

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Spiegelman presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:51 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, ROTHMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager LEFEVRE  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Director of Parks and Recreation OLES  
Community Director STROTHER

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, MYERS, HECKER, FARREN, SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, DiPLACIDO, ZAPPONE

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2017 Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Andy Oles announced that activities registration is now online on Township's website and Facebook page. He reminded residents to set up their online accounts before pictures are taken for pool access. Discount amusement tickets will be on sale at the end of this month and ski tickets will be ending by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Bid Award – Community Facility at Crestmont

Community Director, Mr. Van Strother said on February 28, 2017, Abington Township received three bids for construction of Crestmont Clubhouse for Crestmont Park and all bids came in over budgeted amount, so we are now requesting a motion to reject all bids and re-advertise for construction of the building with modifications.

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to reject all bids from February 28, 2017 bid opening for construction of community facility at Crestmont Park and send of out for new bids.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Bowman asked for the budgeted amount for the new building.

Mr. Strother replied the range is between \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million dollars for cost of construction.

Commissioner Bowman clarified that modifications of proposed building may bring down costs. Is that correct?

Mr. Strother replied yes. When bids were sent out a basement was proposed for the building, which triggered mechanical systems, lighting, heating, stair towers and a more intricate foundation wall, so by removing the basement, it will simplify the construction and increase the building time and eliminate the mechanical systems. Modified drawings should come under budget.

Commissioner Kalinoski questioned whether modified drawings will still meet the needs and wants of the community.

Mr. Strother replied absolutely. We have not changed the footprint of the building and the inside of it will remain the same. Proposed basement was in preparation for future activities, but the modification will not change the function of it.

Commissioner Farren questioned whether a new motion is needed or can the committee just deny the motion listed on the agenda.

Solicitor Clarke replied the committee needs to affirmatively reject all bids.

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

MOTION to affirmatively reject all bids – PASSED 5-0.

#### Funding of the Community Facility at Crestmont Park

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bowman to TABLE the motion listed on the agenda until a future date.

MOTION to TABLE Item PA2 as listed on the agenda – PASSED 5-0.

Lubavitch of Abington – Lease Extension – Alverthorpe Manor

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve a seven (7) year lease extension at Alverthorpe Manor for the Lubavitch of Abington effective August 1, 2017 at a base rate of \$20,025.21 annually with all other terms remaining the same.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Schreiber clarified that initially this was not a seven year contract. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied that is correct. Initially, it was a one-year contract with four, one-year renewals in which the Board approved subsequently each year. Their last contract expires this year in August and reps of the Synagogue have requested a seven year lease moving forward under the same terms.

Commissioner Rothman clarified that there is a set percentage that the lease will increase each year over seven years. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied it is tied to the consumer price index and will increase accordingly.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the “religious group who use this property and that many of them do not live in the Township, and the lease should be kept shorter.”

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Policy on the Naming of Township Facilities

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the adoption of the revised policy on the naming/renaming or dedication of municipal property, buildings, park elements, streets or other facilities.

Commissioner Spiegelman called on Manager LeFevre.

Manager LeFevre said last month, the Board discussed this topic in detail and he incorporated comments made at that meeting as well as other revisions into a revised draft and distributed it to the Board.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented that he feels it is a great policy and we should move forward with it.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she does not believe that “anyone who does good deeds with taxpayers’ money instead of their own should be considered on a naming policy.”

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Acquisition of Undeveloped Ground on Robinson Avenue

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the acquisition for \$1 each two undeveloped parcels (30-00-57076-00-8) (30-00-57080-00-1) on Robinson Avenue off of Clearview through a repository sale from the Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau and to authorize the Township Manager to execute any necessary documents to effectuate the bid. Acquisition contingent on receipt of a favorable title search and Phase I Environmental Assessment.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Luker clarified that this property is part of the wetlands. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied yes, between Clearview and Grove Park there are six undeveloped parcels and the Township acquired two parcels in 2014, and two are now available through the repository sale from the MCTCB (Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau).

These are parcels previously offered to the public for back taxes that were not sold, so now they are available for sale. Any sale has to be approved by the Township, County and School District and the Township can acquire for \$1 each. This will enable stormwater management issues to be addressed on Clearview as well as provide improved access for residents living on the east side of Grove Park.

There will be additional expenses that the Township will incur for Phase I Environmental Assessment and a title report for an approximate total cost of \$3,500.

Commissioner Schreiber asked about a trail through this property.

Manager LeFevre replied there is a path through there now, but we are looking to improve access to the park.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Bid for Datacenter Upgrade

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise bid for Datacenter Upgrade.

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

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for an explanation.

Assistant Township Manager Wehmeyer explained that the datacenter and network systems have reached their life expectancy, so we need to go out for bid to upgrade.

Commissioner Kline clarified that there are funds budgeted for this. Is that correct?

Ms. Wehmeyer replied yes.

Commissioner Kline asked for the budgeted number.

Nathan Vasserman replied that he does not have that exact number at this time.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Crestmont Park – Basketball Court Replacement

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to reject all bids received and authorize re-bidding through PennBid.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Bowman questioned what the bids came in at.

Mr. Oles replied approximately \$18,000 over. Specs will be modified to fit what we need.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any general comments relating Public Affairs.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about having only three minutes to speak on each agenda item. She also expressed concern about residential properties being in the “cross hairs” of the Vacant Property Review Board.

Commissioner Spiegelman clarified that the Vacant Property Review Board does not have residential properties in our “cross hairs.” We are in the process of educating ourselves on the system of conservatorship, so we can properly evaluate it as it is a new system. Right now, we are focusing on retail/commercial properties.

**ADJOURNMENT:**            8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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