

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

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

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Community Director STROTHER

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commonwealth of PA – 2015 Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to authorize Township officials to accept a grant award from the Commonwealth of PA; a 2015 Growing Greener Watershed Protection Grant, in the amount of \$186,000, with the Township matching portion of \$27,900; to be funded from MS4 funds under the 2015 Capital Budget.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners of staff.

Commissioner Myers clarified that the Evergreen Manor Park Infiltration Basin as listed under work description means that a basin will be built, and if so, will it be built in the park or the wooded area?

Mr. Powers replied yes, we will build a very small check-basin in the wooded area to improve water quality as required by DEP.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Highland Avenue Storm Sewer Project

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve and enter into contract with N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. for the Highland Avenue Storm Sewer Project in the amount of \$320,240.00; to be funded as follows:

1. 2014 Bond - \$95,000.00
2. Fund Balance - \$225,240.00

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there was any concern about follow-through on this project since Abbonizio pulled out of the Old Welsh Road project.

Mr. Powers replied no. Right now, they are finishing up the HUD project, and when that is done, they will get this project completed because we want it done as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kline asked for a copy of the bid sheets.

Mr. Powers replied they are attached to the agenda. There were only two bids and both were close in price.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that this is the culvert on Highland Avenue near the entrance to the School District's Central Administration building and the back entrance to the junior high school. This project will be a great service to those who travel across the culvert on a daily basis as well as for the entire Township. He thanked his fellow Board members for their support.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked if this was an emergency, and if so, was it a budgeted amount?

Mr. Powers replied it is one of the projects on the list to be done over the summer and it was not a budgeted project.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

2014 Capital Improvement Program

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve final payment for the 2014 Bond Issue Phase I Storm Sewer Project to Almeida & Hudak Contractors, LLC, in the amount of \$69,805.64; to be funded from 2014 Bond Issue.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers commented that as listed in the Board Action Request form, Senak Road received storm sewers in 2014, and at the Roslyn Community Day, a resident of Senak Road expressed their gratitude as this was “life-changing” for the residents of Senak Road and now when it rains they do not have to panic.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Grant Program

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve final payment to Simone Collins Architecture (in association with Traffic, Planning & Design) for the Township Master Bicycle Plan in the amount of \$898.23; to be funded from Account No. 06-07-301-5305.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Award Bid for Grit Collection System Replacement

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid and to enter into a contract with Derstein Company, LLC for the Grit Collection System for WWTP in the amount of \$265,500.00 to be funded from Capital Account No. 02-00-000-7459.

Commissioner Hecker called on Director of W.W.T.P, Mr. Wrigley.

Mr. Wrigley reported that this project was planned for in the 2015 budget, and adjustments/improvements have been made to that contract and it is a capital budgeted item.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Discussion of Future Treatment Plant Effluent Limits Agreement with the EPA and PADEP

Commissioner Hecker said there was discussion of recent negotiations with the EPA and PADEP regarding the forthcoming agreement establishing lower Treatment Plant effluent limits for Total Phosphorus.

Commissioner Hecker called on Director of W.W.T.P, Mr. Wrigley.

Mr. Wrigley reported that EPA has proceeded with the first step in making the four treatment plants lower phosphorus limits in effluent discharges, and stormwater MS4's are a second part of it. Possibly by September, there may be a formal agreement that he will bring before the Board that will include a provision that the Township will need to spend a certain amount to upgrade a small portion of the wastewater treatment plant to get those phosphorus limits decreased, and that will be a short-term solution of three to five years.

Commissioner Hecker asked is there a sense of how much the cost will be?

Mr. Wrigley replied in the range of \$250,000-\$500,000.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline clarified that this will only be a three-to-five year solution. Is that correct?

Mr. Wrigley replied there are two phases. The first limit for the Township is two years; however, during negotiations, he will try to get it to three years, which will be to get the phosphorus limit to 0.5 mg/L. The next longer-term phase would be to get it to 0.1 mg/L, which is almost beyond current available technology.

Commissioner Kline said there are a group of municipalities working on the MS4 aspect of the TMDL in terms of how the 0.5 mg/L was established and not being able to meet that limit.

Mr. Wrigley replied EPA officials would like to see 0.04 mg/L for treatment plants and the MS4's, which is beyond current technology.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there is any merit in officials of the wastewater treatment plants to work with the group of municipalities and whether the limit of 0.5 mg/L is setting precedent.

Mr. Wrigley replied it is not setting precedent for the MS4's because it is such a different type of technology. The treatment plants can somewhat comfortably achieve the 0.5 mg/L limit within two to three years.

Commissioner Kline clarified that the 0.5 mg/L phosphorus level in the discharge is just from the sewer treatment plants. Is that correct?

Mr. Wrigley replied yes.

Commissioner Kline asked is there any idea how it effects phosphorus levels in the watershed from the four treatment plants?

Mr. Wrigley replied no. Using EPA's own loadings (pounds of phosphors), treatment plants only represent 14% of the total loadings that EPA calculated. 86% of the phosphorus entering the stream is actually from the MS4's.

During negotiations, EPA officials indicated that they would put the total phosphorous as a low priority for the MS4 for the 16 municipalities only if the four treatment plants do something.

Commissioner Kline expressed concern that EPA continues mandating lower limits with no funding from the Federal or State government sent to local municipalities and that is why he questions whether there is merit in trying to keep these groups together.

Mr. Wrigley replied we should stay together because EPA officials do listen to us. They do not want this to turn into a legal battle, which will extend it many more years.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked has the concentrated sources from the other 86% been identified?

Mr. Wrigley replied through EPA's plans, they categorized it as land that has not been developed; urban areas, street areas, etc.

Commissioner Spiegelman said when EPA put forth the 0.04 mg/L did DEP make any official comment in regards to that limit being beyond technology?

Mr. Wrigley replied DEP officials were the ones who said 'municipalities can govern the process themselves, but they all have to be unified.'

Intergovernmental Agreement – Alternate TMDL – Wissahickon Creek Watershed

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Wissahickon Watershed Municipalities and Wastewater Treatment Plants to work together in developing an alternative TMDL plan for the watershed.

Commissioner Hecker called on Manager LeFevre.

Manager LeFevre said the proposed agreement provides for a three-year term and an annual contribution of \$6,250 from each participating municipality and treatment plant. A majority of the cost associated with the development of the Alternative TMDL Plan is being underwritten through a grant of \$1.3 million from the William Penn Foundation.

Commissioner Hecker questioned whether any other municipality has signed on yet?

Manager LeFevre replied just about all of the municipalities are in favor of this agreement as they understand the value of staying together particularly due to funding coming from the William Penn Foundation.

Commissioner Hecker questioned whether the milestones listed in Appendix “A” are reasonable and achievable.

Manager LeFevre replied yes. There is no doubt that we can meet those goals.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers said the document indicates “members of the management committee,” and would Abington Township be a member of that committee?

Manager LeFevre replied yes, he as well as Mr. Wrigley would be members of that committee.

Commissioner Kline asked for support by his fellow Board members for this item.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Section 566 Funding – Sandy Run Environmental Improvements

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to accept the Federal Fund appropriation of \$200,000 through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Section 566 Program for design and project development assistance to facilitate environmental infrastructure improvements to the Sandy Run Watershed and to approve a Township match of \$50,000 payable from MS4 Funds contained in the Engineering Capital Budget.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners of staff.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether this work will be calculated into the Township's efforts to reduce MS4 outflows into the Wissahickon.

Mr. Powers replied yes, it will help remove sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen levels.

Manager LeFevre said, as part of this Federal funding, Township and Army Corp of Engineers are considering ecological improvements at Roychester, Grove, Roslyn, Deal Park as well as the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

CMAQ Grant Application

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to apply for a CMAQ Grant in the amount of \$975,245.75 for improvements to the Easton Road corridor, including new signal equipment and interconnection with the Easton Road corridor and Susquehanna Road corridor.

Commissioner Hecker called on Manager LeFevre.

Manager LeFevre said this is a grant to upgrade eight signalized intersections on Easton Road, and depending on when the grant is awarded, the Township's match can be included in the 2017 capital budget.

Commissioner Hecker asked for the percentage of Township's match.

Manager LeFevre replied 20%.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether this will help with the timing of the traffic signals as well.

Manager LeFevre replied yes. This grant program is for air-quality improvements to facilitate traffic flow by upgrading existing traffic signal equipment.

Commissioner Kline asked has funds been saved for the actual work going forward?

Manager LeFevre replied not for this portion.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked is there statistics on accidents of the intersections and statistics on how the lights are set?

Manager LeFevre replied the timing of the lights at every intersection in the Township is set by PennDOT and for each intersection is a specific permit for the timing of those signals.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Green Light Go Grant Award

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to accept a Green Light Go Grant award in the amount of \$25,308. The grant award will be for LED light improvements to our traffic signals. The \$5,608.00 match will be taken from Contingency Fund No. 01-01-002-5299.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

ARLE Grant Award

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to accept an ARLE Grant in the amount of \$314,400.00 for safety improvements to the intersection of Mt. Carmel Avenue and North Hills Avenue.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented that this is such a bad intersection and it will be an asset to the Township to improve this intersection.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels “this is where the red light camera money is coming from and her concern about the red light camera intersections is that traffic still barrels through them and they do not get stopped and don’t get points.”

Commissioner Hecker said the money from the red light camera program that is funding this project does not come from Abington Township. It will come primarily from the City of Philadelphia, so this is State funding available from fines collected there.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

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

Commissioner Gillespie commented that she hopes all residents realize that Township staff works very hard in getting funds through grants saving taxpayers’ money, and she thanked them for it.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels “every community is getting grants and whatever we spend in here we, as taxpayers, do actually pay for it.”

Commissioner Markman commented that a large part of his career is to sit through a lot of Commissioners’ meetings in various Townships and Abington Township is awarded more grants than most Townships. He finds it upsetting that someone would belittle Township staff and say that ‘we (Abington Township) are not just getting grants, but so is everyone else,’ and that is not right.

Walt Draving, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that he feels Ms. Lehmann did not say the work of staff of Abington Township is bad, but that ‘grants are not free and that we all pay our taxes and we are all paying for grants in other places and here.’

ADJOURNMENT: 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

sev