

Due to COVID-19 social contact restrictions, Mr. Miller, President of the Board, convened the work session via ZOOM video meeting 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; and Jonathan Dzedzy.

**Discussion /
Update**

A COVID-19 update was presented by Mr. Bobst who noted that currently there are 12 cases in West Norriton Township and 0 deaths related thereto. According to Mr. Bobst, several procedures have been put in place by the Township to handle the related restrictions, including, but not limited to, closure of the Township building to public access, split work shifting of Township staff, increased operation of the street sweeper, parks and golf course closure, and cancellations of recreation events (including the egg hunt). According to Chief Mabry most people are adhering to the stay-at-home restrictions. Mr. Bobst thanked Five Saints for the donation of hand sanitizer and Chick-fil-A for the donation of lunches to Township staff. Mr. Miller noted that he appreciates all that staff, police, fire personnel are doing to handle this situation, and Ms. Milazzo added that it is good that we are “tightening our belts” so as to not pass on the costs of this pandemic to our residents.

It was noted by Mr. Bobst that Ms. Pavone had previously suggested that we look into creating a dog park in the Township; however, since the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Pavone has requested that this issue be tabled for a future meeting. The Board agreed.

The retirement of Police Chief A. Dale Mabry on June 30, 2020 was addressed by Mr. Miller who stated that “it is bittersweet”. Mr. Miller noted that the Board met with Deputy Chief Michael Kelly and that, as a result thereof, the Board is prepared to move ahead with Deputy Chief Kelly’s appointment to Chief upon the retirement of Chief Mabry. Upon motion of Mr. Miller, the Board approved the appointment of Deputy Chief Kelly to the position of Chief of Police effective July 1, 2020. In that regard, the Board discussed beginning the hiring process for the Deputy Chief position which will be vacated by the elevation of Deputy Chief Kelly to Chief of Police. According to Mr. Bobst, three members of the police force are eligible for this position (Sergeants Morris, Palermo & Balch) and the process will include testing by an outside company (Safe Cities) which is headed by a Chief of Police from Towamencin Township and interviews with the Police Chief and himself. In response to inquiries by Mr. Smock and Ms. Pavone, Mr. Bobst mentioned that he does not believe that there will be any animosity among the two sergeants not selected for the position and that, historically, the Board has not had any input on the selection for the position. Mr. Grieser suggested that if the Board does want to interview the candidates

Mr. Bobst concluded by stating that he is shooting for the end of May to begin the process and that, as such, new dates for a meeting of the Civil Service Commission need to be advertised to redo the proclamation with target dates.

Regarding the hiring of police officers, Chief Mabry stated that, despite reaching out to the police academies and announcements on the PA Chief of Police website, only one application was received prior to the installation of COVID-19 restrictions and police academies have suspended operations during this time. Therefore, it was agreed by the Board to suspend the hiring process until such time as restrictions are lifted.

Finally, it was noted by Mr. Bobst that the Betzwood Trailhead Project bids are to be received in the next month, with proposed awarding in June.

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

Manager

A. Requests consideration of adoption of a Resolution declaring a local disaster emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Requests consideration of adoption of a Resolution extending real estate discount period (from 4/30 to 5/31) and face period (from 6/3 to 8/31) on municipal taxes due to COVID-19. In response to inquires by Board members, Mr. Bobst advised that the dates can be set by us and put in place.

C. Requests consideration of adoption of a Resolution regarding Ready 100 Renewable energy. Per Mr. Bobst, the EAC recommended adoption of this Resolution

D. Requests consideration of adoption of a Resolution authorizing the sale of Township personal property on Municibid. Ms. Milazzo inquired about the difference between “real” and “personal” property.

E. Requests authorizing staff to advertise bids for the repaying of Regents Park. According to Mr. Miller, “at lot of people will be grateful for that.”

Mary Ellen Moran of 714 Port Indian Road presented her comment electronically prior to the meeting that the subject of the dog park should not be addressed at this time when more important issues need to be handled regarding COVID-19, social distancing, and costs related thereto. According to Mr. Grieser, no response is necessary

Public Comment

Work Session

to the electronic public comment as public comment is just that...a “comment”; however, Mr. Bobst stated that he would respond to Ms. Moran via email.

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.

A presentation by John Larson of the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority will be made to the Board at its May work session regarding the proposed capital improvement to the NMWA plant.

Items for Future Meetings

Also, at the Board's next work session, Mr. Bobst will present a final design and proposed costs and revenue of the Short Course at the Jeffersonville Golf Club.

There are no meetings of the Township's Boards and Commissions scheduled for the month of April due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

There being no further items on the Agenda, upon motion of Ms. Eckles seconded by Mr. Smock and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Kathy K. Frederick
Assistant Secretary

Adjournment

