

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held as a Zoom webinar and teleconference on Thursday, April 8, 2021 with President Spiegelman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners THOMPSON, BRODSKY, BOLE, CARSWELL, ROTHMAN, VAUGHN, MYERS, ZAPPONE, BOWMAN, DiPLACIDO, WINEGRAD, VAHEY, SCHREIBER, HECKER, SPIEGELMAN

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Treasurer BLUMENTHAL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Spiegelman read the Arbor Day Proclamation into the record. Also, he announced that agenda Item BOC-02-040821 will not be considered by the Board of Commissioners this evening.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the amount of speaking time on agenda items; she was opposed to the Molly Court dedication; and she asked for neighbors to be notified of meetings for property located at Old York/Susquehanna Roads.

Manager Manfredi clarified that the Board of Commissioners will not be acting on agenda Item BOC-02-040821 this evening. Also, he noted that Molly Court was a land development plan that was previously approved by the Board of Commissioners that includes the dedication of a road as part of that plan. The motion to authorize advertisement of an ordinance accepting dedication is a follow-through on procedures of an already approved land development plan, and circumstances relating to stormwater will need to be addressed as a matter of post-construction enforcement.

Natalie Sherstyuk, resident, expressed concern about the amount of speaking time on agenda items; also, she feels “there is no longer a declaration of disaster-state of emergency and it’s time to open and be transparent as municipal government is essential as well as public participation.” Also, she asked for the committee meetings to come back.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve items a. – i. as listed under Consent Agenda as follows:

To approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of March 11, 2021.

To adopt Resolution No. 21-007 recognizing the month of April 2021 as Pennsylvania Safe Digging Month.

To ratify the extension of the agreement for recycling services with J.P. Mascaro & Sons, dated October 22, 2015, for an additional period of six (6) months with certain price changes for certain services and concurrently approve Resolution No. 21-009 as approved by other Montgomery County participating municipalities.

To approve the final release of escrow for Sussman Associates II, LP-Kia Dealership, in the amount of \$58,430.17, required maintenance either by bond or cash in the amount of \$4,682.83.

To release escrow No. 1 on Sussman Mazda Dealership project in the amount of \$123,898.58.

To approve the proposed minor subdivision plan for property address 1405 Rothley Avenue – Kevin S. Maguire & James J. Maguire, Jr. to create one new building lot for a single-family dwelling use.

To approve the two additional waiver requests for JJHL Associates, LTD (Faulkner Nissan).

To accept the Financial Reports for February 2021 including Investments, Clearing Fund; Deferred Revenue/Expense Activity; Petty Cash Balances; Travel Expenses and Statement of Conditions.

To adopt Resolution No. 21-011 authorizing the disposition of certain Tax Office records as set forth in Exhibit “A.”

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS:

Item BOC-02-040821:

Vice President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to remove Item BOC-02-040821 from the agenda and to be acted on at a future date.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Item BOC-03-040821:

Vice President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to adopt Resolution No. 21-008 ratifying the Declaration of Disaster and State of Emergency from March 25, 2021 to April 8, 2021 and approve the Declaration through April 15, 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS:

Item PW-02-040821:

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by President Spiegelman to authorize advertisement of an ordinance accepting the dedication of Molly Court Roadway Right-of-Way.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Item PW-03-040821:

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to adopt Resolution No. 21-010 an extension to the existing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the continued participation in the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership for 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

LAND USE COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS:

Item LU-05-040821:

Commissioner Thompson made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to approve the Land Development Application, LD-21-01, AQUQ Pennsylvania, Inc., at property address 315 Chelsea Avenue, Glenside to upgrade and expand the North Hills Pump Station to implement a PFAS treatment system.

President Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Thompson asked for the Board's support in moving this project forward as it means a lot to the North Hills community and ultimately the Abington community as all of us will benefit from having non-detectable levels of PFAS in our drinking water.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS:

Item PA-01-040821:

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey 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, 2022.

President Spiegelman commented that this is a pandemic-related extension, and he would appreciate the Board's support. He asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS:

Receive Treasurer's Report:

Township Treasurer Jay W. Blumenthal reported that the amount of real estate taxes collected in March 2021 were \$4,641,512 as compared to last year of \$5,195,482 representing a decrease of (\$553,970); YTD \$5,795,035 leaving a balance to be collected of \$23,755,155. Monies deposited into Republic Bank from various Township departments in March 2021 were in the amount of \$8,128,198 as compared to last year of \$9,349,724 representing a decrease of (\$1,221,526); YTD decrease was (\$1,800,287).

President Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Thompson questioned whether deadline for Earned Income Tax will be extended.

Mr. Blumenthal replied no, the deadline is still April 15th.

Item FC-01-040821:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the February 2021 expenditures in the amount of \$2,883,811.85 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,056,723.62 and authorize the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of May 2021.

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

Roll call resulted in motion being passed - 15-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the number of units that could possibly be built near the mall and that a "financial analysis as well as other systems have not been presented by the developer;" also about the minutes.

Natalie Sherstyuk, resident, expressed concern about "residents not being aware of how buildings are being built," also, that "there are enough CDC guidelines to safely open up."

Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT: 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 8, 2021:

Resolution No. 21-007

Resolution No. 21-008

Resolution No. 21-009

Resolution No. 21-010

Resolution No. 21-011