were not in attendance at that meeting.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Old Welsh Road Sanitary Sewer Project

Motion to approve _____ to perform the appraisal review for the Old Welsh Road Sanitary Sewer Project in the amount of \$ _____ to be funded from Sanitary Sewer Retained Earnings.

Commissioner Hecker called on Township Solicitor Clarke.

Solicitor Clarke explained that the Township needs to get appraisals for the Old Welsh Road Sanitary Sewer Project as there are properties involved with the project that will be assessed. We contacted three appraisal companies to submit a proposal, which were Coyle Lynch & Co., Indian Valley Appraisal Co., and the third company declined to submit a proposal. Coyle Lynch and Indian Valley appraisals were not comparable, so we have asked for clarifications as well as modification to their proposals.

We anticipate receiving their proposals in the next few days, and at which time, staff will be prepared to make recommendation to the full Board at its meeting on April 14th.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers questioned whether this is the “normal” process for appraisals because she remembers years ago there was an Appraisal Review Board.

Solicitor Clarke replied the normal process for a First Class Township for sanitary sewer projects in which properties need to be assessed can be done by two different methods. One is a “front foot assessment” where the cost of the project is divided up and property owners are charged based on how much footage they have on the front of their property.

The other way is by “benefit assessment,” which is to determine how much the value of the property will increase by having a public sewer and, if one of the property owners does not agree, then it goes to a Appraisal Review Board, and ultimately having to be approved by a judge.

Commissioner Gillespie clarified that the ordinance requires property owners to hook up to public sanitary sewer. Is that correct?

Solicitor Clarke replied there is a provision in the ordinance where it can be waived until either the on-lot systems fails or the property is transferred in an arms-length transaction, which means transferring out of a married name to a divorce name.

There is also a provision that hooking up to public sanitary sewer does not need to be done immediately and there is no timeframe to do so.

Commissioner Kline added that the Township would lien the property for that assessment.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked is it standard that the Township pays for all the mains and residents pay for all of the laterals?

Mr. Powers replied there is an assessment process that calculates the numbers.

Commissioner Hecker deferred this item to the full Board of Commissioners meeting when a recommendation will be provided by Township staff.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any general comments relating to Public Works.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about “a leak with gas tanks at the gas station at Easton and Woodland Roads and heavy equipment that is there that runs all of the time, so there is a noise and odor problem there.”

Mr. Powers replied the company that is there is required to monitor and clean out the system and officials of EPA are aware of it and everything is under control.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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