

June 1, 2021

*Mr. Miller, President of the Board, convened the work session at 7:00 PM on the above date. Also, present were Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Smock, as well as: Jason M. Bobst; Dan Grieser, Esquire; Michael Kelly; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Jonathan Dzedzy; and Ed Brown.*

**Announcement** *President Miller welcomed everyone back to the first in-person meeting in sixteen (16) months since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, it was announced by Mr. Miller that, in honor of Pride Month, a pride flag was raised by the Township at a brief ceremony prior to the meeting.*

**Presentation** *Robert Stevenson of Kimmel Lorah presented the annual report of the Township's financial health and mentioned that the Township did fair through COVID, noting that some things were off, but that some things were on...with the big hero being the golf course. Mr. Stevenson reviewed the history of Township moving from a cash basis in 2015 to an accrual basis, a new system, and the full-blown GASB report. All in, according to Mr. Stevenson, this most recent financial statement is 100% "there", he sees no shortcomings on the part of the Township and all items are accounted for and done properly. Mr. Stevenson mentioned that a new GASB is coming in 2021, but sees no real "issues" with it as relates to this Township. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Eckles, Mr. Stevenson commended Ms. Horn for her work as finance director. Mr. Bobst thanked Mr. Stevenson and his staff coming in and making it easy to work with. Obviously, according to Mr. Bobst, our pension liability and medical costs are our biggest liabilities, and that allocating excess revenue to these expenses is his plan to address same. Mr. Stevenson concurred with Mr. Bobst that the pension liability and medical costs are big numbers, but can be managed with a game plan and a framework going forward. After discussion and comments/questions by the Board, Mr. Stevenson concluded that it was a clean audit and thanked the Board for its confidence in him and his firm.*

**Discussion** *A. Ms. Pavone commented that it's fireworks season again and, since many residents are complaining about fireworks, inquired how we can enforce our ordinances as regards their use. Chief Kelly stated that proof of the person setting off the fireworks must be confirmed in order to issue a citation since it's a summary offense. According to Ms. Pavone, she is looking for a way to control the fireworks. Mr. Bobst mentioned that a discussion was had between he and Chief Kelly to add additional patrols on 7/4/2021 and, it was confirmed by Chief Kelly, that two (2) additional patrol officers will be on patrol that evening. Ms. Milazzo suggested that perhaps more information could be circulated on Facebook and our website about our enforcement of the ordinance and the addition of patrol officers. Mr. Miller inquired about repealing our current Ordinance or amending*

*same as regards “legality” of the use of fireworks in the Township. After discussion and consult with Mr. Grieser, it was concluded that, at this time, we would not make any changes to our current Ordinance, but will increase police presence on July 4<sup>th</sup> and look into other measures going forward such as increasing the fines for use or limiting sales to certain areas.*

- B. Per Mr. Bobst, with the numbers that we received for the recent paving project that the Board approved, the possibility was mentioned of coming back for paving of additional roads from the sewer fund, especially since all of these roads have had sewer work done. As such, Mr. Valyo worked with the engineers and came up with three (3) additional roads for the 2021 Sewer Budget Paving Project, and announced that those roads would be: Sterigere Street between Whitehall Road and Forest Avenue; Chancellor Court; and Pennfield Avenue. According to Mr. Valyo, we are working toward finishing that whole development and area. The breakdown of the paving estimates is: \$129,549.00 for Sterigere Street; \$18,994.55 for Chancellor Court; and \$30,586.30 for Pennfield Avenue, for a total of \$179,129.85. In response to inquiries by the Board, Mr. Valyo explained the 1-5 rating scale/assessment of the condition of the roads, as well as the 15-year timeframe it would take to repave the entire township. Additional plans for roadwork, manhole work, paving repairs, etc. were mentioned by Mr. Valyo. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Pavone, Mr. Valyo confirmed plans for storm drain work in the area of Union, Liberty and Clearview. Per Mr. Bobst, regarding the work on Clearview, perhaps a letter from the Solicitor to the water company’s Government Affairs Director, Melanie Horvath, outlining the issue and requesting them to address it would be helpful. The Board approved listing the 2021 Sewer Budget Paving Project on the agenda for its upcoming meeting.*
- C. Mr. Bobst noted that bids for the Padden & Centennial Parking Lot Projects will be open tomorrow, a review of RCO thereafter, as well as the 10-day public comment period, and that same will be ready for awarding in July. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock as to RCO litigation, and after discussion thereon, Mr. Bobst stated that he is confident that what we have in place is a fair, legitimate and enforceable RCO Ordinance.*
- D. According to Mr. Bobst, the bids on this project, which is partially funded through the ARLE grant, were opened today. Mr. Brown stated that three (3) bids were received, that bid results were higher than anticipated with the low bid being \$554,000.00 vs. our original estimate of \$486,000.00, and he*

*stated several reasons for the discrepancies in pricing. While the cost is high, noted Mr. Bobst, we are seeing what we saw with other jobs, i.e., companies cannot find people to work, wages are up, increases in equipment costs, etc.; however, given the magnitude of this project, we can find the additional money in the Act 209 and other funds without taking any from the general fund. Therefore, per Mr. Bobst, he recommends that the Board continue with the awarding of the project given the impact that this project will have on traffic flow, more modernized equipment, and corridor management, among other things. Also, per Mr. Valyo, this is the last intersection in the Township to be upgraded and will take care of the corridor to the hospital. Ms. Pavone inquired about intersection improvements at Liberty Avenue and Main Street at some point in the future.*

**Manager**

*Mr. Bobst stated that the following items would be considered for adoption at the Board's next regular meeting:*

- A. Awarding bid for the 2009 Ford Fusion;*
- B. Accepting resignation of Amy Gallagher from the Planning Commission;*
- C. Accepting resignation of Sheridan Earle from the Environmental Advisory Council;*
- D. Adopting Resolution #21-1671 authorizing filing of application for PA Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RCAP) Grant. As explained by Mr. Bobst, this is not filing for a new grant, but is a requirement to tie up the loose ends from the 1<sup>st</sup> grant that we received for site work and demolition at the golf course. Again, this still does not tie us to accepting the grant, just the next step in the process.*
- E. Adopting Resolution #21-1672 supporting House and Senate Bills for options for local government publishing and advertising. According to Mr. Bobst, West Norriton Township, is spending approx. \$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00 per month in advertising costs. This would expand options of the Township for advertising and thereby lower costs. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller about the possibility of collectivizing with other municipalities to negotiate with the publishers on its costs, Mr. Grieser suggests that potentially renegotiating is possible, but that this legislation has some steam and this may be the year that it is passed.*

**Liaison  
Committee  
Reports**

*Mr. Miller stated that he did not attend the EAC meeting in May, but that the committee is working on recycling rates and waste.*

*Ms. Eckles noted that the next Civil Service meeting will be in September.*

*It was mentioned by Ms. Milazzo that the Recreation Committee held a successful outdoor movie night, and that a reestablishment of the Silver Circle is in the works.*

*Per Mr. Smock, at the last meeting of the Planning Commission changes from the previous session regarding sign ordinances were discussed, and that the next meeting will be held in July.*

*Ms. Pavone stated that she attended the EAC meeting to discuss the dog park, but that she was not able to attend the meeting of the Human Relations Commission.*

**Public  
Comment**

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

*Mary Ellen Moran of 714 Port Indian Road inquired about, among other things, the RCAP Grant and moving forward with the banquet facility improvements at the golf course, the status of paving of Port Indian Road, the upgrade to the intersection of Marshall Street and Whitehall Road, and the best way to contact the police for a non-emergency situation.*

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

**Upcoming  
Meeting Dates**

*According to Mr. Bobst, meetings as follows are scheduled: Environmental Advisory Council on June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 PM; Zoning Hearing Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 PM; and Human Relations Commission on June 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM. No meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled.*

**Announcement**

*President Miller announced that the solicitor will draft a Resolution for the Board's adoption next week declaring June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.*

**Adjournment**

*There being no further items on the agenda, upon motion of Ms. Milazzo seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 8:19 PM.*

*Kathy K. Frederick  
Assistant Secretary*