

March 9, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township was convened via ZOOM at 7:00 PM on the above date by President Miller. Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Smock were also in attendance, as were: Jason Bobst; Sean Kilkenny, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Stephen Morris; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Jon Dzedzy; T.J. Figaniak; and Erik Garton. There were five (5) additional attendees on the ZOOM meeting.

**Minutes
Approval**

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Mr. Smock and unanimously passed by the Board were the minutes of its work session of February 2, 2021 and its regular meeting of February 9, 2021.

**Report of Bills
Approval of
checks**

Ms. Horn read the Finance Committee Report and requested approval of: General Fund and Golf Club payroll checks in the amount of \$22,432.04; payroll vouchers in the amount \$264,291.25; and the Payment Approval Report in the amount of \$685,165.89

Upon motion of Ms. Pavone seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously approved was the aforementioned finance report.

**Committee
Reports:
Administration
& Finance**

Mr. Bobst highlighted the Agenda items under New Business and mentioned the following:

That the COVID vaccines are being received in much fewer numbers than expected and they are not being distributed evenly across the state. To date, 29,000+ doses have been administered while 185,000+ people have registered. In response to inquiries by Ms. Pavone and Ms. Milazzo, Mr. Bobst mentioned that, although no remedy for the inequitable distribution of the vaccine has been accomplished, we will get the information regarding vaccine clinics out as soon as we receive it.

Also, that the students for Villanova RISE were out to tour the Township buildings and facilities and we are anticipating a full report.

Finally, as regards the JGC banquet facilities, the \$1M grant previously received will be allocated to site work and demolition, while the deadline for the second round of RCAP grants is 3/31 and Long, Nyquist will be requesting \$1.5 - \$2 M in additional funds on behalf of the Township. Per Mr. Bobst, Mr. Miller is working the political angle on this and will keep working hard at it.

Treasurer Horn did not present her report at the meeting; however, she has submitted her summary which shows cash balances in the various funds as follows:

	<u>December 31st</u>	<u>January 31st</u>
General Fund	8,903,685.43	9,959,796.41
PLGIT 10105000	53,441.68	47,858.35
PLGIT CD - SEWER	1,497,542.44	1,497,556.24
Golf Fund	94,962.41	(7,289.24)
Escrow Fund	488,480.42	494,976.98
Sinking Fund	6,269.53	11,685.46
Liquid Fuels	280,241.70	255,171.46
Capital Reserve PLGIT	21,419.03	21,419.39
Capital Reserve PLIGIT PLUS	19,520.50	19,520.50
Sewer Capital Acct	3,578,711.52	3,579,308.32
WN 2020 Project Fund	1,529,964.25	1,318,651.56
Vehicle Replacement Fund	674,071.66	674,185.38
Police Pension Citizens	107,554.72	115,689.32
Non-Uniform Pension Citizens	3,873.93	4,478.27
Grants, DUI	0.00	0.00
Grants, Misc.	165,503.19	165,524.58
Traffic Impact Fee	413,945.77	408,773.63

Public Safety

Chief Kelly highlighted the monthly public safety report and mentioned that that oral portion of the Corporal's exam has been completed.

It was stated by Chief Kelly that the School Resource Officer (SRO) will return to the Norristown Area High School (NAHS) on 4/19.

Also, in response to inquiries by Ms. Eckles and Ms. Pavone, Chief Kelly confirmed that we are being paid from the County for the police presence at the NAHS for the vaccine clinic, and that we are reimbursed for expenses of the DUI grant since we are the regional coordinator for this grant.

Public Works & Planning

The highlights of the Public Works and Building-Plumbing reports were presented by Mr. Valyo, who mentioned the Public Works Department personnel have spent many long nights plowing.

Also, it was stated by Mr. Valyo that permits were issued and approved for Popeye's Chicken at the site of the former Steak & Shake.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller, Mr. Valyo announced that branch pick-up will resume on the third Tuesday in April.

Recreation

The Recreation report was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Dzedzy who mentioned that work has resumed on the park improvement projects at Padden Park and the Firehouse site, and that he anticipates an end of April conclusion. Also, it was noted by Mr. Dzedzy that the parking lot projects at Padden & Centennial Parks would be going to bid soon.

An announcement of the Peter Cotton Tail Eggstravaganza Drive-through event would be held on Saturday, April 3rd and that the details are on the website.

Finally, in response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller as to little league, Mr. Dzedzy offered that opening day is scheduled for April 10th for the newly combined East and West Norriton Little League, however, due to COVID, there will be no parade. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Eckles, it was stated by Mr. Dzedzy that, while both boys and girls are eligible to play little league, very few girls participate in this program and in little league as a whole; therefore, the Recreation Department is looking to expand the girls' softball program.

**Jeffersonville
Golf Club**

Mr. Bobst presented the monthly golf report and mentioned that the course was closed due to snow last month so no rounds were played, but that the course continues to receive good press in articles and journals. As an example of this, Mr. Bobst mentioned that the Golfers Journal has asked to come back for an outing this year since it was their most highly-attended event, and that it was calculated that the course received over \$40,000.00 in free marketing from this event with tee shirts and positive press. Ms. Eckles inquired if we could provide them with a list of local restaurants to patronize.

Finally, it was announced by Mr. Bobst that at the end of this month the par 3 tournament will be played and that this year it will be named after Mark Laverty, a JGC employee that passed away in 2019. According to Mr. Bobst, registration for this tournament sold out in four hours.

Sanitary Sewer

The highlights of the monthly Sanitary Report of Gilmore & Associates were presented by Mr. Figaniak who mentioned that the Chapter 94 report has been submitted to Norristown for inclusion in its report and is available on the website.

Also, it was mentioned by Mr. Bobst that one of our employees Johnathan Kennedy is taking classes to get his Class 3E collection license to give the Township the long-term ability to save on maintenance costs for daily checks on the pump stations, for which we currently pay a third-party. Moving forward, according to Mr. Bobst, Johnathan will get is plant operators license, which will give him the ability to better understand the system and its impact on Norristown, and that Mr. Figaniak has been really helpful in this endeavor.

Engineer

The Engineer's Report of Gilmore & Associates was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Garton who noted that the parking lot expansion project at Centennial Park needs DEP approval due to its size, so the appropriate submissions have been made to the DEP.

Also, it was Mr. Garton's recommendation that the Board deny the requested extension of land development and waivers due to the many changes in the past eight years and the need to see definitive plans. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Pavone for clarification on such a denial, Mr. Kilkenney explained that the waivers granted in 2013 were made with the rules and regulations then in place; however, now such a waiver would fall under new rules and regulations, and with a new Board, so an extension would not be prudent.

**Human Relations
Commission**

Lynda Waltman, Chairman of the Human Relations Commission attended the meeting to present an update on the work of this group. Ms. Waltman stated that, since we have an anti-discrimination Ordinance in the Township, we should look into this little league inclusion issue, especially relating to transgender youth. Ms. Waltman noted that current projects of the HRC include a logo contest with the art students at NAHS in April. Also, it was mentioned by Ms. Waltman that a Zoom meeting with Senator Muth and Representative Webster was held yesterday, and that they were the first HRC to contact them with the goal being to increase communication with other HRC's in the area to share ideas. Also, it was noted by Ms. Waltman that the HRC suggested diversity training for the township employees or small businesses within the Township as it is the goal of the HRC to promote diversity within the Township. Ms. Milazzo inquired if diversity training would be something we could partner with NAHS for an adult education course. Ms. Eckles expresses her interest in having the Township employees participate in diversity training. Mr. Bobst concurred and stated that he would rather be proactive and not reactive. According to Ms. Waltman, the HRC will start looking into this training.

The Committee reports were approved by motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Mr. Smock and unanimously agreed by the Board.

Public Comment

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

Kim Haymans-Geisler, 1810 Ardin Drive, mentioned that, with regard to the diversity training question, there used to be a robust evening course program at NASD so that would be a wonderful thing to do. It was expressed by Ms. Haymans-Geisler her concern that the School Resource Officer (SRO) would not be going back into the school until 4/19 while the students are returning on 4/5. According to Chief Kelly, that return date for the SRO was at the request of the Mr. Makowski, the Director of Operations at NASD. Also, Ms. Haymans-Geisler voiced her displeasure that the discussion on the short course bids was not taken until after public comment as she would have liked to have the opportunity to "weigh in" on that issue.

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

Commissioners' Comment

Mr. Miller encouraged the residents to stay vigilant with COVID protocols, hang in there with the vaccine process and that we are getting there.

Discussion

Per Mr. Bobst, the bids for the short course at Jeffersonville Golf Club were opened on 3/5 @ 12:00 Noon. Two bids were received and the cost thereof (\$1.64M and \$1.72M) were well in excess of what was projected. Mr. Bobst stated that, after examination of the bids, some discrepancies gave hope that rebidding may be advantageous.

According to Mr. Garton, bonding was an issue, as was golf course experience and excessive cost of materials, which can be obtained by our course superintendent at a much lower price. In that regard, Mr. Garton provided an example of the bid unit pricing of \$.75 sq. ft. for hydroseed while Mr. Shilling (JGC Superintendent) can get brand new, pristine sod installed at \$.50 sq. ft. Also, per Mr. Garton, specialized golf course contractors may not be the way to go as general site contractors can do most of the site work and rely on Mr. Shilling for the fine grading at the very end. In addition, some "wish list" items can be used as alternates, stated Mr. Garton. Although we will not compromise the condition of the greens, we can tweak the bids by not doing the high spec tees (\$180,000 projected vs. \$450,000 bid), changing sizing of storm pipe (8" vs. 10"), changing specs for irrigation lines (2 wire system vs. 3 wire system), and having sand and topsoil supplied by Mr. Shilling and not from developer at a marked-up cost. Mr. Garton added that the one piece that needs to be specialized is the irrigation system. Otherwise, he is confident that we can get it the rest of the way there.

According to Mr. Bobst, if we tweak the bid, we can get the same quality at a lower cost and we can cast a wider net for contractors; however, we do not believe that the RCO is a driving factor in this cost.

Ms. Milazzo added that, having met Mr. Shilling and having toured the facility with him, she tends to trust that he would be picky, and that she is comfortable with the level of care and integrity that he brings to the course. It was added by Ms. Milazzo that "we can't do anything but win having new bids come in." Mr. Garton concluded by stating that Mr. Shilling will be out there overseeing the project's construction.

New Business

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2021-749 re: Cable Franchise Agreement (copy attached).

Upon motion of Mr. Smock, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2021-750 re: Swimming Pool Updates (copy attached).

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #21-1667 re: Dedication of Three Roads in Markley Farms (copy attached). According to Mr. Bobst, this is the first step in taking over the roadways.

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized execution of the Amendment to Automated Red Light enforcement Program Project Funding Agreement and accompanying Resolution (copy attached). Per Mr. Bobst, PennDOT suggested an extension since the deadline is coming up, the intersection at Whitehall & Marshall is not yet out to bid and both intersections fall under the same ARLE.

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously agreed, the Board rejected the bids for the short course at Jeffersonville Golf Club.

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized the advertising of the revised bid for the short course at Jeffersonville Golf Club.

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board denied the motion to grant/deny the land development extension request of Bob's Auto Parts. Mr. Bobst suggested a full set of plans and resubmission of same would be in order. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Eckles as to the next steps, Mr. Bobst stated that a denial letter will be sent from Mr. Garton to Bob's Auto, that a staff meeting would be held to let the applicant know what we would expect, and, thereafter, they would proceed to the County and Twp. Planning Commissions and then on to the Board.

Schedule of Meetings

It was announced by Mr. Bobst that the following meetings are scheduled this month:

- Recreation Committee, March 10th @ 8:00 PM
- Planning Commission, March 15th at 7:00 PM;
- Zoning Hearing Board, March 17th @ 7:00 PM; and
- Human Relations Commission, March 25th @ 7:00 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:27 PM, on motion of Ms. Milazzo and seconded by Ms. Pavone, the public meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Frederick
Assistant Secretary

