

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DiPLACIDO, LANEY-MARTIN, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, SPIEGELMAN, BOLE, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER

Also Present: Township Manager Manfredi
Assistant Legal Counsel Gallagher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern about traffic safety and frequent accidents.

Joe Rooney, resident, expressed concern about not getting a “good” explanation on the collection of Local Services Tax, and he asked about the DROP program and whether the sewer interceptor project will affect charges on the sewer bill.

Steve Miller, resident, commented that he supports the motion for the inclusive park and playground bid, and he would like to see this project move forward as soon as possible to fill the needs of the community who are disabled.

Erin Glasser, resident, commented that she supports the inclusive park and playground, so our children will have a place where they are valued and welcomed, and she requested the Board to approve it.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about not receiving documents for agenda Item BOC-04-020824; also, about notification to residents regarding the Galman medical office building.

Brad Turner, resident, commented that he supports the inclusive playground so our children with special needs will have a place to play like everyone else.

A resident clarified that a lot of the funds for the inclusive park and playground come from federal funding as well as other types of grants, not just from Abington taxes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve Items a. – f. as listed under Consent Agenda as follows:

To approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Organization Meeting of January 2, 2024 and the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2024.

To adopt additional Resolution No. 24-008, Resolution No. 24-009, and Resolution No. 24-010 for collection of the Local Services Tax.

To adopt Resolution No. 24-011 affirming its policy for purchases involving trade in or exchange.

To advertise Traffic Safety Ordinance amending an ordinance Chapter 156 - “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II – “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 - “Stop Intersections;” Article III – “Parking Regulations” Section 25 – “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping or Standing;” and Section 28 – Specialized Parking signs to add the following: a “Stop” sign westbound and eastbound on Woodrow Avenue at the intersection of Tennis Avenue; westbound and eastbound on Rothley Avenue at Triebel Avenue; westbound on Fairacres Road at Washington Lane; northbound and southbound on Tennis Avenue at Jefferson Avenue; “No Parking” on northside on Guernsey Avenue at Old York Road and the western driveway edge of 1151 Old York Road; Sherman Avenue, eastside at Rockledge Avenue and point 150’ north; and “Handicapped Parking” signs at 1119 Hall Avenue; Easton Road in front of Roslyn VFW; and remove “Handicapped Parking” sign at 2123 Curtis Avenue.

To ratify and approve the agreement between the Township of Abington and the Abington Township Police Department Lieutenants, and ratifying and allowing the current qualifying DROP participants to extend their DROP period in accordance with the ATPA CBA and ratifying and approving the terms and conditions of employment of the Chief of Police.

To approve Change Order No. 1 from Clipper Pipe and Services, Inc. in the amount of \$7,436.30 for the Abington Township Building HVAC upgrade project.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item BOC-06-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to accept Ward 10, Commissioner Jessica Carswell's resignation from the Board of Commissioners effective February 16, 2024.

President Hecker said we will be honoring Commissioner Carswell at a future meeting for her service to the Township as she could not be here this evening. Also, the Board of Commissioners will be accepting applications to appoint a new Commissioner.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-07-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to award the Abington Inclusive Park and Playground Bid to MECO Construction in the amount of \$1,951,491 and appropriate \$416,104 from the American Rescue Plan Act Capital Item, ARPA Culture-Recreation and Parks Infrastructure Investment.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Browne said he had the opportunity to sit in on several meetings with parents who spearheaded this initiative, and it is inspiring to see how they go to bat for their children. This inclusive park is not just a benefit for them but for the entire Township, and it is so important for these children who have been limited to be able to play, and he fully supports it.

Commissioner Henry said although we will be celebrating Commissioner Carswell at another time, this is a fitting way to honor her service as she put a lot into this, and it will be a huge benefit for the entire community especially for her ward.

Commissioner Rothman said it is humbling to be able to vote in favor of something this wonderful, which is a long time coming, so he is enthusiastic about supporting this initiative.

President Hecker extended his gratitude to the families who devoted their time and energy to this initiative. He knows it is not easy to come forward and share personal details of their struggles, and now they will have an opportunity to celebrate. And this will make the community a better place.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-08-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Winegrad to refer the Galman requested DRAFT Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance to the Township Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) for review and comment.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad said he welcomes comments from both the County and Township Planning Commissions and supports this moving forward for their review.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-09-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the Preliminary/Final Major Land Development Plan for LD-23-04 – 640 Cedar Road (Hopewell Vet) and adopt Resolution No. 24-012.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-10-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve LD-23-05 – 1216 & 1236 Washington Lane and adopt Resolution No. 24-013.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-11-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve the Baseball Field Agreement, Abington Township Facilities between the Township of Abington and Manor College.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-12-020824:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve settlement agreement with Cheltenham Township for cost-sharing related to the sanitary sewer Interceptor A project and authorize staff and the Solicitor to take all necessary steps in accordance with the agreement.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Item FC-01-020824:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the December 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$3,967,109.97 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$3,671,999.25 and authorize the proper officials to sign and approve invoices and supporting documentation in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of March 2024.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 14-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Adele Kubel, resident, provided 2023 statistics showing an increase in car collisions on The Fairway where that area has been designated as a family bike path, so building large-scale apartments would jeopardize more people. Also, she presented a petition for the replacement of two benches near a bus stop.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern that those who participate in using the baseball fields should be paying for it; also, she asked for documents relating to agenda Item BOC-04-020824.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on February 8, 2024:

Resolution No. 24-008

Resolution No. 24-009

Resolution No. 24-010

Resolution No. 24-011

Resolution No. 24-012

Resolution No. 24-013