

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 via webinar and the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Winegrad presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners WINEGRAD, SPIEGELMAN, VAHEY,  
DiPLACIDO, HENRY

**OTHERS:** Assistant Township Manager Wehmeyer  
Manager of Financial Services Embery

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from September 19, 2024.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Item FC-01-111424:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to approve the September 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$3,739,401.12 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,361,231.70 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 December 2024.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner DiPlacido questioned whether the red-light camera items as listed are expenditures or revenue.

Commissioner Winegrad replied we need to ask Ms. Hermann.

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that collecting revenue from red-light cameras is not something most residents would like to see, especially if accidents have been reduced to zero.

Commissioner Spiegelman replied the goal of the red-light camera safety program is to be able to do enforcement in difficult areas and the selection for the red-light camera locations were specifically high-volume intersections where it is impossible to patrol due to their physical location. Pennsylvania is the only state where local police are not permitted to use radar enforcement.

It is not a revenue-generator for the police department or the Township, but there are many qualifications that a municipality needs to be able to participate in a red-light camera program, most having to do with levels of accreditation. The police department's continued participation in this program allows the department to apply for traffic safety grant funding, which our Township has taken advantage of over the years and is another benefit of the red-light camera program.

He voted in favor of the red-light program because when there are other traffic safety pilot programs in the Commonwealth, Abington would certainly qualify due to years of successful participation in the red-light camera program.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item FC-02-111424:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to continue with United Healthcare as the retiree medical plan provider effective January 1, 2025.

Ms. Wehmeyer explained that the Township has been with United Healthcare as its medical provider for retirees since 2020 and we recommend continuing with them in the calendar year 2025.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that the cost of benefits will increase significantly in 2025. Is that correct?

Ms. Wehmeyer replied that is correct. The increase was included in the proposed 2025 budget for the OPEB fund and prescription costs are paid by the retirees. So, it is just the medical plan covered by the Township without the cost of prescriptions.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that premiums went down and then increased slightly. Is that correct?

Ms. Wehmeyer replied yes. Medicare and Medicaid services have made some changes and that is the cause for the increase.

Commissioner Winegrad asked about getting other quotes.

Ms. Wehmeyer replied we received a quote from Independence Blue Cross and attempted to get quotes from Aetna, Signa, and Humana. Aetna and Signa both declined because they are not competitive, and Humana did not respond. United Healthcare continues to be the most cost effective.

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

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern that she does not have a grip on what the costs are for these programs, and the expenses should be fully transparent. Also, she has been trying to get the meeting dates, agenda packets, videos, and minutes all in one place, and she would like to see the employee's positions, salaries, and bonuses.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern that she cannot see other Zoom attendees, and not permitted to make open comments throughout the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary