

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024 via webinar and the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Winegrad presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

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

OTHERS: Director of Finance Hermann
Manager of Financial Services Embery
Assistant Manager McIlvaine
Community Development Director 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 October 17, 2024.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report on Abington Jenkintown Connections Project Phase 2B: expected change order and update on Phase 2B:

Ms. McIlvaine said this will be an update on the change order for Phases 2 and 4 as well as an update on Phase 2B.

This project is being done by PennDOT's ECMS (Engineering and Construction Management System), and all line items have a fund code indicating its funding source.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that Phases 2 and 4 involve stormwater and walkways on Greenwood Avenue and Phase 2B is for a lighted crosswalk on Greenwood Avenue. Is that correct?

Ms. McIlvaine replied that is correct. The Abington Jenkintown Connections Project is a five-phase project initiated in 2016, and the first grant was received in 2017.

This project encompasses trail, stormwater, pedestrian, and signalization improvements at Washington Lane and Greenwood Avenue out through Meetinghouse Road. The project is being done in phases as some of the work has been done in-house and some went out to bid. Phase 2B was pulled from Phase 2 of the project because there were easements and other issues, so we continued with Phases 2 and 4 while working to resolve those issues.

Phases 2 and 4 are the improvements along Greenwood as well as the intersection improvements at Washington and Greenwood and then Greenwood and Meetinghouse in Jenkintown. That will also be the space for Phase 5, and we are currently pursuing funding, so it is not a fully funded project at this time, and there is the TA Set Aside Trail, which is multi-mobile trail that comes off Washington Lane down Greenwood Avenue along the Abington Friends School property.

Phase 2B will be a sidewalk along Greenwood Avenue outside the Flats at Jenkintown and the Pavilion area with a pedestrian flasher to help with crossover from the Friends School as well as access to that site.

Phases 2 and 4 are part of the TA-Set Aside Grant that had many requirements, and that project is currently being closed, and a punch list will be completed. The Township received four change orders for a total amount of \$137,940.70 all relating to conflicts with utilities that were determined to be valid.

Abington is responsible for this cost and there is available funding to cover these changes orders through the MTF DCED grant, which is the recommendation. This will close out Phases 2 and 4 and there will be no additional cost associated with the project and hopefully completed by the end of the month.

Phase 2B will be the next portion to be completed along Greenwood Avenue that will involve sidewalk improvements and pedestrian flasher and some stormwater work.

There are four funding mechanisms for Phase 2B – EDCDI Grant - \$60,000; Galman Contribution - \$60,000; DCED MTF #2 Grant - \$150,000; and DCED MTF #1 Grant - \$102,750.49 totaling \$372,750.49. Engineering cost estimate includes Construction Services that helped to reduce costs for approximately \$337,590.00. This cost estimate was from November 2, 2023, so there will be some fluctuation in costs.

Commissioner Winegrad questioned whether the Township would need to get another cost estimate for construction services or go out for bid to complete the project.

Ms. McIlvaine replied we are waiting for an updated proposal for the final HOP submission and hope to begin construction in the spring as it needs to be completed by December 31, 2025 to receive EDCDI funding.

Commissioner DiPlacido noted that he will be leaving this meeting at 7:30 p.m. Also, is there any grant money for a traffic study?

Ms. McIlvaine replied currently, we do not have funding set aside for a traffic study. We will be revisiting Phase 5, which is the signal and potential closure of the triangle, which is the spur road by the Abington Friends School. Is there is a specific concern?

Commissioner DiPlacido said there is a new event that just began in this area, which is the Light Show at the Abington Art Center, and there was a lot of traffic trying to make the turn because Greenwood Avenue spur road was closed, so there was a lot of traffic at the light at Meetinghouse and Greenwood backing all the way to Washington Lane. Could that be included in a grant or will the Township need to pay extra for a study of that area?

Ms. McIlvaine replied she will discuss it with the Township Manager as well as the Traffic Safety Department.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that Phase 5 will include adding a separate lane to that right turn from Meetinghouse to Jenkintown Road. Is that correct?

Ms. McIlvaine replied yes, the Township has \$500,000 towards that project and has applied for a \$2.5 million grant to DCED for those improvements.

Item FC-01-121224:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt a resolution for the proposed CDBG-CV amendments as part of the PY2019 CDBG Annual Action Plan.

Ms. Hamm said this is the last request for amendments to the Cares Act related funding that came through CDBG from HUD. In October, the plan for amendments was put out for public display and then a public hearing was held on October 16th and tonight is the presentation of the final plan to the Finance Committee. In December, the final plan will be presented before the Board of Commissioners and then the final submission will be sent to HUD.

The plan is to utilize the Small Business Assistance funds in their entirety, cancel that activity, and redirect the final remaining \$10,000 to the Household Direct Assistance in the amount of \$2,000 and the Food Pantry in the amount of \$8,000, which are the two most used activities. There were no businesses within Abington that applied for Small Business Assistance, and no public comments were received regarding this amendment.

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

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, said she wants to see the Township's cost for personnel of the Construction Services Team.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Note: Commissioner DiPlacido left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Item FC-02-121224:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to authorize the Budget Transfers and supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 2024.

Ms. Hermann said that occasionally, there are budgeted items that are more expensive, so we need to transfer funds from one departmental account to another within the same fund as governed by the First-Class Township Code.

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

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern that the transfers should come to a Finance Committee meeting as well as a committee meeting and then approved by the Board.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Item FC-03-121224:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt a resolution authorizing the disposition of certain Finance Office records as set forth in Exhibit "A."

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

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Item FC-04-121224:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the October 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$4,117,102.91 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,295,356.41 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 2025.

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 did not get an answer on whether salaries in the 2025 budget will be “switched” and used for something else. Also, what salaries were being used from the “\$10 million dollar change from the ARPA funds?”

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern that the presentation given tonight on the Jenkintown Connections Project should have been a video presentation on the website.

Commissioner Winegrad replied there is a presentation by Anton Kuhner, Senior Project Manager for the Abington Jenkintown Connections Project Phases 1-5 on the Township’s website.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary