

The stated meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 via webinar and the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Winegrad presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 p.m.

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

OTHERS: Director of Finance Jeannette Hermann
Manager Finance Monica Embery
Director of Community Service Kim Hamm

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of September 18, 2025.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item FC-01-121125:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to accept the proposal from Urban Design Ventures and award a contract for the purposes of Community Development Consultant.

Ms. Hamm said this past August, an RFP was sent out for Community Development Consulting Services as the current contract expires on December 31st. The previous contract was for three years, and five proposals were received. One was disqualified as it did not meet the requirements and the remaining four were scored according to the rubric set forth in the RFP. The top three were interviewed and it is recommended to continue with our current consultant Urban Design Ventures.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that Urban Design Ventures has done a good job in partnering with the Township. Is that correct? Also, were they competitive in contract price?

Ms. Hamm replied Urban Design's tenor with the Township dates back 15 years, and they are well resourced and experienced with many things outside of HUD as well as Community and Economic Development. Urban Design's expertise and knowledge of DCED programs, including managing existing grants and pursuing additional grants on the State level, is hard to compete with, and we are happy with their services. Contract prices varied widely, and Urban Design is the most expensive out of all the firms, but their technical assistance really pays off.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-02-121115:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to remain with The Hartford as the life and disability insurance provider for the Township through October 31, 2027.

Ms. Hermann said the Township as part of its employment agreement is required to maintain group term life insurance, long-term disability insurance as well as retiree life insurance for those who retired after 1/1/16. The Township contracted with The Hartford in 2022, and we hoped to remain with them based on rates. Eleven companies were solicited, four responded, including Hartford who provided the best quote.

Also, if an employee is out on personal disability during the time the Township is changing insurance carriers, that employee cannot be covered under the new plan and must remain covered under the plan that they went out under. So, the best option for the Township is to remain with Hartford through October 31, 2027.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-03-121125:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to authorize the budget transfers and supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025.

Ms. Hermann said the First-Class Township Code provides the definition of rules and regulations on the budget process and any budgeted line items. The budget is an estimate as proposed by the Township's departments and approved by the Board of Commissioners each year; however, after April 1st of each year, we are allowed to make budget transfers between line items within the same fund to cover expenses. The First-Class Township Code requires approval by the Board of Commissioners at the end of the year for those budget transfers.

In the case of supplemental appropriations, they are strictly for emergency items and approved by the Board at that time, and those funds come from contingency or fund balance.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item FC-04-121125:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the October 2025 expenditures in the amount of \$2,952,902.98 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$3,640,227.09 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 2026.

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

Commissioner Winegrad asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, said the Economic Development Corporation was given \$600,000, and we have no idea what it was spent on, and should be reported each month for transparency.

Commissioner Winegrad replied that information will be provided, and any expenses by the EDC are approved by them.

Ms. Hermann added that the EDC is its own entity and has slightly different rules than the Township. It is not clear whether they are required to show the invoices, although it is tracked.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Lora Lehmann, resident, asked how much money will the Township bring in from the 4% tax hike?

Ms. Hermann replied the increase is expected to bring in approximately \$860,000 at current assessment as of September 30, 2025.

Ms. Lehmann expressed concern about overtaxing people to build up a humongous rainy-day fund. Also, we need workshops, a PDF copy, the documents before the first presentation, and more than three minutes to speak.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that it is not a “rainy-day” fund. It is a fund balance policy of three months of operating expenses, which is a sound, fiscally responsible policy that he as well as the Board of Commissioners are in favor of.

Commissioner Spiegelman said in a sense, the fund balance is a kind of a “rainy-day” fund that is mandated by the Pennsylvania Municipality’s Code, which was used during the rainiest days that many of us has ever seen during the pandemic shutdown. Not only does having a healthy fund balance contribute to the Township’s incredibly high credit rating but it saved the Township during the absolute torrent of the pandemic onslaught, particularly the shutdown era.

Connie Briggs, resident, expressed concern about the Township’s extra large fund balance if the three-month operating expense rule is applied.

Ms. Hermann replied the existing fund balance policy requires anything above that shall be broken out amongst the different percentages and can be used for capital projects. The Township has not had to use the OPEB fund percentage allotted, which has been soundly funded over the past few years.

Ms. Briggs said regarding the refuse increase, why are residents being charged another \$125?

Ms. Hermann replied it is due to service changes that were discussed during the budget presentation. Also, the Public Works Department is looking to purchase three new vehicles so they can get back on a normal refuse cycle as our trucks are breaking down regularly and costing a lot of money on maintenance and repairs.

Ms. Briggs asked for a list of the Township’s top revenue sources.

Ms. Hermann replied that it is in the annual comprehensive financial report, which is a chart of the GOFA under the statistical section. We are required to list the top 10 employers in the Township and the earnings from those individual businesses would come from the Tax Office.

ADJOURNMENT:

7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Recording Secretary