

The stated Organization meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held in-person and via webinar at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., on Monday, January 3, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE:

The Honorable Judge John D. Kessler administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Lori Henry of Ward 8 to the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 3rd day of January 2022.

The Honorable Judge John D. Kessler administered the Oath of Office to appointed Commissioner Julia Vaughn of Ward 5 to the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 3rd day of January 2022.

The Honorable Judge John D. Kessler administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Commissioners Kenneth Brodsky of Ward 2, Jimmy DiPlacido of Ward 4, Michael Thompson of Ward 6, Jessica Carswell of Ward 10, Matthew Vahey of Ward 12, and Lori Schreiber of Ward 14 to the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 3rd day of January 2022.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Lora Lehmann expressed concern about the timeliness of documents posted online as well as posting of contracts.

Joe Rooney congratulated the new members of the Board. He asked about online posting of contracts for public viewing to have an opportunity to make comment prior to the vote.

NEW BUISNESS:

Election of Officers:

Manager Manfredi opened nominations for the Office of the President.

Commissioner Spiegelman expressed how proud he is of what this Board has accomplished over these past two years moving through the worst and most prolonged crisis that our community and country has seen in many lifetimes. In his mission of public service, the time has come to pass along the gavel to Board leadership whom he trusts and will move the Township to a time that we can all refer to as “post-pandemic.”

Commissioner Spiegelman nominated Commissioner Thomas Hecker as President of the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Rothman.

Manager Manfredi asked for any other nominations for President. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION to closed nominations, seconded by Commissioner Vahey.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0. Nominations were closed.

By a unanimous vote of 15-0, Commissioner Thomas Hecker of Ward 1 was appointed President of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 3rd day of January 2022.

President Hecker congratulated and welcomed Commissioner Lori Henry to the Board and congratulated Commissioner Julia Vaughn on her appointment to the Board and to all his reelected colleagues who should be proud that their message has resonated with their residents, and he looks forward to the work ahead.

He is deeply honored and humbled to have the faith and trust of his colleagues to serve in this capacity, and he promised that he will not let them down. We have important work in the coming year that will require our creative energies, our collegiality, and our collective commitment to one another for a shared vision of a sustainable future. He is confident that together we will do good things for our residents.

He thanked his family without whom he would not be here, and circumstances preclude them from being present in person, but they are here on Zoom this evening, his amazing wife Janella and their two young sons and his courageous mother, Carol who is watching from Langhorne. Also, he is wearing his father’s tie wishing he could be here.

President Hecker opened nominations for the Office of Vice President.

Commissioner Schreiber nominated Commissioner Vahey, seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

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

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to close nominations.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0. Nominations were closed.

By a unanimous vote of 15-0, Commissioner Matthew Vahey of Ward 12 was appointed Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 3rd day of January 2022.

Vice President Vahey thanked the Board for their support to serve as Vice President.

As many of you know, our home caught on fire over the holidays, and he and his family are so grateful and overwhelmed by the support they received from their community and his fellow Commissioners. During one of the most difficult moments of his life, he was surrounded by his family, neighbors and two colleagues from this Board, and that support has continued to pour in over the past week, and he cannot express how meaningful and important that has been to us.

We also want to thank the Weldon Fire Company who skillfully put out the fire and took great care to protect our possessions including our presents and the joy he experienced when he found that his grandfather's nativity scene that he had his entire life was safeguarded in his living room and protected from the fire and suppression efforts.

The entire experience, while incredibly difficult, reminded him how fortunate he and his family are to live in this Township and in Glenside. It is with that enthusiasm for this community and his commitment to his colleagues that he accepts this new role to serve as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Thank you so much for this opportunity and he hopes to have two good years working with all of them.

Approve Township Manager Employment Agreement:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to approve the employment agreement by and between Richard J. Manfredi and the Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Township Secretary:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to adopt Resolution No. 22-001 appointing Richard J. Manfredi Township Manager to the Office of Township Secretary.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Assistant Township Secretary:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to adopt Resolution No. 22-002 appointing Tara Wehmeyer Assistant Township Manager to the Office of Assistant Township Secretary.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Township Solicitor:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to appoint Rudolph Clarke, LLC as Township Solicitor at the fee schedule and related scope of services as outlined in a letter submitted on December 22, 2021.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Bowman commented that we are so glad to have our Solicitor and his firm providing expert advice over the past few years and Mr. Clarke stands out as a topnotch Solicitor, and he is happy to have him back.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Township Treasurer:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to appoint Jay W. Blumenthal to the position of Township Treasurer.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Township Engineer:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint Pennoni Associates as Township Engineer at the fee for service schedule by a letter dated December 13, 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Alternate Traffic Engineering Firms:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to appoint McMahon Associates, Inc. and Traffic Planning & Design, Inc. as alternate traffic engineers at the proposed rate schedules as submitted on their respective proposal letters dated December 23, 2021, and December 21, 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Engineering Firms for General Engineering Services:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to appoint Atlas Technical Consultants, formally BCM, and McMahon Associates, Inc. to perform general engineering services at the proposed rate schedule as submitted by letters dated December 22, 2021, and December 23, 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Labor Counsel:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to appoint Campbell Durrant, P.C. as Township Labor Counsel at the proposed rate schedule as submitted by a letter dated December 20, 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Special Counsel:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP as Special Counsel for Industrial and Economic Development, General Financing matters and other special legal services as proposed in a letter dated December 21, 2021.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Appoint Chair of the Township Vacancy Board:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to adopt Resolution No. 22-003 appointing Gregory Holt to the position of Chairman of the Vacancy Board.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Board of Commissioners Organization Meeting

January 3, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on January 3, 2022:

Resolution No. 22-001

Resolution No. 22-002

Resolution No. 22-003