

March 3, 2020

Mr. Miller, President of the Board, convened the work session at 7:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Smock. Also, present were: Jason M. Bobst; Dan Grieser, Esquire; Kathy K. Frederick; A. Dale Mabry; Michael Kelly; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Jonathan Dzedzy; and T.J. Figaniak. There were thirteen (13) people in the audience.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting proceeded.

Announcement *It was announced by Mr. Miller that an executive session of the Board was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.*

Presentations
Capital Borrowing *Daryl Peck, borrowing counsel, presented a summary, including rates, terms and recommendations, of the proposals for the \$2.5M borrowing for capital projects. According to Mr. Peck, the next step will be to authorize bond council to advertise the borrowing Ordinance. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller if the amount borrowed will cover all items on the “wish list”, Mr. Bobst commented “yes” with the exception of the repaving of Sterigere Street and the Township building lots. According to Mr. Bobst, the timeline for the borrowing is as follows: advertising of borrowing Ordinance on 3/5; approval of Ordinance on 3/10; and settlement on 4/14. Public comment was opened on the borrowing issue. No comments were offered; therefore, public comment was closed on this issue only.*

*Rittenhouse
Force Main*

Township sewer engineer, T.J. Figaniak, presented a brief history of the Rittenhouse Pump Station and the potential force main project thereon. According to Mr. Figaniak, 92% of the Township’s current flow goes to the Norristown Sewer Treatment Plant through this Station, as opposed to 61% thereof in 2008. For this reason, provisions need to be made to accommodate newer/larger pipes to allow more flow with less pressure on the force main. Mr. Figaniak stated that he is seeking approval to look into options for changing out the pipes. Ms. Milazzo inquired about the composition and sizes of the pipes. Mr. Bobst suggested that this is the next logical step to protect our asset and investment, and that the funds are available for this research and possible project from the pump station litigation with RETTEW and other funds not in the borrowing.

Discussion *Mr. Bobst noted that there has been an increase in the number of false fire alarms and that currently there is no mechanism in place to deter these false alarms. As such, it was suggested by Mr. Bobst to allow staff to draft an Ordinance geared to commercial properties to fine the property owners for false fire alarms.*

Also, appointments to the remaining positions on Township Boards and Commissions will be addressed next week at the Board’s regular meeting.

Finally, Mr. Valyo outlined the streets considered for the 2020 Road Paving Project, including “potential” streets which may be paved utilizing sewer funds and not funds from capital borrowing.

Manager

The items on the Agenda for the upcoming Board meeting were enumerated and addressed by Mr. Bobst as follows:

A. Requests consideration of adoption of a Resolution updating the Emergency Management Plan which, according to Mr. Bobst, is done every two (2) years. Ms. Eckles inquired who is the official representative of the Township and if the Township directors know the protocol.

B. Requests permission to advertise the bid for the Alexander Drive Basin Retrofit Project, which project is MS-4 compliant and is funded 66 2/3% by a grant, with the Township contributing \$32,000.00 of the \$168,000.00 projected cost.

C. Additional item requesting permission to draft and advertise and Ordinance for the \$2.5M capital borrowing.

Public Comment

Dave Shaw of 1008 Northridge Drive inquired about the existence of surveyors on the Burnside Avenue property. According to Mr. Bobst, the surveyors are there preparing for parking lot improvements.

Mary Ellen Moran of 714 Port Indian Road inquired about the open space property at Lot 22 W. Indian Lane and requested a better explanation as to why this open space is different than the open space at Westover, or any other open space. In response to this inquiry, Mr. Miller requested that counsel review the question and present a response thereto at the Board’s regular meeting next week. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Milazzo, Mr. Bobst noted that previous Boards removed the property’s requirement of “open space”. Ms. Moran also inquired about the status of the pipe replacement project at the bike trail, and replacement of trees that were removed. According to Mr. Bobst, the project is completed, we are awaiting DEP’s approval to proceed with grading and that the tree issue is up to PECO and Montco as they are the property owners.

James Watters, III, 1 E. Indian Lane, commented that Lower Providence is creating an EAC and he would like to see engagement with all neighboring EAC’s as he expressed that it is his dream to communicate to improve water quality in the river.

Kim Haymans-Geisler, 1810 Ardin Drive, commented that “it is ironic and hypocritical” to see a presentation on force main now when we don’t know what is going on with the potential sale of the Norristown Sewer Plant and privatization thereof. Ms. Haymans-Geisler went on to comment that she is surprised that the Board of Commissioners is “not higher thinking” on this matter. Mr. Miller noted that it is illogical to put a number on the sewer plant at this point. Ms. Haymans-Geisler inquired as to when the public will know what is going on with the sale of the Norristown plant. Ms. Milazzo stated that nothing has been formally presented on the Norristown plant and “when we know, you will know”. Mr. Miller added that Mr. Bobst and he met with Norristown Council and they have no additional information.

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

Upcoming Meetings

The schedule of the upcoming meetings for the following boards and commissions were announced by Mr. Bobst: EAC on March 5th @ 7:00 PM; and Human Relations Commission on March 26th @ 7:00 PM. No meetings of the Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board are scheduled; however, it was noted by Mr. Bobst that the Planning Commission plans to meet in April.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the Agenda, upon motion of Ms. Milazzo seconded by Ms. Pavone and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

*Kathy K. Frederick
Assistant Secretary*

