

March 1, 2022

Mr. Smock, President of the Board, convened the work session at 7:00 PM on the above date. Also, present were Commissioners Milazzo, Eckles, Pavone and Miller, as well as: Jason M. Bobst; Sean Kilkenney, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Stephen Morris; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Allan Booz; Jon Dzedzy; and Erik Garton. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting proceeded.

Announcement *President smock announced that the Township building was illuminated in blue and gold in support of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.*

Presentation *Helen Riley of Kind Hearts, a non-profit organization, appeared before the Board to describe its latest program called “Dad’s Day on the Block”. According to Ms. Riley, this program is similar to “Dad’s Day at School”, which has been successful in the schools, but that this program reaches out to the community to bring dads and kids together in their own neighborhoods, including kids with no fathers. Per Ms. Riley, The Norristown Police Department has been instrumental in helping to locate problem areas in the community and community leaders to assist. Also, it was added by Ms. Riley that all participants receive a program tee shirt free of charge.*

In response to inquiries from the Board, Ms. Riley explained that the target is to meet/gather once a month at a park or other common area to spend time together, share ideas, and discuss issues and problems, and that the word is getting out via SRO officers in the schools and through churches. Ms. Riley concluded by stating that “we want to be where the troubles are”.

**Discussion/
Update**

- A. *According to Mr. Smock, as a result of opposition of the public and with full Board agreement, he proposed that the Solicitor contact Tower Co. to withdraw its Zoning Hearing Application. Mr. Kilkenney agreed to draft a letter to request such a withdraw and, if same is not accomplished, then the Solicitor will appear at the Zoning Board hearing to oppose the application. Mr. Garton added that he will speak with Tower Co. tomorrow to identify a possible alternate location on the course with a larger footprint, but not near homes requested Ms. Milazzo.*
- B. *A storm water ordinance update is in the works as relates to the MS4 Permit. According to Mr. Bobst, there are new DEP standards and we are awaiting Chester County’s updated Ordinance to come back with DEP comments before moving forward.*
- C. *As regards the tax collection issues from 2020, Mr. Bobst mentioned that a claim was filed against the Bond of the prior Township’s Tax Collector, Michael Murray, and that Pat Graham,*

Tax Collector of Worcester, was brought in to assist Mr. Murray with interim tax bills and issues. As a result of her efforts, 2020 taxes were closed and balanced and NASD and the Township were made whole for its back tax receipts. Mr. Bobst thanked the Board for its patience in this process and thanked Ms. Graham for her assistance. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Miller regarding the total impact to the Township, Mr. Bobst mentioned that the receipt of \$75,000.00 was delayed. Mr. Miller commented that \$75,000.00 sitting and not receiving interest is "not a lot with low interest rates, but we are watching every penny". Also, it was added by Mr. Bobst that four (4) individuals did not receive interim 2021 tax bills, but those people will be billed and will receive 120 days to pay, penalty-free. Martin Sheehan, current Township Tax Collector commented that tax bills are going out today and tomorrow and that he has office hours daily, including some Saturdays. Mr. Sheehan added that he has a new office telephone number, which is published on the Township's website, and cell phone which he hopes will afford him the opportunity to be more responsive to residents. Mr. Smock commented that it was great to see Mr. Sheehan at the meeting and requested that he come back quarterly to keep the Board updated.

- D. Per Mr. Bobst, the present and future use of the Norristown State Hospital was discussed on a Zoom meeting yesterday wherein Mr. Bobst, Mr. Smock and Ms. Milazzo participated, along with representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, among others. The meeting revealed that 68 acres of the present facility is dedicated for redevelopment, including buildings #51 and #10. The discussion included the presentation a 460-bed psychiatric facility, up from current 255 beds, which will be located 100% on the West Norriton Township side of the property with an estimated cost of the project being \$271M. It was noted by Mr. Bobst that the proposed project will be consolidating the current facilities, not adding more, and that the community will be heavily involved in the process with a presentation of same to come. Mr. Bobst added that the current zoning of the property is RA so that will need to be handled. Mr. Smock stated that the important thing is that the community will be involved and that he sees this as a great thing. Mr. Milazzo commented that this will be a state-of-the art facility to provide the best and much-needed care, and Ms. Pavone added that the project is really just taking everything there and putting in a new building. It was mentioned by Mr. Bobst that the PA State Police respond to issues at the State Hospital, not the Township's Police Department.*

Manager

Mr. Bobst stated that the following items would be considered for adoption and/or action thereon at the next Board meeting:

Work Session

- A. *Approving Preliminary/Final Land Development of Jeffersonville Golf Club Improvements Project. Mr. Garton described the site improvements and demolition plans of the current facility and Mr. Bobst noted that the Township's Planning Commission approved the plans;*
- B. *Authorizing staff to advertise bids for the Jeffersonville Golf Club Improvements Project after designs, new ADA accessibility, site work, etc.;*
- C. *Awarding small business grants from the Township's American Rescue Plan funds to Mancini Motors, Nicholas Pupillo & Sons and Headstart Salon;*
- D. *Presentation of a Proclamation to Lauren Wolicki who, according to Chief Kelly, assisted an off-duty police officer with life-saving efforts of an individual who suffered a heart attack at a local fitness center;*
- E. *Accepting the resignations of Roice Westgate from the Human Relations Commission; and*
- F. *Appointments to the Human Relations Commission.*

**Liaison
Committee
Reports**

According to Mr. Smock, he attended the recent Planning Commission meeting, along with Ms. Milazzo and Ms. Pavone, wherein the JGC Improvements Project was discussed, and he commented that he is proud to be a member of the Board and glad he is able to get the Project off the ground.

Ms. Milazzo mentioned that the Recreation Committee met and discussed upcoming events, including the Easter Egg Hunt and Community Day.

Per Ms. Eckles, the Civil Service Commission did not meet, but she announced that the first session of the West Norriton Academy is scheduled for next Wednesday and that Sergeant Palermo of the Police Department will be presenting.

Mr. Miller stated that he attended the recent EAC meeting wherein a plastic waste reduction plan and future presentation thereof was discussed.

It was noted by Ms. Pavone that she attended the "excellent" meeting of the HRC and that training for its members is scheduled for March 16th.

**Public
Comment**

Per Mr. Bobst, no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Kim Haymans-Geisler, 1810 Ardin Drive, commented that the aforementioned State Hospital project concerns her and she inquired as to when the residents will receive a map or a depiction of the project. Mr. Smock reiterated Mr. Bobst's mention of a presentation to be made in the future. Mr. Valyo described the area in question as it relates to the Gate 4 entrance of the Norristown State Hospital grounds and mentioned that the whole property was zoned RA prior to our current zoning. Ms. Haymans-Geisler expressed her displeasure with, among other things, the mention of the prior Tax Collector's issues with collection and reporting, and she suggested that the residents put into perspective the \$75,000.00 tax arrearage as a small percentage of overall taxes collected.

There being no further public comment, upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

***Upcoming
Meeting Dates***

*According to Mr. Bobst, the following meetings are scheduled:
Environmental Advisory Council on March 2nd @ 7:00 PM;
Recreation Committee on March 9th @ 7:00 PM; Zoning Hearing
Board on March 28th @ 7:00 PM; Planning Commission on March 21st
@ 7:00 PM; and Human Relations Commission on March 24th @ 7:00
PM*

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda, upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

*Kathy K. Frederick
Assistant Secretary*

