

**Towamencin Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Monthly Meeting  
February 22, 2023  
7:00 PM**

**Present:**

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman  
Richard Marino, Vice Chairman  
Laura Smith, Secretary  
Kristin Warner, Treasurer  
Joyce F. Snyder, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary

**Staff:**

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager  
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor  
Mary Stover, Township Engineer  
Niral Modi, IT Staff  
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

**Present Remotely:**

Colleen Ehrle, Director of Administration

**Absent:**

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Opening Comments**

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- The meeting is being held in person at the Township's Meeting Hall and also provided via Zoom for residents unable to attend in person. Public comments submitted by 4:30 pm on the meeting day would be read at the start of the meeting.
- The following agenda items would be deferred to a future meeting: Finance Committee Report and Volunteer Appointments.

**Public Comments**

Kofi Osei, resident and Government Study Commission (GSC) member, responded to Supervisor Marino's request for the Commission's plans should the sewer sale not go through. Mr. Osei provided his previous recommendation to select American Water or Franconia's bid over NextEra, both would have lower sewer rate impacts and would address the Township's debt. He acknowledged the Franconia bid may require incremental tax increase, with an option to do a stormwater fee or an earned income tax referendum for open space. He also referenced a potential

land to value tax, but acknowledged the significant amount of work to set-up and would require collaboration between the Government Study Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Tina Gallagher, resident and Government Study Commission (GSC) member, encouraged citizen engagement in local government. While studying the citizen participation of volunteer committees, she stated over 85% of committee volunteers are serving multiple terms in their appointed positions. She found this may influence lower citizen participation by those serving consecutive appointments over decades. She urged improved committee vacancy notification and candidate participation versus volunteers selected based on party affiliation or who they know, emphasizing the great pool of candidates available within Towamencin. Ms. Gallagher also noted some bad behavior at a recent Commission meeting. She encouraged a healthy discourse at these meetings, but condemned the behavior described.

Supervisor Snyder asked Ms. Gallagher to explain her math relating to volunteers serving multiple terms.

Resident Joe Silverman questioned the overall costs for the pedestrian bridge over Forty Foot Road, referencing materials, from 2006/2008 in comparison to more recent repairs made to the small Keeler Road bridge in early 2022.

Chairman Wilson noted he felt the overall cost cited for the pedestrian bridge was much higher due to the costs for right-of-way acquisition and engineering costs. Supervisor Marino added bridges over watercourses usually are more expensive due to greater permitting regulations.

### **Emailed Comment**

Jenn Foster, resident and Government Study Commission (GSC) member, asked for an update on the Township's Comprehensive Plan RFP and a timeline. Will whomever is selected work with the planning commission on this updated plan? Second, I see you are voting on items for several grants. According to the county, these submissions must be made by March 1st. Is the Township confident these grant requests will be completed in time to meet that deadline? Does a lack of an updated comprehensive plan put these grants at risk?

Chairman Wilson reviewed the timeline of the Comprehensive Plan RFP noting a draft is being circulated to staff and it would be included on the Planning Commission's March 6 agenda and the Board of Supervisors' March 22 agenda. He added the Planning Commission is key to the process and will be actively involved.

He added the consultants tasked with applying for the grants are finishing up the applications in time for the deadline. He added the Township's latest park and trail plan is comprehensive and will benefit the grant process, likely more so than what a comprehensive plan would offer.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the February 8, 2023 minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

### **Warrant List**

The February warrant list was presented for approval. Chairman Wilson noted the top costs for the Township as reflected in the February warrant list.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$1,221,091.09.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Public Works Committee Report**

The Public Works Committee meets monthly to review projects and identify deficiencies related to Township infrastructure, properties, and equipment. The Committee met on February 17th. Supervisor Marino provided the Committee's report with the following topics reviewed:

- Kriebel Road/Orchard Lane/Eagle Way/Valley View Ways Storm Sewer Improvements
- Weikel Road Drainage /Pedestrian Walkway Update
- Central Drive Storm Sewer Repair Project
- Bocci Courts Update
- 2022 ADA Ramp Replacement Project
- Crosswalk at Allentown Road/Walton Farm School
- Old Forty Foot/Rittenhouse Road Intersection
- Kerr Road Analysis
- Forty Foot Road Pedestrian Bridge Repairs
- Towamencin Swimming Pool Repairs
- Salt & Equipment Storage Building

- Green Lane Park Soccer Field
- Drinnon Park Budgeted Improvements
- Welsh/Orvilla Intersection Project Update
- Route 309 Connector/Sumneytown Pike Improvements
- Forty Foot Road/Newbury Way/PSDC Traffic Signal
- Traffic Signal at Allentown Road & Derstine/Fretz Roads
- Fischer’s Park Parking
- Partnership TMA – National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Plan
- MS4 Permit Requirements
- Comprehensive Plan

**Authorize Grant Preparation Services - Montco 2040 Grant Application Submission (Weikel Road Project)**

The Township continues to advance the Weikel Road Improvements Project, which includes road widening and drainage improvements. Documentation for right-of-way acquisition and construction easements for each property is currently underway. Construction for this project is not anticipated until 2024. The Township is seeking \$200,000 grant funding for the sidewalk phase of the project through the Montco 2040 Grant Program. The overall project is estimated to cost approximately \$790,751.00. Grant amounts are available between \$10,000 and \$200,000, with a minimum local match of 20%, and an application deadline of March 1, 2023. The Township Engineer has quoted the grant preparation services at \$4,500.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Montco 2040 Grant preparation costs for CKS Engineers for the Weikel Road Project.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

**Resolution 23-08: Montco 2040 Grant Application (Weikel Road Project)**

This resolution is required as part of the referenced Montco 2040 Grant application process outlining the Township’s request for \$200,000, along with the Township’s match commitment.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved Resolution 23-08, Montco 2040 Grant Application (Weikel Road Project).

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

**Resolution 23-09: Montco 2040 Grant Application (Grist Mill Park Improvements)**

The Township will submit a separate Montco 2040 Grant application for grant funding for Grist Mill Park Improvements in the amount of \$200,000. Phase 1 improvements at Grist Mill Park include: a pavilion, a playground, 2 basketball courts, 4 pickleball courts, and a perimeter trail with a budget of \$500,000. The Board authorized Simone Collins to prepare the grant application for no more than \$2,100 at their January 11, 2023 meeting. This resolution is required as part of the referenced Montco 2040 Grant application process outlining the request for \$200,000.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 23-09, Montco 2040 Grant Application (Grist Mill Park Improvements).

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

**Authorize Additional Architectural Services – Public Works Storage**

Additional design services are needed to replace the doors to the existing storage building with conventional garage doors. In addition, while progressing with the design of the salt building, it was discovered additional electrical engineering was necessary to connect the new storage building to the electrical service in the existing Public Works Building. The additional design and engineering documents are needed in order to provide appropriate documents when the Salt Building Construction project is released for bid. Phillips & Donovan Architects, LLC have submitted a proposal for these architectural services in the amount of \$12,110.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board authorized the additional architectural services by Phillips & Donovan Architects, LLC. in the amount of \$12,110.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

**Authorization to Advertise: Salt Storage Building Construction & Public Works Facility Modifications**

The Township continues to advance plans to construct a 60' x 80' freestanding salt storage building, as well as, replace the existing salt storage doors with conventional garage doors and added electric connections to the future Public Works storage building. The preparation of the associated bid documents is underway.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the bid release for the salt storage building construction and Public Works facility modifications.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

**Authorization to Advertise: 2023 Road Paving Program**

Bid documents are being prepared for a contract associated with the Township's annual repaving program. This year there are 11 roads scheduled for milling and paving. Bids are expected to be released in the spring with paving scheduled during the summer months to reduce conflicts with traffic and school buses. The curb ramps for these roads were upgraded in late 2022/early 2023. The amount budgeted for 2023 paving and ADA ramps is \$860,000 in Liquid Fuel Funds.

Roads scheduled for 2023 paving include: Militia Drive, Carpenter Lane, Lantern Lane, Orchard Lane, Conestoga Lane, Weikel Road, William Penn Way, Constitution Road, Salem Way, Pickwick Lane and Stoneybrook Lane.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved advertising the 2023 Road Paving Program.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle

Director of Administration