

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners Working Session 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: 7:30 p.m.

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

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 January 12, 2023.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Raftelis of the Township Strategic Plan:

President Hecker announced that public comment will be taken following the presentation by Raftelis.

Commissioner Bole, Chairman of the Strategic Plan Committee, said that Raftelis is the vendor/partner selected from several proposals to assist the Township to buildout and articulate a multiyear strategic plan for Abington Township.

He thanked Manager Manfredi and Township staff for their assistance as well as members of the Strategic Plan Committee Commissioners Henry, Schreiber, Winegrad, and Carswell for their partnership, leadership and input that helped shape the direction of this plan. He also thanked the residents for their input and ideas, many of which were implemented into the draft plan.

A strategic plan should articulate a framework for how the Township decides on the most important projects, inform who we aspire to be, and our values and how to act on them. The plan is an overlook of the horizon on what to budget for and measure our success against. It will be used to identify specific projects over the next few years and declare their importance both for the here and now as well as the long-term future of Abington.

Ms. Julia Novak, Executive Vice President of Raftelis, introduced Catherine Carter, and said that we have worked on this plan for several months with the Strategic Plan Committee who provided their input in shaping this project.

Goals of the project are to set long-term direction for Township government; incorporate the perspectives of internal and external stakeholder groups and the community and identify major outcome areas, which are “the things that must go well” for Abington to be successful, and the strategic plan is designed to answer three questions:

- What do we know to be true today?
- What do we hope will be true in the future?
- What must go well to make it so?

Vision Statement –

Abington is a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming community, supported by engaged and informed residents, a diverse local economy, and regional connections that make the Township an attractive destination for all to thrive.

Mission Statement –

Abington Township’s dedicated team is committed to providing quality SERVICE to all within our community.

Values –

Sustainability

Excellence

Respect

Vision

Integrity

Commitment

Engagement

Focus Areas –

Fiscal Sustainability -

Abington achieves its fiscal sustainability through emphasis on decision-making that balances short-term needs with long-term impacts; balanced revenue distribution; implementation of sound fiscal policies, budgeting practices, and financial reporting practices; financial planning to support current and future provision of Township services; and meeting benchmarks for financial reporting requirements established by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Economic Growth –

Abington fosters economic growth through the pursuit of local economic diversity with a variety of business types and sizes; investment in community infrastructure including services, corridors, and the environment; a reputation for being an easy and safe place to do business; and partnerships with public, private, and government entities.

Sustainable Infrastructure –

Abington's focus on sustainable infrastructure serves the Township today and tomorrow through neighborhoods, transportation systems, and technology and telecommunication infrastructure that allows people to connect; design, develop, and maintenance of modern, resilient facilities; efficient resource use and mitigation of negative environmental impacts; and financially responsible investment in adaptable assets and green infrastructure.

Inclusive Community –

Abington's inclusive community is built on the Township's commitment to celebration of diversity in people, cultures, and ideas; responsive, community-focused public safety; access to a wide array of housing options, neighborhood resources, and accessible public spaces; and a welcoming atmosphere for residents, business owners, and visitors.

Vibrant Public Spaces –

Abington's vibrant public spaces support a thriving community by ensuring equitable access to geographically diverse Township facilities; state-of-the-art, multi-use spaces that encourage collaboration and foster civic engagement; and desirable amenities that create a sense of place and make Abington a safe, accessible destination for residents and visitors.

Excellent Public Services –

Abington’s excellent public services are the result of its commitment to quality customer experiences and investment in the development of our valued, dedicated employees and volunteers; inclusive community outreach and engagement; effective collaboration and trusted partnerships; innovation, continuous improvement, and data-driven decision-making; and a values-driven organization culture.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Bole said in addition to tonight’s presentation, there is a document that articulates specific strategies from which the Township will implement projects that will be discussed during budget time and what the Township will measure the success of the strategic plan against.

Commissioner DiPlacido commented that he really likes the draft mission statement.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that the values listed are “spot on,” and this was fantastic work by Commissioner Bole.

President Hecker clarified that there will be a place on the Township’s website where residents can track progress. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied yes, there will be a dedicated page.

President Hecker asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about not having any documents, and she was opposed to the “flowery epithets” of the strategic plan.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary