

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Township of Abington was held on Thursday, December 14, 2023 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DiPLACIDO, VAUGHN, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, CARSWELL, BOLE, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, HECKER
Excused: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, VAHEY

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 December 12, 2023 for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

President Hecker awarded Ms. Barbara Wertheimer with a Certificate of Commendation acknowledging her 35 years of dedicated service as a member of the Abington Township Planning Commission and member and chair of the Zoning Hearing Board as a formal expression of gratitude and thanks on behalf of the Abington Township Board of Commissioners on this 14th day of December 2023.

President Hecker awarded Commissioner Julia Vaughn with a Certificate of Commendation in acknowledgment and celebration of her historic status as the first black woman to serve as an Abington Township Commissioner and in gratitude for her dedication to the people and neighborhoods of Ward 5 and to all of Abington Township on behalf of the Abington Township Board of Commissioners on this 14th day of December 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern about not being able to find specific budget information.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the amount of speaking time on the budget and her questions were not answered.

President Hecker replied that the budget document has been available for public review for two months and the resident's questions have been answered.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to approve Items a. – h. as listed under Consent Agenda as follows:

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

To adopt Resolution No. 22-018 authorizing the disposition of certain Tax Office records set forth in Exhibit "A."

To approve the stipulation to settle the matter of Noble Town Center, 901 Old York Road v. the Montgomery Assessment Appeals ET AL and authorize Wisler Pearlstein to sign the stipulation on behalf of the Township of Abington.

To approve the escrow release request #7 for LD-16-06, 1235 Meinel Road Subdivision in the amount of \$22,223.66.

To release the performance bond in the amount of \$240,603.00 for LD-11-01, McDonald's USA, LLC – 1649-1651 Old York Road.

To approve the release of Curbs/Sidewalk escrow for SD-18-05 located at 625 Roslyn Avenue in the amount of \$15,100.00 and deduct remaining Land Development escrow balance due in the amount of \$1,305.00 for a total release of \$13,795.00.

To approve the sale of vehicles and equipment at the scheduled auction at J. J. Kane Auctioneers, 1402 Conshohocken Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA, 19462 as listed in the attached exhibit.

To approve an agreement authorizing the cost share of \$50,000 to the City of Philadelphia for traffic safety improvements on Shady Lane as planned and appropriated in the FY 2023 budget.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item BOC-08-121423:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to adopt Ordinance No. 2210 Annual Budget of the Township of Abington for the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy and Appropriation.

Manager Manfredi said regarding budget items relating to ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act), there was discussion about expanding the line item listed as “parks, recreation, capital investment” to “culture, recreation, parks, capital investment,” so when appropriating those funds, it may include dollars towards the library or something that is categorized under DCED’s chart of accounts, and it is recommended to expand the category to include “culture, recreation, parks, capital investment.”

Ms. Jeannette Hermann, Finance Director, added that the Township maintains several funds as required by generally accepted accounting principles, and one of those funds is ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) that includes specific line items that are tract separately from other grants and contributions. It is a separate fund from the general fund and not considered operating expenses for the day-to-day operations of the Township.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-09-121423:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to approve the agreement between the Township of Abington, and the Abington Township Police Association, Inc. of the Police Department of Abington Township, a law enforcement agency, to be effective January 1, 2024 and to continue in full force and effect until December 31, 2027.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-10-121423:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to approve the agreement between the Township of Abington and the Abington Per Diem Employees Union.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-11-121423:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to adopt Resolution No. 23-019, a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township approving a Memorandum of Agreement between Abington Township and School Crossing Guards for years 2024 and 2025.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-12-121423:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to appoint the next available candidate from the Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided they successfully complete the Background, Physical and Psychological test, and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training effective March 8, 2024.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-13-121423:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to terminate employment of Township employee #5001 effective immediately.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Item FC-01-121423:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to approve the October 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$5,641,992.26 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,171,395.62 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 January 2024.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 13-0. Commissioner Spiegelman and Vice President Vahey were absent during roll call.

Item FC-02-121423:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to approve the renewal of the Fidelio Dental Agreement for the period of April 2024-March 2028.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item FC-03-121423:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to authorize the Budget Transfers and supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 2023.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item FC-04-121423:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to reaffirm Michael McHale as energy broker and enter into an energy supplier agreement for electric and natural gas as the lowest rate submitted by a reputable supplier through a bidding process.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

PENSION COMMITTEE:

Item PC-01-121423:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to adopt Resolution No. 23-020 setting the Police Pension contribution rate for 2024 at five percent (5%) of compensation.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern about car collisions rising rapidly in Abington and the safety of bicyclists.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about the budget process, and the safety of residents.

President Hecker announced that the Board of Commissioners will hold its Organization Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7 p.m., and he wished everyone a “Happy New Year!”

ADJOURNMENT: 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following ordinance and resolutions were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on December 14, 2023:

Ordinance No. 2210

Resolution No. 23-018

Resolution No. 23-019

Resolution No. 23-010