

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., on Thursday, December 9, 2021, with President Spiegelman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:33 p.m.

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

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI
Township Solicitor CLARKE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Adele Kubel, 1848 Ambler Road, suggested that the “Township budget needs to include a separate office devoted only to commercial code enforcement and prioritize concerns by residents.” She expressed concern about blight due to commercial enterprises at the Abington Town Center where trash needs to be picked up on a daily basis, and she submitted photos to the Township. Also, the “Abington Old York Road Dunkin Donuts is perpetually filled with food scraps and filth and the McDonalds adds to the decimated Old York Road Corridor.”

Girish Nair, 1218 Oliver Road, expressed concern that the neighbors in the Meinel Road area had to investigate what was going on and our major concern is that the bedrock is at a high level, which means the property is not porous and the stormwater will flow outward.

Pennoni Engineering was contracted to do a site review, and in April 2021, came back with a review document and markups, and the neighbors were under the assumption that this engineering review would protect our property, but the developer claimed he was not aware of the recommendations from Pennoni's review.

The settlement agreement that will be voted on does not include any of the markups and we would like the Board to vote "no" based on not having the correct information.

Carol Gillespie, 354 Roberts Avenue, former Township Commissioner, congratulated Commissioner Peggy Myers on her 24 years of service to the Township, and she will be missed. She wished Peggy the best and thanked her for her service to the citizens of Abington.

Steven Moss, 1226 Oliver Road, commented that regarding the property of Meinel Road, proposed home #3 will be 15 feet from his property line in the back and that will block more than half of the view from his backyard. The size of proposed homes is 35 feet-plus, and they will decrease the value of his home, and he asked for this not to be put through.

Richard Gaglianese, 1074 Beverly Road, former Township Commissioner, said that the President of PAL has written a letter to Commissioner Peggy Myers addressed to President Spiegelman that he read into the record as follows:

Dear Mr. Spiegelman,

"I would like to thank Peggy Myers for all that she has done during her 20-plus years on the Board of Commissioners. Her philosophy of being of service to the residents and businesses of the Township has been remarkable and the reason for her Board longevity. Equally as important as her work with Abington PAL, Peggy has worked tirelessly to make sure our Township youth have a safe and welcoming facility that mentors and encourages the kids' personal growth. In this way, Peggy has touched the lives of countless Abington kids. Thank you, Peggy for all that you do."

Sincerely,

Eric M. Sussman, President of PAL

Mr. Gaglianese echoed Eric's words and stated that Peggy has been a great friend of PAL, Abington Police, and the Abington Fire Department. He thanked Peggy for her many years of public service, and the residents appreciate everything she has done for them as well as across the Township. He also thanked Peggy for her work on resolving issues of the McKinley Fire Company making it safe for our community and wished her "Good Luck!"

Mike McClernand, 1234 Oliver Road, thanked Commissioner Peggy Myers for her service on behalf of the residents of June Meadows. Regarding the Meinel Road property, there were revisions recommended by Pennoni Associates that were never added to the settlement agreement as well as what the HOA will be responsible for, so nothing has been resolved. His property is in the lowest area where the stormwater will flow towards from all six homes, and he would feel safer if this agreement were denied and have something else written.

Paul Feldman, 1202 Oliver Road, said regarding the Meinel project, in 2017, this Board approved the subdivision plan and the developer had 90 days to record it in Montgomery County, and he did not do that in the past three years, and then asked for a waiver, so at this point, nothing was approved because the developer did not follow through.

Also, Mr. Hassan made suggestions that would protect our neighborhood, and the since the Township paid for that report and did not incorporate those recommendations is “ridiculous.” A letter from Mr. Hassan to Mr. Manfredi dated April 30, 2021, indicates that the water tank proposed to be underneath the road is a bad idea because it will breakdown, so the developer should build less homes.

Dino Ditri commented that he lives right next door to this project, and he is representing all the neighbors of Meinel Road who disagree with this project. Most of our homes are split-level with one-car garages and the proposed homes will be three-stories, massive mini mansions, which will not fit, and no one wants it in our neighborhood.

Jacqueline Myers, 552 Hoyt Road, thanked those who delayed signing this “dangerous” agreement with the developer of a 3.5-acre lot on Meinel Road with six huge homes. Commissioner Brodsky has made every effort to support the neighbors, but despite daily efforts by the neighbors to reach out to the developer, he has made little effort to listen to our concerns and made even less improvement to his plan.

Also, the developer claims that he never received the changes to stormwater management system as required by Pennoni Associates and those changes recommended by Mr. Hassan will protect us from stormwater runoff and flooding.

Now, we have discovered that the changes are not in the agreement, so it is based on a 2017 plan, and the neighbors are united in their concern that the developer is not required to follow requirements of the Township Engineer, and she asked for the plan to not be approved tonight.

Walter Draving, resident, questioned whether the budget and policy are listed on tonight’s meeting agenda and clarified there are three minutes to speak on agenda items and non-agenda items. Is that correct?

President Spiegelman replied yes, they are both agenda items, and there is three minutes to speak on agenda items as well as non-agenda items at the end of the meeting.

Jean Thompson, 217 Washington Lane, expressed concern about issues from 100 York Apartments with headlight pollution from the parking lot trespassing onto her private property, and she would like the owner to plant box-hedges to cut down on the vehicle headlights from shining into her living room and bedroom from 5 p.m. until dawn. It disturbs and violates her privacy especially “being watched going to/from her car.” She is afraid to get out of her car and go into her front door in case someone will rob or beat her up. She called the front desk making them aware of these issues, but they do not want to get involved.

Also, traffic continues to cut-thru the parking lot on Washington Lane and Township Line Road to beat the traffic light, and the high/low beams shine through to her bedroom. She requested that the Township contact the owner of the apartment building about these issues.

Commissioner Winegrad replied that he will contact Ms. Thompson after this meeting.

Lora Lehmann, Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the amount of speaking time on agenda items.

Jeanette DiMeo, 717 Martin Road, expressed concern that “complaints are not being taken seriously and dealt with.” Also, about the amount of time to speak on a budget that will raise taxes by 22% as well as “real estate ventures that will cause more harm than good.”

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 of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of November 10, 2021.

To adopt Ordinance No. 2190 an ordinance vacating a public right-of-way over a portion of Parkview Avenue.

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

To authorize the budget transfers and supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021.

To authorize an expenditure from Unallocated General Fund Balance (Account #01-00-000-5999) in the amount of \$45,855.00 (2021 allotment) to be distributed equally (\$9,171.00) among the five volunteer fire companies serving Abington Township.

To release escrow for Abington Memorial Hospital Woodland Road Garage project.

To release escrow #1 Abington Senior High School project.

To authorize release of the Letter of Credit posted by Hunter Soccer Club as financial security associated with the land development plan identified as LU-02-021121, for construction of a new synthetic turf field at Penbryn Park, and associated stormwater management facilities and access drive, subject to release by the lender, Ambler Savings Bank, to the Township of the outstanding amount required for replenishment of the escrow account established in accordance with the contract for professional services executed by the applicant, said amount to include final invoices submitted by the Township Solicitor and Township Engineer for charges associated with the final inspection and review of the approved improvements, and subject to the posting of maintenance security by the applicant as required by the Development Agreement.

To adopt Resolution No. 21-030 setting the Police Pension contribution rate for 2022 at five percent (5%) of compensation.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Item BOC-02-090921:

Vice President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to consider the agreement between Abington Township and Meinel Associates, LLC, and authorization of Township Manager to execute the agreement.

President Spiegelman called on Solicitor Clarke.

Solicitor Clarke explained that the project was originally approved in 2017, and under the MPC (Municipality Planning Code), the applicant had a certain amount of time to record the plans with the Recorder of Deeds of Montgomery County, and he failed to record those plans in the allotted time. There was nothing improper in the way the original plan was approved by the Board of Commissioners during an open meeting and all requirements were met.

The applicant came back to the Township a few years later and asked the Board to extend the deadline, waive the time limit, or reapprove the plan. Township Engineer at that time reviewed the plan and noted a concern about the location of the stormwater management system and about the Township taking ownership of that system. Through various discussions with the applicant's attorney, we attempted to reach an agreement where the applicant or the HOA or the individual homeowners would own and be required to maintain the stormwater management system, but we were unable to reach that agreement, so the request for a waiver and request to reapprove the plan were denied.

An appeal was filed in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, and during that period of time, we had additional discussions with the applicant where they agreed that the road would be dedicated to the Township and the stormwater management system and maintenance thereof would be the responsibility of either the HOA or the individual property owners.

Since this is a stormwater management system, the Township will be a co-permittee with the HOA regardless of whether the Township enters into this agreement, and this would be a standard operating procedure with DEP.

The plan that is before the Board this evening is fully compliant with Township codes and ordinances and the letter from Mr. Hassan was sent to the applicant, the applicant's engineer, and the applicant's attorney. Mr. Hassan characterizes his letter as memorialization of comments and it is not a review letter, but it does contain suggestions; however, not requirements or a repudiation of the current plan.

The plan as submitted before the Board this evening is fully compliant with Township ordinances.

President Spiegelman questioned whether any other changes were made to the 2017 plan besides the issue of ownership of the stormwater basin.

Solicitor Clarke replied that the previous Township Engineer did not have any concerns about the 2017 plan other than ownership/maintenance of the stormwater basin, and there are no other changes. The settlement agreement before the Board was not meant to reengineer the plan, but about the ownership/maintenance of the stormwater basin.

President Spiegelman said regarding the plan that is before the Board tonight, he asked Mr. Hassan if he has concerns about safety of the neighboring property owners being put in jeopardy from anything to do with stormwater runoff.

Mr. Khal Hassan, Township Engineer, Pennoni Associates, replied that he is satisfied with the design that was submitted under the 2017 plan from a stormwater management standpoint. The stormwater management system is adequate and meets the requirements designed to accommodate up to 100-year storm event.

President Spiegelman said MS4 requirements for any new or redevelopment is to improve stormwater management on the property than it was previously. He asked Mr. Hassan if he is satisfied that is the case.

Mr. Hassan replied yes. Bedrock previously mentioned by a resident is not that deep. Currently, stormwater is not controlled onsite, and this system will promote and introduce amended soils where the rock will be removed, and absorbent soils will be placed in the basin and the stormwater will be contained in an adequate system.

Commissioner Brodsky said there has been extensive discussion and review by everyone involved in this matter. The residents have made it clear that they are opposed and would like the opportunity to get involved having this process begin again, and since that is their desire and intent, although he is a proponent of the negotiation and settlement processes, he takes into consideration what the neighbors have said and their voices should be heard, so based on that he will support the neighbors and their requests.

Commissioner Zappone said he thought he heard one of the residents say that Pennoni provided recommendations to fix the issue and the developer failed to comply. Is that accurate information?

Mr. Hassan replied that is accurate. He wrote his letter based on meetings with the residents and his comments were directly related to input from residents about surface runoff and drainage and not the stormwater system. So, his comments are to adjust the grade and extend the retaining wall, which would be a good mechanism if the developer chooses to move forward. It is not a requirement, just a suggestion.

Commissioner Zappone said he is an expert in flooding as he has dealt with two; one in 1996 and again in 2001, and the neighbors are concerned that their property will be flooded. So, our position as Commissioners is that we represent every resident of this Township, the taxpayers, and we need to side with them and not with the developer. He has a big problem with developers coming into our backyard telling us what to do, so we need to stand behind the taxpayers of this Township.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether the plan meets all zoning requirements.

Solicitor Clarke replied yes, the project meets all zoning requirements and SALDO.

Vice President Hecker said given that the plan was previously approved and meets all Township codes; what authority does the Township have to mandate the developer to make changes suggested by the Township Engineer. Also, what would be the potential consequences for not approving the plan?

Solicitor Clarke replied the Township has no authority. They were recommendations made by the engineer, but the plan is code compliant. If the plan is not approved, the matter could go to court, and ownership/maintenance of stormwater management system could be lost. There is also a nominal amount of \$10,000 from the Township's insurance carrier in which they have given the Township a deadline of tomorrow to resolve this matter.

Commissioner Vahey said he appreciates input from residents as well as their emails. He will be voting "yes" to this agreement, and the reason is that he is concerned about the taxpayers of this Township as well as the risk the Township could take on by allowing this case to go to litigation, the cost, and anything else that may result from it. He is also concerned the Township will lose improvements that were made to the plan through negotiations, so he does not take this vote lightly, but he is concerned about potential downside of proceeding to litigation and losing.

Commissioner Brodsky said the overriding question is "what is in the best interest of the immediate residents," and it is important that we advocate on their behalf as they deserve our support.

Commissioner Schreiber said she is also concerned about possible consequences that might make it worse for residents and she wants to protect all of them by not making conditions worse, so by going back to the 2017 plan, is not a good option. If this gets approved tonight, she hopes the developer will work with the neighbors as well as the ward Commissioner on furthering those suggestions.

Commissioner DiPlacido clarified that the new stormwater management system that is included in the plan will reduce stormwater runoff. Is that correct?

Mr. Hassan replied that is correct.

Commissioner Rothman shares sentiments by Commissioners Schreiber and Vahey in their concerns about making this worse rather than better.

Commissioner Bole questioned whether adjustments could be made to specific site locations of proposed homes through ongoing negotiations.

Solicitor Clarke replied if the settlement agreement is approved, the Board will also be approving the plan. Once the plan is approved, the applicant is required to get permits and record the plan, after it is recorded, any modifications to the plan other than anything minor, would require an amended final plan to be approved by the Board after a series of reviews by Township's consultants.

Commissioner Bole continued that there are certain relevant complexities to this issue and the Board would be ignoring its responsibility if we further jeopardize the situation for the neighbors and make a bad situation worse, so he will be voting "yes."

Commissioner Brodsky said there are residents sitting here tonight who made it abundantly clear they would not appreciate this going through, because in its current form they do not find it acceptable, so he supports what the immediate neighbors asked him to do.

Commissioner Winegrad thanked Commissioner Brodsky who did an incredible job representing his residents in the best possible way and there is nothing more Ken could have done for them. This plan meets all Township codes and the engineer indicated that it is safe, and he does not see how we can deny the applicant's relief, so he will be voting in support of moving the project forward.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-2. Commissioner Brodsky and Commissioner Zappone opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Item BOC-01-120921:

Vice President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget and Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and Appropriation Ordinance No. 2189.

President Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Rothman thanked everyone involved who worked on the budget, although he wishes we were not in this situation, he looks forward to continued productivity in the Township, and hopefully, we will be in a better situation this time next year.

Commissioner Winegrad said he is in support of the budget, and thanked Manager Manfredi and Township staff for all they have done in putting this difficult budget together.

Commissioner Carswell said she is thankful for the OpenGov system including graphs that far exceed the prior budget binder, and this tool made it more efficient and transparent.

Commissioner Bole acknowledged the residents of Ward 13 who engaged with him about the budget, and we are making progress in getting residents more interested in what is happening year-to-year with Township's finances. He will be voting "yes" eyes wide open with a full understanding of what it will mean for residents. This decision is with good faith, and he thanked Township staff as well as Chairman and co-Chairman of the Finance Committee for their fine work on the budget.

Commissioner Thompson expressed his gratitude for the OpenGov system as it was a lot easier to use and understand the budget, and he thanked Township staff. He appreciates the hardship that this will put on residents, and we do not take this tax increase lightly, but it is necessary for the financial viability of the Township, and hopefully next year, we will be able to maintain a steady course going forward.

Commissioner Schreiber thanked everyone who worked on the budget, and she appreciates all the hard work. Last year, when we decided not to increase taxes due to what was going on in the world was a hard decision in a different way because we knew that would force our hand this time around. She will be voting "yes" for this budget, although she understands it will be hard for some; however, residents want Township services, and we could not offer them at the same level without raising taxes.

Commissioner Zappone said with the cost of gas, a loaf of bread, inflation rate and with COVID prices last year, people are losing their homes, jobs, businesses, and savings, and with many seniors living in this Township buying food or life-sustaining medication, they will be paying for this large tax increase, the likes that he has never seen in his time sitting on this Board. Since the Federal government is giving the Township approximately \$18 million dollars there is no need for this astronomical tax increase, and he will not be supporting it.

Commissioner Vahey said next year's budget includes a 3.5% increase in the Township's operating funds over 2019 budget, which is entirely consistent with the growth in the Township budget over the past two decades. Understandably, residents are concerned about the millage increase as they are required to pay for this 3.5% increase; however, it is insufficient to oppose this budget only because of a tax increase, and instead, we must pay for the services we expect to receive in this Township, and we must pay for the salaries and wages of dedicated Township staff who perform these services. Instead of simple opposition, please identify the services we can cut to reduce the size of the budget.

This administration has been signaling the need for this increase for at least two years and we had ample time to find savings to avoid an increase, and he does not believe we have missed any excess. Indeed, the Township did cut services to the bone to get through the pandemic last year and we know how difficult that was and our services suffered. This experience demonstrates how little fat there is to cut if we want to meet residents' expectations of Township services.

Moreover, the fact that the Township's operating budget has only increased by 3.5% when our CBA requires salaries and wages to increase by higher rates, demonstrates the Township's prudent financial management. He understands the temptation to dip into the Township's fund balance to avoid this tax increase, and in fact, we are using the maximum amount of reserve permitted by the fund balance policy to offset the tax increase but using more of those funds would be irresponsible. Also, using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds is not permitted by law.

We learned last year how fortunate we were to have a healthy reserve and we need to save the remaining funds for a true emergency and such an emergency does not now exist. To use the fund balance in this circumstance would decimate the Township's reserve leaving us unprepared for an emergency and would solely "kick the can down the road" and build a budget deficit for next year, therefore, he will be voting "yes," and he asked his colleagues to join him.

Commissioner Rothman agreed with Commissioner Vahey. It is awful to have to do this, but we are all paying this tax increase.

President Spiegelman thanked Township staff, Finance Director Hermann, Manager Manfredi and Finance Committee Chairman Commissioner Vahey and Vice Chairman Commissioner Winegrad for their work on the budget. This is an amazing tool making the budget easy to read and the various items searchable, and this was the most transparent budget process with the presentation posted immediately to the Township's website making it clear in what is driving the tax increase as well as communication about the budget.

He complimented all his colleagues who provided in-depth coverage about this budget in their newsletters, and he wrote the longest article in his newsletter about this budget specifically about the tax increase, and while our economy is better than it was, we are recovering during these complicated times, and there is nothing easy about this decision and it is outstandingly painful.

However, this is a budget that is mature, difficult, personal, and painful for everyone, but it is the reality and forward-looking. Three new police officers are being paid with this tax increase along with the new Property Maintenance Officer; furloughed library employees are coming back to work as well as for the new Parks and Recreation Director, so this budget means something.

President Spiegelman asked for a roll call vote to be taken on the motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget and Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Levy and Appropriation Ordinance No. 2189, as follows:

Commissioner Thompson voted yes.

Commissioner Brodsky voted yes.

Commissioner Bole voted yes.

Commissioner Carswell voted yes.

Commissioner Rothman voted yes.

Commissioner Vaughn voted yes.

Commissioner Myers voted no.

Commissioner Zappone voted no.

Commissioner Bowman voted yes.

Commissioner DiPlacido voted yes.

Commissioner Winegrad voted yes.

Commissioner Vahey voted yes.

Commissioner Schreiber voted yes.

Vice President Hecker voted yes.

President Spiegelman voted yes.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-2.

Item BOC-02-120921:

Vice President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to adopt Resolution No. 21-029, a resolution setting forth the Policy and Procedures for Meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its Committees effective January 1, 2022.

President Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Vice President Hecker said these set of procedures emanated from feedback on how our experiment with the Committee of the Whole had gone over the past year and we have learned valuable lessons about how we ought to be doing business going forward in being more efficient and transparent, and this new procedure accomplishes that. The committees being formed will focus on the Township's highest priorities through our Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, infrastructure, and financial stability. He is proud of the work and looks forward to it being implemented in January.

The Board meeting will continue to function as it does today with three minutes of public speaking time at the beginning and three minutes at the end of the meeting. The committee meetings will function as they have in the past where members of the public will have up to three minutes to comment on each agenda item in addition to the three minutes at the conclusion of the meeting. Also, the new working session, which will replace the Committee of the Whole will be a nonvoting meeting, and residents will have five minutes at the beginning of that meeting to speak on matters that the Board will be reviewing.

Commissioner Schreiber clarified that residents will be permitted to read their comments into the microphone. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied there is a paragraph in the policy that says, "comments submitted in writing any time during the official public comment period carry the same weight as oral commentary presented at a public hearing or meeting," so we are giving equal weight to what is written, and for that reason, commenters are not to read written comments in their entirety to have them become part of the record, but are encouraged to summarize their written response.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Manager Manfredi noted that the paragraph is listed under "Special Meetings of the Board of Commissioners" and not regular meetings.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Receive Treasurer's Report:

Township Treasurer Jay W. Blumenthal commented that he would be happy to entertain any questions on the reports as submitted. There were none.

Item FC-01-120921:

Commissioner Vahey called on Commissioner Thompson.

Commissioner Thompson recused himself from voting on this item as there was a payment to his employer KCBA Architects for services rendered.

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bowman to approve the October 2021 expenditures in the amount of \$4,286,771.90 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$1,973,404.78, and authorize the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of January 2022.

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

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 14-0.

Item FC-06-120921:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the Change Order Request from Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions for the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan in the amount of \$36,029.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Item FC-07-120921:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to enter into an energy supplier agreement for electric and natural gas at the lowest rate submitted by a reputable supplier through the bidding process.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nathan Vasserman, Oak Shade Avenue, commented that Peggy Myers has been Commissioner of Ward 8 for 24 years, and he has sought and respected her advice many times as an employee, Township resident, and friend. He will miss Peggy who deserves retirement after 24 years, and he thanked her.

Mike Tobin, Kirkwood Avenue, commented that the 20% increase is extremely steep and he hopes that next year we do not have to do the same thing, and the year after, making sure the Township is being fiscally responsible. Also, regarding Meinel Road, “90% of the developers could care less about the residents, and as residents, we are trusting that you do care about the residents,” and for future developments, the residents should be put first, and the developer should maintain the retention basin and not the taxpayers.

Lora Lehmann, Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the amount of speaking time; also, about the policy; and the budget should be in paper form.

Cakky Evans, Lindsay Lane, commented that she will miss Commissioner Myers, although she will see her around the neighborhood as Peggy does great work, and she thanked Commissioner Myers for her tremendous years of service. Also, she requested that the agenda remain posted during the entire meeting so she can follow along with parts of the meeting she may have missed. And she requested to be informed when the Township does anything related to energy procurement.

Walter Draving, Bryant Lane, commented that “the big chunk of money that the Township got should have taken care of whatever additional money they needed, and it is ridiculous to think that we need to have a 22% increase.” Also, “the speaking rules should be adjusted so that residents have an advantage and not disadvantage.”

President Spiegelman clarified that the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds are not permitted to be used for tax relief.

President Spiegelman presented Commissioner Peggy Myers with a departing gift. He stated that Peggy is one of the top five longest serving Commissioners in Township's history whose long and dedicated service as Commissioner showed her love for her residents and dedication to them, which is the absolute fundament of what this job is about, and the residents of Ward 8 love her, and the shoes Peggy has left to fill are vast. So, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Township staff and the entire community, he thanked her for everything.

Commissioner Peggy Myers thanked the Board of Commissioners as member of the Board for the past 24 years. She has enjoyed working with almost every Commissioner past and present, and it has been an incredible experience, and she urged everyone to get involved. She has always said that the best part about this job is that you learn something new every day, and except for being married to her husband, it has been one of the most amazing experiences that she ever had, and she will take it with her for the rest of her life. She leaves the Board an incredible grateful woman for everything she has seen, done, experienced and been part of, and she thanked residents of Ward 8 who all have been incredibly supportive.

She is so happy that Lori Henry will be Commissioner of Ward 8 next year, and her only regret is that she will not be able to work with Lori on this Board.

She also thanked her husband who could not be here due to his health, but he has been the one whose hand has been on her back pushing her forward during her entire time on this Board. She had no interest in running for Commissioner, but she did have an interest in changing something in Ward 8, and he was the one who said, 'You must do this,' and she said, "you are crazy," and she thanked him for the being best support system that anyone could ever have.

President Spiegelman said this is the season of peace, love, and goodwill towards all, and he hopes that everyone in our community, country and world enjoy as we all deserve it, and he wished everyone a “Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Safe and Happy Holidays.”

ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following ordinances and resolutions were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on December 9, 2021, as follows:

Ordinance No. 2189

Ordinance No. 2190

Resolution No. 21-029

Resolution No. 21-030