

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 via webinar and the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Winegrad presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners WINEGRAD, DiPLACIDO, HENRY,
SPIEGELMAN
Excused: Commissioner Vahey

OTHERS: Finance Director Hermann
Township Manager Manfredi
Manager of Financial Services Embery
Director of Community Development Hamm
Deputy Chief Porter

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from March 21, 2024.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item FC-01-050924:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the March 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$2,896,855.17 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,284,216.59 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 June 2024.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, asked for an interactive chart for the figures presented.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-02-050924:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the draft Annual Action Plan for public display in May 2024.

Ms. Kim Hamm, Director of Community Development, presented the draft 2024 Annual Action Plan Schedule in which the timeline has been followed. There have been recommendations to move the schedule up as much as possible to allow more time for consideration, deliberation, and public consideration, and that is the only change that has been made to the schedule.

Public display of the draft will be held in May including a public hearing and then a presentation of the final plan will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration and approval in June as deadline for submission to HUD is August 15, 2024.

Due to delay of Congress putting forth their final budget, the Township still has not received our annual allocation letter from HUD, so we do not know what the 2024 allocation will be, although it is anticipated that the total amount will be \$715,000 based on allocations getting smaller since the CARES Act came through in 2020.

Proposed PY 2024 Annual Action Plan Activities were presented: Administration (20% cap) \$144,000; Fair Housing \$1,000; Visiting Nurses Association of Abington Navigate Program \$25,000; Rockwell Park Playground \$275,000; Grove House Rehabilitation \$50,000; Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program \$200,000; and Emergency Repairs Program \$20,000 for a total of \$715,000.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked has there been any indication of when we will know what the exact allocation will be.

Ms. Hamm replied Congress provides a firm amount for the THUD (Transportation Housing and Urban Development) budget item to HUD, and then HUD works on dividing the amounts equally to the entitlement communities, so hopefully, we will receive letters by early May, and we can adjust our numbers before presenting the final draft.

Commissioner Winegrad asked about the funds for the Visiting Nurses Association of Abington Navigate Program.

Ms. Hamm explained that the Visiting Nurses Association of Abington is a nonprofit that provides nurses who visit homes to check on individual's medical needs, but the navigate program is one that specifically helps those of low income with a certified disability to help them navigate the paperwork to access additional entitlement benefits.

Commissioner Winegrad said he is thankful to see more funds allocated to the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program as it is an important worthy program helping individuals in need.

Ms. Hamm said we were able to help more than eight families last calendar year, and with the emergency repair program, soon we will be able to close out our fourth project in making emergency repairs to homes that could be potentially deemed uninhabitable.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about "landlords receiving HUD money," and that "the emergency repairs program is a gift from the government."

Commissioner Winegrad said he takes issue with the word "gift." That is not what the program is for. These individuals are in need and not looking for gifts.

Ms. Hamm clarified that nowhere in this plan is money given to landlords. All funds being allocated are for resident-owner-occupied single-family dwellings. There is no rental assistance, and no funds are given to landlords to rehabilitate their properties. This is federal monies allocated to income-qualified households who are fully vetted under an extremely vigorous process to make sure their homes need to be brought up to code standards. The homes under the Emergency Repairs Program could potentially be deemed uninhabitable and condemned by code enforcement.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Manager Manfredi noted that last month the consensus from the Finance Committee was to support the "dollar cost averaging" program as recommended by Mr. Jim Kennedy, and we will begin implementation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that Federal funds come from the pockets of the taxpayers in this Township, and she asked for the "landlord program to be protested."

ADJOURNMENT: 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary