

June 13, 2023

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 in attendance. Also, in attendance were: Jason Bobst; Sean Kilkenny, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Stephen Morris; Michael Valyo; Stephanie DiNolfi; T.J. Figaniak; and Ed Brown. After the pledge of allegiance was recited, the meeting proceeded.

Announcement President Smock announced that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Presentations A Proclamation to Alan Christian Charron was read by Mr. Proclamation Smock and presented to Mr. Charron for his good Samaritan efforts in assisting an individual that was experiencing a medical emergency.

Tax Collector Martin Sheehan, Tax Collector presented to the Board the status of tax receipts for 2023. According to Mr. Sheehan, 90% of the taxes have been collected to date as opposed to 87% in 2022 in a much more "streamlined process with no waiting line". Mr. Sheehan added that his goal is to reduce the number of properties being sent to tax claim and, in that regard, less than 100 properties are currently in danger vs. 130 in January of 2023. It was also noted by Mr. Sheehan that his tax collection hours changed to add an evening collection to accommodate working residents and a satellite collection was performed at The Greens at Westover to accommodate residents of that community that may have difficulty getting to the Township building. Mr. Sheehan concluded by noting that the surcharge on credit card payments was reduced this year from 2.5% to 2%. Ms. Pavone thanked Mr. Sheehan for this presentation.

Minutes Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Eckles and **Approval** unanimously approved by the Board were the Minutes of its work session of May 2, 2023 and regular meeting of May 9, 2023.

Report of Bills Mr. Bobst read the Finance Committee Report of Ms. Horn and **Approval of** requested approval of: General Fund and Golf Club payroll checks in the amount of \$22,599.15; payroll vouchers in the amount of \$330,543.18; and the Payment Approval Report of \$863,824.90. Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously approved was the aforementioned finance report. It was also announced by Mr. Bobst that there will be no work session of the Board on July 4th, **Committee** Independence Day, and August 1st, National Night Out.

Reports:

Admin & Finance Mr. Bobst highlighted the agenda items under New Business **Bd. of Commiss.** and added that consideration is being given to distributing a welcome letter to new businesses, perhaps hand-delivered at the time of the U&O inspection. Also, per Mr. Bobst, the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program Grant application has been created, is up on the website and he is hoping to begin taking application on Monday. In

addition, with regard to the 2013 Act 205 pension evaluation, which sets funding ratios for the MMO, Mr. Bobst mentioned that he is hoping that the better returns that we have received lately will help with the "hit" that we are going to take on the negative returns in 2021. Finally, Mr. Bobst mentioned that the TASA Grants open and that the DVRPC approached us due to a good project @ Forrest Avenue. These grants are for a a minimum of \$1M with no match for sidewalks, curbing, storm sewers, ramps, traffic signals, etc. Per Mr. Bobst, the design costs may be on us, but that is minimal given the scope of work, and applications are due in September.

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>April 30th</u>	<u>May 31st</u>
General Fund	12,805,545.18	14,297,965.45
PLGIT 10105000	33,515.98	14,102.47
PLGIT CD - SEWER	1,541,914.04	1,548,323.17
Golf Fund	(37,213.78)	(20,481.06)
Escrow Fund	488,881.23	506,473.47
Sinking Fund	4,188.58	4,188.65
Liquid Fuels	569,005.52	551,201.78
Capital Reserve PLGIT	22,077.52	22,170.24
Capital Reserve PLIGIT PLUS	19,673.39	19,673.39
Sewer Capital Acct	3,342,052.96	3,354,732.70
WN 2020 Project Fund	2.75	2.76
Vehicle Replacement Fund	459,009.65	459,905.66
Police Pension Citizens	119,823.48	130,688.93
Non-Uniform Pension Citizens	9,414.12	10,214.39
Grants, DUI	0.00	0.00
Grants, Misc.	789,678.65	791,220.15
Traffic Impact Fee	377,939.15	378,676.91

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 a "Blue Envelope Program" has been introduced whereby special needs individuals may obtain blue envelopes from police stations to keep in vehicles or on their person to present to officers which will identify them as special needs.

Public Works & Planning

The highlights of the Public Works & Planning report were presented by Mr. Valyo who added that milling is scheduled to begin on Monday (day work) on Egypt Road.

Also, Mr. Valyo mentioned that PennDOT cleared an area under the Whitehall Road bridge, but reported back to the PA State Representative that they completed the job; however, they did not. Photos of the incomplete work were taken and submitted to Representative Bradford's office.

Building & Permitting

In Mr. Booz's absence, Mr. Valyo presented the highlights of the Building & Permitting report.

Parks & Recreation

In the absence of Mr. Dzedzy, the Parks & Recreation report was presented by Ms. DiNolfi who mentioned the upcoming picnic of the Silver Circle on 6/21 at the Jefferson Fire Company No. 1 and movie night on August 26th at Padden Park. Also, Ms. DiNolfi announced that discounted theme park tickets are available for sale at the Township building. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Pavone, Mr. DiNolfi commented that we looking into adding pickleball to our schedule and are currently looking for an instructor.

Jeffersonville Golf Club

Mr. Bobst presented the monthly and quarterly golf report of the revenue and rounds of the course, the revenue and expenses of The Paddock and reported that the May budget was exceeded by 27% and that the course revenue is \$180,000 over last year at this time. Per Mr. Bobst, the roof installation on the clubhouse is scheduled to begin tomorrow and that plans have been added for uplighting of the sycamore trees in the rear of the banquet facility.

Sanitary Sewer

The highlights of the monthly Sanitary report were given by Mr. Figaniak who announced that the 537 Plan is ready for submission to DEP.

Engineer

The Engineer's Report of Gilmore & Associates was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Brown who mentioned that the utility pole will be removed from the intersection of Whitehall Road & Marshall Street with paving to be done next month.

It was added by Mr. Brown that the stormwater improvements on the W. James Street inlet with piping received positive feedback from the residents. This was the first project utilizing relief funds, per Mr. Brown

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

Commissioners' Comments

Mr. Smock mentioned that the Arts & Culture Commission received the resignation of one of its members, John Holohan and Ms. Eckles added that the ACC's next meeting is next week.

Ms. Pavone commented that Community Day was a good event

Mr. Miller addressed an inquiry by a resident last week about the Pride Month Resolution by stating that other people want to criminalize lives of LGBTQ+ so we want to show support. Mr. Miller added that he knows we aren't going to change the world, but because we can't fix the world we want to try and help in our section of the world.

Public Comment

Sherry Johnson of Halford Tract expressed her concerns for the population of homeless people in and about our

community. According to Ms. Johnson, PECO wants to relocate the homeless from the Schuylkill River Trail to get in and clean up the trash, but she is concerned as to where the homeless can go. Ms. Johnson urged people to get involved as the 160 homeless in our community need food, counselling, shelter and we need to help. Per Ms. Johnson, there is too much "not in my backyard" going on here.

L. James Watters, III., 1 E. Indian Lane, agreed with Ms. Johnson as to the plight of the homeless. Mr. Watters opined that West Norriton Day "was a hoot" and that it was a great event. Also, according to Mr. Watters, it is great to see movement on the intersection of Whitehall Road and W. Marshall Street, and also that the fish ladder is up and running at the dam. In conclusion, Mr. Watters mentioned a veterans' meeting at Jeffersonville Fire Company on 6/15 at 7:00 PM.

Mary Ellen Moran of Port Indian inquired about the Act 537 Plan presentation, the number of EDUs in the Township and the dates of limb pickup.

Cindy Taylor of 415 Centre Avenue inquired about the status of the meeting with tenants and Legal Aid. Mr. Bobst replied that we are still working on securing the meeting, but, if necessary, he will go over the head of the local HUD supervisor to secure such a meeting. Also Ms. Taylor inquired about plans to alleviate the flooding issues. Mr. Brown mentioned possible berm funneling and that the next step is to meet with the NASD. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Pavone, it was mentioned by Ms. Taylor that the residents of Centre Avenue are seeing an increased police presence.

Sean Golis, 9303 Sentinel Ridge inquired about the connection from Betzwood Park to the Schuylkill River Trail. Mr. Bobst mentioned that a study was previously done on connecting the park to the trail, including the repair of the ravine which currently exists there; however, the cost of the project well-exceeded budgetary constraints at the time and the connection would have to be ADA compliant. Mr. Golis also requested that a bench and trash can be installed along the river as there is nowhere to sit. Mr. Bobst offered to make contacts to install a bench and requested Mr. Golis to provide Mr. Valyo with a suggested location.

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

New Business

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized staff to advertise Ordinance No. 2023-764 Prohibiting Conversation Therapy (copy attached).

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #23-1703 Authorizing Amendment to General Obligation Notes (copy attached).

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #23-1704 Recognizing June 2023 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month (copy attached).

Upon motion of Mr. Smock, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized execution of Stipulation and Order of Settlement - Assessment Appeal for 2115 W. Main Street (Burnridge Shopping Center).

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized staff to advertise Notice of Availability of Act 537 for Review.

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Mr. Smock and unanimously agreed, the Board ratified the Conditional Use Decision of Prestige Worldwide Property Investments, LLC for 1956-1668 West Main Street. Mr. Kilkenny noted that the Board reviewed and counsel agree to conditions with the exception of the timing of the Highway Occupancy Plan and Mr. Kilkenny read revision to Paragraph 2.

Schedule of Meetings

Mr. Bobst announced the upcoming meeting schedule of the Township's Board and Commissions as follows: EAC - None; Recreation Committee - June 14th @ 8:00 PM; Planning Commission - June 19th @ 7:00 PM; Arts & Culture Commission - June 20th @ 6:30 PM; ZHB - June 21st @ 7:00 PM; and HRC - June 22nd @ 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:24 PM, on motion of Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Eckles, the public meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Frederick
Assistant Secretary