

September 13, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township was convened at 7:03 PM on the above date by President Panzullo. Commissioners Donoghue, Kennedy, McKenzie and Tolbert were also present, along with: Jason Bobst; John Walko, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; A. Dale Mabry; Michael Valyo; Jonathan Dzedzy; Michael Housley; Joseph Estock; and William Dingman. There were twenty (20) people in the audience.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting proceeded.

**Minutes** Upon motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. Kennedy and  
**Approval** unanimously approved, the Minutes of the Board's work session of August 2, 2016 and its regular meeting of August 9, 2016 were approved.

**Report of Bills** Mr. Bobst read the Finance Committee Report and requested  
**Approval of** approval of: General Fund and Golf Club payroll checks in  
**Checks** the amount of \$59,291.35; payroll vouchers in the amount of \$232,563.33; and the Payment Approval Report in the amount of \$791,103.37.

Upon motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously passed, the report of checks and vouchers was approved by the Board.

**Committee** The Board was advised by Mr. Bobst that the 2017  
**Reports:** preliminary budget is being prepared, budget meetings with  
**Administration** the department heads have been scheduled and the  
**& Finance** preliminary budget will be presented at regular meeting of the Board on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bobst enumerated the items on the Agenda under New Business and noted the addition of a second property under Item #3 regarding a Stipulation and Order of Settlement of the tax assessment of 2490 Boulevard of the Generals which will result in the payment of approximately \$10,000.00 divided among the three taxing bodies.

Mr. Murray did not present his report at the meeting; however, he has since submitted his summary which shows cash balances in the various accounts as follows:

	<u>July 31<sup>st</sup></u>	<u>August 31<sup>st</sup></u>
General Fund	8,869,813.94	8,919,201.37
PLGIT 10105000	18,319.77	18,324.31
PLGIT CD	0.00	0.00
Continental CD	0.00	0.00
Golf Fund	152,089.65	191,414.29
Escrow Fund	766,652.92	751,528.77
Sinking Fund	2,347.87	2,381.04
Liquid Fuels	447,009.53	446,748.75
Capital Reserve PLGIT	189,133.75	189,133.86
Capital Reserve CD	0.00	0.00
Capital Reserve	0.02	0.02

Sewer Capital Acct	787,067.55	782,756.97
Vehicle Replacement Fund	331,736.10	331,764.20
Police Pension Citizens	33,392.72	34,339.04
Non-Unif. Pens. Citizens	8,898.03	8,319.15
Grant DUI	0.00	0.00
Grant, Misc.	15,464.31	964.92
Traffic Impact Fee	374,703.48	374,862.20

Upon motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously passed, the Administration & Finance reports were approved.

**Public Safety**

Chief Mabry highlighted his monthly report and noted that the initial process of issuing the residential parking permits has begun.

On motion of Mr. McKenzie seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously passed, the Public Safety Report was approved.

**Public Works**

The highlights of his Public Works report were presented by Mr. Valyo. In addition thereto, Mr. Valyo mentioned that the roads have been paved, but that one section on Single Tree still needs attention.

On motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously passed, the Public Works Report was approved.

**Building & Zoning**

Mr. Valyo presented the highlights of the Building and Zoning Report as prepared by Thomas Heisner, BCO.

On motion of Mr. McKenzie, seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously passed, the Building/Zoning Report was approved.

**Recreation**

The Recreation report was prepared and presented by Jon Dzedzy who mentioned the recent "great movie night with a great crowd" and the upcoming Halloween parade and party on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Further, it was noted by Mr. Dzedzy that the walking trail project at Centennial Park was completed with no issues and it looks great. Mr. Kennedy commented that the trail ties the park in nicely.

Upon motion of Mr. McKenzie seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously passed, the Recreation Report was approved.

**Jeffersonville Golf Club**

Highlights of the monthly report of the Jeffersonville Golf Club were presented by Mr. Bobst who mentioned that the borrowing is in place and that we will be moving forward with improvements at the course.

On motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously passed, the Golf Club Report was approved.

**Sanitary Sewer Engineer**

The monthly Sanitary Report of Gilmore & Associates was presented by Mr. Dingman.

In addition, it was noted by Mr. Dingman that Sewer Specialty Systems trucks are in the area for Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) work, and that he will be looking for a grant for future pump station repairs.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously passed, the Sanitary Report was approved.

**Consulting Engineer**

Mr. Estock prepared and highlighted his monthly Engineer's Report.

On motion of Mr. McKenzie seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously passed, the Engineer's Report was approved.

**All Committee reports are on file in the Administration office of the Township Building for the public to view during normal business hours.**

**Commissioners' Comment**

Mr. Kennedy commented that he is troubled that the DuBon proposal and the thorough presentation by Mr. Smith relating thereto, was portrayed by a resident and erroneously disseminated to other residents as containing a hidden agenda. Mr. Kennedy voiced his opinion that the proposal of Mr. DuBon is a positive for the Township in that it saves open space, and Mr. Kennedy emphatically stated that there are "no hidden agendas".

There being no further comments offered by the Commissioners, upon motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. Donoghue and unanimously approved, the Commissioners' comment portion of the meeting was closed.

**Public Comment**

Leroy James Watters, III of 1 E. Indian Lane stated that he missed the last meeting as he was attending the swimming event on the Schuylkill River, but that a meeting is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the nuisance weeds with the "higher ups".

Jim Kinney of the French Creek Racers swimming group thanked the Board and staff for their help and permission to use the property at 1 W. Indian Lane for Schuylkill River access. According to Mr. Kinney, all of the swimmers love the site. Mr. Bobst confirmed with Rudy Fedor, president of the Port Indian Civic and Boating Association (who was in attendance at the meeting) that use of the depot lot for parking by the swimmers is not a problem since a declaration of insurance has been received.

Don McAvoy of Chestnut Avenue addressed the Board about the traffic and public safety issues that he believes will exist related to the proposed land development of Markley

Farms. According to Mr. Bobst, only one-half (1/2) of the 78 homes will have access onto Chestnut Avenue, while the other one-half will access Oakland Drive. Also, Mr. Bobst noted that the developer will revise and improve the intersections of Trooper & Chestnut and Burnside & Chestnut, but that development cannot begin until EDUs are released.

Curt Huston of 42 E. Indian Lane expressed his concerns, as well as the concerns of the referees of the Kings Head Regatta, about the weeds on the Schuylkill River. According to Mr. Huston, the fire chief of Norristown, Tom O'Donnell, has stated that the three companies that respond to river emergencies also share this concern since their boats stall out due to the weeds. Mr. Huston noted that the Norristown basin is the second largest basin on the Schuylkill, second only to Boat House Row in Philadelphia, and that the watershed group has been engaged to clean-up the river using its money and grants, but that the Township's help may be needed at some point.

Kim Haymans-Geisler, 1810 Ardin Drive, stated that it is great to hear Mr. Huston's news on the river clean-up and Mr. Dadio's report last week on the MS-4 permitting; however, "there are bigger issues of democracy" and that she "takes umbrage that in a free society she cannot express her concerns to her fellow residents". After Ms. Haymans-Geisler's often emotional comments regarding, among other things, back room deals, lack of transparency and that this issue is about a plan for sewer and not about open space. President Panzullo requested that Ms. Haymans-Geisler cease speaking and stated that "there is nothing to discuss because we have no plan!"

Rudy Fedor, Port Indian, expressed his congratulations to Jon on the Theatre Horizon summer camp program which Mr. Fedor expresses is "a great time and a wonderful program".

Dorothy Prestia, 2479 Fieldcrest Avenue, inquired about the plan for speeding traffic in Saddlebrook community. Mr. Valyo replied that a traffic calming plan utilizing paint (compression arrows) and signage has been developed and will be implemented as soon as Mr. Estock can get out and mark out the areas. Further, according to Mr. Valyo, a copy of the plan will be provided to her through Mr. Donoghue prior to completion.

Tammy Shellenberger of Sterigere Street stated that she is disheartened to see and hear what went on this evening when Ms. Haymans-Geisler was speaking and inquired about the Township waiving fees for one homeowner in exchange for land. Mr. Tolbert explained to Ms. Shellenberger that there was no agreement by the Board to waive any fees and that the first time the Board heard of this proposal was last week at the work session when it was presented by the Homeowner. This was concurred by Mr. McKenzie who noted

that the homeowner was just "spit balling ideas" at the Board and that no formal plan has been discussed or presented.

Jeff Sussmann, 1406 Sentry Lane inquired of the Board as to the selection process of the roads to be paved. Mr. Bobst replied that it is based on condition of the road and the amount of vehicles traveling thereon.

There being no further comments offered, upon motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously approved, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

**New Business**

Upon motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously agreed, the Board granted permission for the establishment of handicapped parking spaces at 1408 W. James Street and 129 Colonial Avenue.

Upon motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Kennedy, and unanimously agreed, the Board granted approval of the execution of the Employment Agreement of the Township Manager, Jason Bobst for a term of 2 years beginning July 31, 2016. Commissioners' comments included: "100% confidence in our manager's abilities"; positive; and productive and looking for at least 2 years here". Mr. Bobst thanked the Commissioners and complimented the staff.

Upon motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized execution of two (2) Stipulations and Orders of Settlement of the tax assessments appeals of JRM Property Management, LLC @ 604 General Washington Avenue and of 2490 Boulevard of the Generals (copies attached).

Upon motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Tolbert and unanimously agreed, the Board granted approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for 2017 for police in the amount of \$1,212,328.00 and for non-uniformed employees in the amount of \$443,158.00 (copy attached). It was mentioned by Mr. Bobst that these amounts are less compared to the MMO's for 2016.

Mr. Bobst noted that the tabled matters remained the same, and he announced that there are no meetings of the Zoning Hearing Board or the Planning Commission scheduled for the month of September.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business on the Agenda, at 8:00 PM, upon motion of Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. McKenzie and unanimously agreed by the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Kathy K. Frederick  
Assistant Secretary

