

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners Working Session was held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 9:18 p.m.

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

Excused: Commissioners BRODSKY, ZAPPONE

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI
Township Solicitor CLARKE

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to approve the minutes from the Working Session of December 8, 2022.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that “the Township needs to make sure that properties are properly registered.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss and consider renewing an agreement between the Pennsylvania State University on behalf of its Penn State Abington campus and the Township of Abington:

President Hecker said the Township has an existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with Penn State Abington set to expire June 30, 2023 and Chancellor DelliCarpini has expressed interest in revisiting it. The MOU involves Penn State paying for the services of the Township’s Emergency Management Administrator in which they have not utilized the level of services as previously specified in the MOU.

Chancellor DelliCarpini would like to repurpose those dollars to create a sustainable internship program where college students enrolled at Penn State would have an opportunity to work with the Township Manager and staff on projects of importance to the Township while receiving course credits, which is a wonderful idea.

Manager Manfredi added that the internship program will be coordinated directly with Penn State with initial focus on communication and then research.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Winegrad said the MOU indicates that the internship program will be for two students; could there be more than two?

Manager Manfredi replied two is the spending cap.

Commissioner Henry commented that she loves that students will have this opportunity and she is very excited about it.

Commissioner Schreiber noted that a faculty member will need to be assigned to the students, so that may be the reason why there will only be two each semester.

Commissioner Vaughn commented that this internship will provide students with civics education and training as well as real life experience, so maybe we can begin with two and later expand.

President Hecker said this agenda item will be moved to a voting meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Discuss and consider authorizing advertisement of a Traffic Safety Ordinance amending Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic”:

Manager Manfredi said the proposed ordinance will identify and establish residential parking zones as well as the specifics of those zones in which the police will enforce, and parking permit fees are proposed to remain the same.

President Hecker clarified that the parking permit fee will remain at \$3.00. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied yes.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Henry commented that she does not want to see the parking permit fee go up as the purpose is for identification and registration.

Commissioner Bole thanked Manager Manfredi and the APD for their work on this. Some of the challenges residents of Tague Avenue in Ward 13 experienced have triggered this discussion, so we came up with a creative solution that does not necessarily solve all the problems, but time limited parking would allow residents to have their family visit and not be ticketed. He requested that, before moving this to the full Board for a vote, to add language to the draft amendment for the north side of Tague Avenue between 2315-2327 Section C, Zone 3 for time limited parking.

President Hecker said there is no objection to include that language to revised draft ordinance, and this agenda item will be moved to a voting meeting of the Board of Commissioners as a motion to advertise.

Discuss and consider advertising an ordinance Deed Registration by County:

Mr. Tom McAneney, Director of Emergency Services, explained that the proposal is to eliminate the requirement for registering a deed with the Township upon purchase of a property. Currently, new property owners are required to register their deed with the Township within two days of registering with the County Recorder of Deeds noting this original ordinance dates back to 1938.

Abington Township is one of only seven municipalities in Montgomery County that still requires a local deed registry, and the County provides the deed's recording information to the Township on a regular basis. Staff hours in processing the deeds would be eliminated, so this would be good for the Township as well as the homeowner.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Bowman commented that this is long overdue.

President Hecker said this agenda item will be moved to a voting meeting of the Board of Commissioners as a motion to advertise.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary