

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, March 14, 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, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, ZAPPONE, SPIEGELMAN, BOLE, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER
Excused: Commissioners LANEY-MARTIN, HENRY

Also Present: Township Manager Manfredi
Township Solicitor Clarke

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Hecker announced that the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on Monday, March 11, 2024 for the purposes of receiving information relating to the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners and consult with the Township Solicitor and staff. The Executive Session was for informational purposes only and no deliberations occurred, and no votes were taken.

Also, the Board of Commissioners will hold an Executive Session at the conclusion of this evening's meeting. The purpose of the Executive Session is to be informed by the Township Solicitor and staff regarding a matter that has come before the Board of Commissioners. It will be for informational purposes only and no deliberations will occur, and no votes will be taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern about creating "No Parking" areas that cause major congestion; also, there are many car collisions, and it is dangerous for biking.

Ross Able, resident, commented that he fully supports the protective bike routes grant application as listed on the agenda.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the amount of speaking time on agenda items; also, that the corner of Old York Road and Susquehanna Road is one of the most dangerous in the Township, and nothing should be put there to keep traffic flowing. Also, she was opposed to the hospital pilot plan.

James Stevens, resident, commented that he supports the grant application for the protected bike routes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

To approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of February 8, 2024.

To adopt Traffic Safety Ordinance No. 2211 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 approve the release of escrow #6 for LD-19-08, Galman Residential, in the amount of \$170,980.88.

To approve the release of escrow request #2 and final for LD-21-04 – 521 Moredon Road (Barn Addition) in the amount of \$112,692.50.

To approve the stipulation to settle the matter of 1801 Susquehanna Road (Sunrise Assisted Living) v. Montgomery County Assessment Appeals ET AL and authorize Wisler Pearlstine to sign the stipulation on behalf of the Township of Abington.

To approve the stipulation to settle the matter of 261 Old York Road (The Pavilion) v. Montgomery County Assessment Appeals ET AL and authorize Wisler Pearlstine to sign the stipulation on behalf of the Township of Abington.

To approve Change Order No. 2 from Clipper Pipe and Services, Inc. in the amount of \$83,722.25 and Electri Tech in the amount of \$11,452.39 for the Abington Township Building HVAC upgrade project.

To approve Amendment 2 to Professional Services Agreement for ARPA funding engagement project PROJ-002669 with Witt O’Brien’s for continued ARPA funding support as necessary.

To approve Resolution No. 24-015 the submission of the “Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary Phase 2 Project” grant application to Montgomery County’s Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program.

To adopt Resolution No. 24-016 for a Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant application through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) for a Protected Bike Routes Action Plan in the amount of \$75,000.

To approve an extension for the agreements (C000064042 and C000070588) by and between the Department of Community & Economic Development for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant, which supports the Old York Road/Susquehanna Road project until June 30, 2025.

To approve an extension for the agreement C000072116 by and between the Department of Community & Economic Development for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant, which supports the Abington Jenkintown Connection Project until June 30, 2025.

To approve an extension for the agreement C000076378 by and between the Department of Community & Economic Development for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant, which supports the Abington Jenkintown Connection Project until June 30, 2025.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

Item BOC-13-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve Resolution No. 24-017 to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners for Ward 10.

President Hecker opened nominations.

Commissioner Spiegelman nominated Ms. Christine Young-Gertz to be the new Commissioner representing Ward 10, seconded by Vice President Vahey.

President Hecker asked for any other nominations. There were none.

President Hecker asked for any comments.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern that the decision was made about this candidate out of public view.

Adele Kubel, resident, commented that she would have liked to have met with the other candidates.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Ms. Christine M. Young-Gertz was appointed Commissioner of Ward 10 to the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington by unanimous vote of 12-0.

The Honorable District Justice Juanita Price administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Commissioner Christina M. Young-Gertz, Ward 10 to the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township on this 14th day of March 2024.

Item BOC-14-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint Michael Thompson to the Zoning Hearing Board as included in Exhibit A.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-15-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve the Preliminary Major Land Development application LD-23-01 for the location at 711 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA, 19046 (St. Basils) and adopt Resolution No. 24-018.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Rothman confirmed that the emergency ingress/egress will be through Fox Chase Road and not through the neighborhoods of Ascot, Montgomery, or Gibson. Is that correct?

Mr. Brian Thierrin, representing Toll Brothers, replied that is correct.

Commissioner Rothman clarified that when the berm is constructed there will be a process by the contractor to address dust. Is that correct?

Mr. Thierrin replied yes. When dust is leaving the site the Conservation District is there the next day, and during the summer months, the contractor will do more to keep the dust down.

Commissioner Rothman clarified that during demolition of the former school building any asbestos will be addressed properly by a qualified contractor. Is that correct?

Mr. Thierrin replied yes, it will be contained and removed per PA standards prior to removing the building.

Commissioner Winegrad said this is the preliminary land development process, so when would this come back for final approval?

Mr. Thierrin replied we are working on the final plan, and it will be filed soon. The plan will go through the process again and then come back before the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-16-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to consider a DRAFT Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Map of Abington Township by rezoning 2.621 acres of land from the RC-Recreation Conservation District to the BC Business Center – Foxcroft District.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad said if this passes tonight, what is the next step in the process.

Manager Manfredi replied if the Board approves the ordinance, it will be advertised for a public hearing on April 11th, and if adopted on that date, it will then go through the land development process.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-17-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to award the following annual Public Works Materials Bids and authorize the Township Manager to execute all contracts for the following bids:

- 2024 Superpave Materials Bid – Bid Award to Eureka Stone Quarry in the amount of \$1,267,540.00.
- 2024 Engineered Retaining Wall System Materials Bid – Bid Award to JDM Materials Company in the amount of \$28,540.00.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-18-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Winegrad to award the 2022 Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program Susquehanna Road Sidewalk Project Bid to Fedele Contractors in the amount of \$52,291.85.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for the timeframe of construction.

Ms. Ashley McIlvaine replied if approved tonight, the contractor will have 10 days to execute the contract, and once executed, the Township will then provide notice to proceed, and the contractor anticipates completion within 60 days.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-19-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Abington and Holy Redeemer Health System.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-20-031424:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to authorize an ordinance amending Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article IV – “Metered Parking,” Sections 30 through 38; and amending Chapter 157 “Parking of Vehicles,” Sections 2 – “Violations and Penalties,” and 5 – “Notice,” and repealing all inconsistent ordinances.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Item FC-01-031424:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the January 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$3,185,054.52 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,865,034.47 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 April 2024.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed – 13-0. Commissioners Laney-Martin and Henry were absent during roll call.

Item FC-02-031424:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to approve the use of unappropriated fund balance for the purchase of a new emergency generator in the amount of \$76,800.00.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item FC-03-031424:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the substantial amendments as described in the attached documents to the PY 2021 and 2022 Annual Action Plans and approve Resolution No. 24-019.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern about numerous apartment complexes that will densify and urbanize Abington causing increased traffic creating more dangerous streets; also, about blight in the Township.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about notification to residents regarding items of the Planning Commission; also, she asked about the number of vetted candidates.

Ross Able, resident, thanked the Board for approving the protected bike routes grant application. He asked the Board to take strong action on traffic calming in the Township and work with adjacent municipalities to pursue traffic calming on Rt. 611. Also, next Friday will be the Annual Vision Zero Conference organized by the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia held at Temple University.

Commissioner Brodsky commented that Township staff as well as Board leadership do a very good job in challenging circumstances. They get the job done in a no-nonsense way, which is good for the Township, and that's the way it is.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following ordinance and resolutions were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on March 14, 2024:

Ordinance No. 2211

Resolution No. 24-015

Resolution No. 24-016

Resolution No. 24-017

Resolution No. 24-018

Resolution No. 24-019