

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township was convened at 7:00 PM on the above date by President Smock. Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Miller were also in attendance, as were: Jason Bobst; Sean Kilkenny, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Allan Booz; Jon Dzedzy; T.J. Figaniak; and Erik Garton. After the pledge of allegiance was recited, the meeting proceeded.

Proclamation Mr. Smock read a Proclamation of the Board of Commissioners to Ascension United Church of Christ on its 175th Anniversary.

Minutes Approval Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously passed by the Board were the minutes of its work session of April 5, 2022 and regular meeting of April 12, 2022.

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 \$20,077.55; payroll vouchers in the amount of \$285,112.72; and the Payment Approval Report of \$1,165,952.60. Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously approved was the aforementioned finance report.

Committee Reports: Admin & Finance Mr. Bobst highlighted the agenda items under New Business and added that many neighboring municipalities are establishing new rules as regards commercial solicitation. According to Mr. Bobst, with the new rules, it appears as though we can give our residents some confidence by allowing "no commercial solicitations"; however, that does not apply to religious, political or non-profit solicitations, which are protected. Mr. Kilkenny drafted several of the solicitation ordinances for local municipalities which provide for an "opt out" provision for residents, per Mr. Bobst. Mr. Miller stated that he would prefer an "opt in" provision as opposed to an "opt out" one as he believes that folks don't get the message that these "opt out" lists exist. Mr. Kilkenny stated that he would review the "opt in" provision.

Also, it was added by Mr. Bobst that the rate adjustment request of PA American Water may be a possible action item.

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>March 31st</u>	<u>April 30th</u>
General Fund	10,646,833.37	12,127,095.48
PLGIT 10105000	37,397.15	19,519.86
PLGIT CD - SEWER	1,497,789.37	1,497,789.37
Golf Fund	(60,320.59)	(57,499.01)
Escrow Fund	475,210.98	480,788.28
Sinking Fund	4,187.68	4,187.74

Liquid Fuels	652,409.26	637,813.95
Capital Reserve PLGIT	21,425.58	21,429.46
Capital Reserve PLIGIT PLUS	19,520.50	19,673.39
Sewer Capital Acct	3,399,674.78	3,400,088.20
WN 2020 Project Fund	2.74	2.74
Vehicle Replacement Fund	669,870.17	628,493.64
Police Pension Citizens	235,016.15	243,745.17
Non-Uniform Pension Citizens	11,824.00	11,555.61
Grants, DUI	0.00	0.00
Grants, Misc.	289,909.90	87,153.29
Traffic Impact Fee	393,899.38	393,947.93

Public Safety

Chief Kelly highlighted the monthly public safety report and statistics on citations, arrests, accidents, calls, etc. It was added by Chief Kelly that Deputy Chief Morris is doing well at Quantico and that he has 5 weeks left there.

In response to inquiries from Mr. Miller and Mr. Smock, Chief Kelly stated that the mental health at the NASHS seems to be status quo and that our School Resource Officer (SRO), Corporal William Sheppard, does a great job. Also, Chief Kelly added that Corp. Sheppard returns to the Department and goes on platoon in the summer months when school is closed. Also, in response to Ms. Pavone's inquiry, Chief Kelly noted that the members of the Police Department undergo de-escalation training.

Public Works & Planning

The highlights of the Public Works & Planning report were presented by Mr. Valyo.

Mr. Smock commented that the pothole on Burnside Avenue was promptly fixed by PennDOT. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller about the nature of work on Egypt Road, Mr. Valyo mentioned that there is significant water main work being done and that additional water main work and repaving is to be done at Trooper & Ardin.

Building & Permitting

Mr. Booz presented the highlights of the Building & Permitting report and added that Chick-fil-A is closing for 9 weeks for remodeling and the addition of a double canopy at its drive through.

Recreation

The Recreation report was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Dzedzy who thanked all who made the Easter Egg Hunt a huge success. Also, according to Mr. Dzedzy, it was great to see all the kids walk up Marshall Street to Centennial Park for opening day of Little League.

Mr. Dzedzy announced that games, prizes, pony rides and fireworks will be on the program for Community Day on Saturday, May 14th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with music being provided by Wildflower. Mr. Smock requested the Township sign be used to warn dog owners of the fireworks.

**Jeffersonville
Golf Club**

Mr. Bobst presented the monthly golf report of the revenue and rounds and mentioned that the new report includes food and beverage revenue from The Paddock (the halfway house), and that expenses of the Paddock will be included in the monthly report going forward. It was also mentioned by Mr. Bobst that bids for the Jeffersonville Golf Club Banquet Facility Project went out on May 6th, that we have \$3M in RCAP funding for this Project and hopefully we will get good numbers. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock, Mr. Bobst noted that groundbreaking on the Project is scheduled for August, 2022.

Sanitary Sewer

The highlights of the monthly Sanitary report were given by Mr. Figaniak who advised that the survey work on the Rittenhouse Force Main Project along the river is about 2/3 of the way through and should be completed in the next few weeks. According to Mr. Figaniak, we are coordinating with Miss Harris at the County trail system to minimize the impact to the trail during construction.

In addition, Mr. Figaniak noted that documentation was received from NMWA regarding the EPA's reevaluation of its industrial pre-treatment program which handles industrial users from Norristown and West Norriton. Since West Norriton Township has one industrial user, Anderson Prints, a resolution will likely have to be made by the Township adopting these new limits.

Engineer

The Engineer's Report of Gilmore & Associates was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Garton. In response to a prior inquiry by Mr. Smock, Mr. Garton noted that the DEP permits for the NPDS permits on the JGC Banquet Facility Project were obtained about 2 years ago when plans for the clubhouse were initially prepared.

In addition, Mr. Garton reviewed the bids received for the 2022 Road Paving Projects (both Sewer and Budget) and noted that in both cases the top 2 bidders came in under budget, but that they are all under review as to qualifying under the Responsible Contractor Ordinance (RCO). Mr. Kilkenney suggested that since the bids are under RCO review we should name the lower bidder first and then the second and so on so no ambiguity as to the order of awarding. According to Mr. Kilkenney, this will alleviate our having to wait an additional 30 days to award if a bidder does not qualify. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Eckles, Mr. Garton mentioned that, although the bidders know that we have an RCO in place, sometimes they think that the meat the qualifications with an apprentice program, but they do not.

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

Commissioners' Comments

Ms. Milazzo announced that the Silver Circle would be meeting for Bingo on May 18th at the Firehouse, and that she met with a group of residents that want to include music in our summer programming.

It was announced by Ms. Pavone that the HRC will host a pride flag raising ceremony at the Township building on 6/2 and will host a meet n' greet at Vinyl Records on 6/4 with East and West Norriton.

Public Comment

James Watters of 1 E. Indian Lane commented on the power outage of April 30th by noting "if one crossarm is rotted then more than one usually is". Mr. Watters also mentioned his concern over the rate increase requested by PA American Water, and that he is working on the following: getting funding for pollution control on the NASHS, saving the bridge over Stony Creek and helping the residents of Stony Brook. Mr. Watters concluded by saying "Thank you all, you are going a fantastic job".

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

Discussion

Regarding the rate adjustment request of PA American Water, Mr. Bobst noted that he received the rate adjustment request letter from James Gabel of PA American Water and forwarded it to the Commissioners. According to Mr. Bobst, the last time this request was submitted the Board took a status approach and Commissioner Milazzo spoke on behalf of the Township residents and the rate increase request was granted, but not as significant as it was proposed. Based upon feedback from the Commissioners, this was placed on the agenda for discussion per Mr. Bobst.

Mr. Miller commented that PA American Water reported revenue in 2020 of \$3.77 billion and met a net profit margin in March of 2022 of 18.76% and now they are coming to us crying poor and "I am not ok with this...I'm really not". According to Mr. Miller, inflation happens and prices go up, but a 25% increase is "absurd" and we need to fight this "tooth and nail". Per Mr. Miller, a great job was done by Ms. Milazzo last time and he offered to take the point this time, work with Ms. Milazzo or he will gladly defer to her. Ms. Milazzo stated that she has a lot of research and is willing to share the information with Mr. Miller and/or work with him. Ms. Milazzo stated that we are being charged some of the highest rates in the country, that she is very much in favor of fighting this and she urged everyone to stand up against this company

After discussion about a course of action, a coordinated effort by other municipalities was suggested. According to Mr. Bobst, last time we were 1 of only 2 municipalities to take action on this. According to by Mr. Kilkenney, he will speak with some of his other municipal clients in this

regard, but that perhaps the most effective way would be to have Mr. Smock reach out to the other heads of the municipalities, chairs, boards, etc. and request participation from them.

New Business

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board declared its intent to award the bid for the 2022 Road Paving Project - Budget with Alternatives to the lowest approved bidder under the Township's RCO in the order and for the amounts as follows:

1. DiRocco Bros., Inc. - \$292,455.47;
2. Glasgow Inc. - \$326,579.92;
3. Meco Constructors, Inc. - \$352,490.00;
4. M. Abbonizio Contractors - \$355,333.80; and
5. Delaware Valley Paving - \$360,943.68

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board declared its intent to award the bid for the 2022 Road Paving Project - Sewer to the lowest approved bidder under the Township's RCO in the order and for the amounts as follows:

1. Delaware Valley Paving - \$322,724.57;
2. Glasgow, Inc. - 331,235.40; and
3. Meco Constructors, Inc. - \$349,687.10

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board awarded a non-profit grant to Dramateurs at the Barn Playhouse from the Township's American Rescue Plan funds.

Mr. Smock requested the appointment of Mary Treisbach to the newly-established West Norriton Township Arts & Cultural Commission. Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board appointed Mary Treisbach to the Arts & Cultural Commission for a term of 3 years.

Schedule of Meetings

It was announced by Mr. Bobst that upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

- West Norriton Academy - May 11th @ 6:30 PM;
- Planning Commission - May 16th @ 7:00 PM;
- Zoning Hearing Board - May 18th; and
- Human Relations Commission - May 26th @ 7:00 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:51 PM, on motion of Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Eckles, the public meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Frederick
Assistant Secretary

