

May 3, 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; John Walko, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Allan Booz; and Jon Dzedzy. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting proceeded.*

**Presentation** *Representatives from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Norristown State Hospital (NSH) were in attendance to discuss the design process and construction of a new forensic psychiatric facility at the Norristown State Hospital. Kristen Houser, Deputy Secretary of the Dept. of Human Services, showed a power point presentation of the proposed project which is to be constructed entirely on the West Norriton Township portion of the State Hospital property.*

*According to Ms. Houser and William Bogari, Jr., COO of NSH, the State Hospital currently has 2 forensic buildings with a total of 255 beds which house individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting evaluation for rehabilitation. To account for growth over the next decade, the proposed plan will increase that capacity to 420 beds. The timeline for the project, according to Ms. Houser and a project engineer in attendance, will begin in the fall of 2022 with the design process. No designs, blueprints or plans have been made as of now, but they wanted to do their due diligence with the Township and its residents prior to construction. The plan, as described, is the continued use of the property by residents (walking, dog-friendly, use of fields, etc.). In response to questions by the Board, including, but not limited to, displacement of the patients, security issues and job creation, the representatives assured the Board that there are no security issues with the forensic patients, that there will be no displacement of patients as constructions will be phased and that job creation is not yet determined, but it is an issue on their radar. Mr. Bobst confirmed that variance will be required for zoning and that nothing on the Farm Park will be affected. Regarding the historical value of the buildings at the NSH, it was mentioned that the Commonwealth requires the historical commission to review prior to construction and/or demolition. In response to an inquiry by resident Mary Ellen Moran, it was stated that no one that is not a part of the court system is currently housed at the Norristown State Hospital. Resident James Watters suggested a traffic feasibility study for an exit from the NSH onto Germantown Pike.*

*In conclusion, it was reiterated that this project is in its infancy and that completion is 6+ years in the future. Mr. Bobst thanked everyone for taking the time to come out and advise us on the project and the long process surrounding same.*

**Discussion/  
Update**

A. A timeline of the Jeffersonville Golf Club Clubhouse Project was presented by Mr. Bobst as follows: bid advertisement going out on May 6, 2022 with a pre-bid meeting scheduled for May 17, 2022 and a target date for completion of August 23, 2023. It was mentioned by Mr. Bobst that the Township received \$3M in RCAP funding for the Project. Also, Mr. Bobst announced that the halfway house is open with food, beverages and restrooms, and that an event tent is also up and available for use.

**Manager**

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

A. Awarding of the bids for the 2022 Road Paving Projects – Budget and Sewer upon review per the Responsible Contractor Ordinance (RCO). According to Mr. Bobst, the bids will be opened on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Liaison  
Committee  
Reports**

Mr. Smock requested that an appointment to the newly formed Arts & Culture Commission be added to the agenda for next week. Also, Mr. Smock stated that he attended the Planning Commission meeting where the Main Street rezoning was again discussed.

Ms. Milazzo mentioned that the Recreation Committee met and discussed upcoming events and is meeting again next week ahead of WNT Community Day.

Per Ms. Eckles, the Civil Service Commission did not meet.

According to Ms. Pavone, she did not attend the recent meeting of the Human Relations Commission (HRC), but that it is collaborating with members of the HRC of East Norriton Township, and that the HRC will have a table at WNT Community Day.

According to Mr. Miller, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met; however, he was not able to attend, but that EAC talks are ongoing with respect to the use of plastic bags in the Township.

It was added by Mr. Smock that he and Ms. Milazzo attended Little League Opening Day ceremonies and it was a “great event”.

**Public  
Comment**

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

James Watters, III, 1 E. Indian Lane, stated that the Whitehall Road Bridge has been his concern for years and that he is attempting to create a project to stop the flooding of Stoneybrook. Mr. Watters added that he made a video about the flowing which will be up on You Tube in the next week.

*Mary Ellen Moran of Port Indian inquired about what is going on with the Schuylkill River Trail and the auger at the Rittenhouse Pump Station. Ms. Moran also commented that 10 more trees are gone along Westover's property and that she believes Westover is removing the trees so they won't have to replace them when they develop their property. Mr. Walko replied that he has taken over the Westover case and nothing has been going on with the lawsuit. Ms. Moran concluded by stating that the sighting of eagles on Barbados Island are a joy and a sign of the health of the area.*

*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 May 4th @ 7:00 PM; West Norriton Academy on May 11th @ 7:00 PM @ JGC; Recreation Committee on May 11th @ 7:00 PM; Planning Commission on May 16th @ 7:00 PM; Zoning Hearing Board on May 18th @ 7:00 PM; and Human Relations Commission on May 26th @ 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 7:55 PM.*

*Kathy K. Frederick  
Assistant Secretary*