

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, 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, THOMPSON, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, CARSWELL, SPIEGELMAN, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER
Excused: Commissioner VAUGHN

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI
Township Solicitor CLARKE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the ordinance listed under BOC-17-041323 and requested that it not be considered until it is “for the residents.”

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

To approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of March 9, 2023.

Proclamation commemorating National Community Development Week.

To approve an extension for the agreement (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, 2024.

To approve the release of escrow #4 for LD-19-08, Galman Residential, in the amount of \$225,907.74.

To approve the release of escrow request #1 for LD-21-04 – 521 Moredon Road (Barn Addition) in the amount of \$145,986.25.

To approve revision made to Sections 4.7A. Verbal/Writing Assessment for Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains.

To approve the sale of a 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility 9 (Explorer), vin #1FM5K8ARoHGC25822 to the Abington School District. The agreed upon price will be \$11,700.

To award contract for design and survey to complete the anticipated CDBG-funded Rubicam Avenue Stormwater and Sidewalk Improvements Project to ATLAS in the amount of \$19,800 and authorize the Township Manager to execute the contract.

To award the annual 2023 Storm Sewer Inlets and Manhole Structures Public Works Materials Bid to Commonwealth Precast, Inc., 694 Forman Road, Souderton, PA 18964 and authorize the Township Manager to execute the contract in the amount of \$46,524.00.

To award the Crestmont and Penbryn Pool Concession Stand lease to Mokhtar Leheta of Jack & Jill Ice Cream Co. and authorize the Township Manager to execute the contracts.

To authorize the Township Manager to execute an agreement with Indian Valley Appraisal Company.

To authorize the Township Manager to engage The Kapoor Company for labor and economic analytics services.

To approve the 4th Amendment to the Forensic DNA Testing and Local Database Agreement with BODE CELLMARK FORENSICS, Inc. and to authorize the Township Manager to execute the agreement.

To approve the agreement between J.J. Kane Associates, Inc. d/b/a J. J. Auctioneers and the Township of Abington and authorize the Township Manager to execute the agreement.

To approve the Letter of Understanding between the Center for Public Safety and Excellence (CPSE) and the Township of Abington for the Abington Township Fire Department accreditation and approve the Township Manager to execute the Letter of Understanding.

To approve the License Agreement and Letter of Understanding between Jenkintown Youth Activities (JYA) and the Township of Abington to replace dugouts at Alverthorpe Park Field B.

To approve amendment to EDCDI Agreement C000084388.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item BOC-17-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Winegrad to adopt Ordinance No. 2205 repealing Chapter 98 – “Housing Standards,” in its entirety and replacing it and repealing all inconsistent ordinances.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad thanked the Board of Commissioners for fast-tracking this item as it is needed for those living at 100 York Apartments as well as all residents of Abington Township, and he would like to see this move forward and passed.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-18-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to award the traffic signal improvements bid to Armour & Sons Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$212,385.00 for the 2018 ARLE and 2017 Green Light Go intersection improvement projects and authorize the Township Manager to execute the contract.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner DiPlacido questioned where the funds are coming from for this item.

Ms. McIlvaine replied that the funds will be taken from the Township’s grants match account for the three intersections that are part of this project, which were sent out for bid.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-19-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to award the Abington Township Mowing Contract, zones 1, 2 and 3 for years 2023, 2024 and 2025 to Cancer Fighting Lawncare in the amount of \$98,333.33, and authorize the Township Manager to execute the contract.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-20-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve the contract with MJM Systems (also known as Mellilio) for the upgrade to Abington Township's Data Center in the amount of \$162,917.45, and authorize the Township Manager to execute the contact.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that this amount is within budget. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied yes.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-21-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint Karin McGarry-Rosen and Susan Myerov to the Environmental Advisory Council for a term ending on 12/31/25 as included in Exhibit A.

President Hecker thanked both for their outstanding service to the Township. He asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-22-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint Commissioners Hecker, Vahey and Schreiber as the Reapportionment Committee.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item BOC-23-041323:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the change order request in the amount of \$8,300 from BRB Contractors for the Old York Road and Susquehanna Road Improvement Project.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Item FC-01-041323:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the February 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$3,021,711.08 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,176,635.10, and authorize the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of May 2023.

Roll call resulted in the motion being passed 14-0. Commissioner Vaughn was absent during roll call.

Item FC-02-041323:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to ratify Evans Pancoast of NFP Corporate Services (PA), Inc. as the broker of record for the Group Medicare Plan.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident commented that LGBTQ people are citizens of this country with the same rights as everyone else, and she asked why a lawsuit was permitted, and as a citizen of this county, she strenuously objects to anyone who is against a gay pride flag.

Ms. Adele Kubel, resident, said she first reported the Raymour & Flanigan property one year ago; however, the conditions at the complex were well-known.

Today, the Raymour & Flanigan dumpsite remains unchanged, although one area of improvement is due to the efforts of Commissioner Winegrad as he is responsible for getting Raymour & Flanigan to repair yards of front sidewalk. This was a significant repair, and now pedestrians can walk past the store without jumping across ditch-deep holes and cement. Paramount Realty has taken no responsibility for the damage caused by Raymour & Flanigan, and she presented a recently taken photo.

Ross Abel, resident, said he is a member of the Jenkintown Abington Neighbors Association, and regarding the demolition on Susquehanna Road, he suggested reaching out to the demolition company about salvaging architecture from the historical buildings. Also, Jenkintown Borough has a Trails subcommittee under its Planning Commission, and he recommended that Abington Township pursue something similar to review plans and ongoing projects. And he requested that the Township work with Jenkintown Borough and Cheltenham Township to collaborate on a traffic study on Rt. 611 for traffic calming with possible road-diet in mind. He advocated that the Township pursue protected bike lanes and updating the Master Bicycle Plan as well as pursue any grants for construction of sidewalks east of Jenkintown to make it safer for pedestrians.

Trevor Lee, resident, said he is a Noble resident and member of the Jenkintown Abington Neighbors Association, and he requested that the Township work with Jenkintown Borough, Cheltenham Township, and PennDOT on implementing a road-diet on Rt. 611 near Jenkintown and Noble. He also supports updating the Master Bicycle Plan regarding protecting lanes for bicyclists, and for the Township to pursue a park at Noble Station per the Noble TOD plan for a walkable mixed-use environment. He also supports pursuing grants for the construction of more sidewalks east of Jenkintown.

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that it is unclear what laws are being enforced at 100 York Apartments, and what was passed tonight was in deference to the landlord and against the interest of the tenants.

Nora Salzman, resident, commented that she is also a member of the Jenkintown Abington Neighbors Association, and supports the requests made by her neighbors for the Noble area regarding more sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and improvements to the Noble Train Station. SEPTA's construction vehicles are an eyesore as well as causing an environmental impact from the trucks and trash. She requested that the Board turn their attention to this area and find ways to work with SEPTA on temporary and long-term solutions.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for contact information to be provided to residents of 100 York Apartments should there be any problems in the building.

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Manager Manfredi replied codeenforcement@abingtonpa.gov or they can contact Fire Marshal Chris Platz.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

Ordinance No. 2205 was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 13, 2023.