

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 via webinar at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Carswell presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners CARSWELL, VAHEY, BOLE, SPIEGELMAN
Excused: Commissioner WINEGRAD

OTHERS: Finance Director Hermann
Manager of Financial Services Embery
Deputy Chief Porter
Assistant Manager McIlvaine

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from October 19, 2023.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item FC-01-121423:

Commissioner Carswell made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the October 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$5,641,992.26 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,171,395.62 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 January 2024.

Commissioner Carswell asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Bole noted that Commissioner Winegrad sent his questions by email.

Commissioner Carswell asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, asked for the questions sent by email to be explained.

Ms. Hermann replied they were regarding State Aid funding; open records invoice - Rudolph Clarke; payment for Campbell Durant invoice; Pennsylvania Horticultural Society – trees and supplies for Penbryn Park project; Eureka invoice – 1400 Dorel Road project; and payment for program instruction for the parks program.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-02-121423:

Commissioner Carswell made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bole to approve the renewal of the Fidelio Dental Agreement for the period of August 2024-March 2028.

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

Commissioner Carswell asked for any public comment. There was none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-03-121423:

Commissioner Carswell made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to authorize the Budget Transfers and supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 2023.

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

Commissioner Carswell asked for any public comment. There was none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-04-121423 – Energy Broker and Supplier Procurement Consideration:

Commissioner Carswell made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to reaffirm Michael McHale as energy broker and recommend entering into an energy supplier agreement for electric and natural gas at the lowest rate submitted by a reputable supplier through a bidding process.

Ms. Ashley McIlvaine explained that historically, the Township engaged in three-year contracts with the existing one expiring in January 2024. In 2018, the energy sector was doing well resulting in favorable conditions in which the Township had a three-year contract spearheaded by the EAC.

In 2021, a more robust search was conducted for an energy broker that aligned with the values of the EAC with an emphasis on sustainability. At that time, the EAC recommended Michael McHale, and it is our recommendation to continue using Michael McHale as the Township's energy broker who will continue the bidding process as well as proceed with a one-year contract, which is the lowest rate that may vary since it is a commodity.

Commissioner Carswell asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Spiegelman agreed that public bidding involving commodity rates such as the energy sector can be inherently volatile, and he supports this moving forward.

Commissioner Carswell asked for any public comment. There was none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about not getting information on how much money was allocated for the Economic Development Corporation; also, about the amount of speaking time on budget items.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary