

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
December 28, 2022
7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Staff:

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Clayton Reed, IT Director
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Present Remotely:

Colleen Ehrle, Manager of Administration, Communication & Human Resources

Absent:

Laura Smith, Secretary
Kristin Warner, Treasurer

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards & Recognition

Swearing-in New Police Officers

Officer Ryan Maloney and Officer Michael Rubas were recently hired as Towamencin's newest police officers. Police Chief Troxel introduced and provided background for each officer.

Officer Ryan Maloney earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in 2019, from Temple University. He then enrolled in the Temple University Municipal Police Academy in June of 2020, where he successfully completing the academy in November of 2020. In July of 2022, Officer Maloney began working as a part-time police officer for the New Hope Borough Police Department, before being hired for Towamencin's Police Department.

Officer Michael Rubas is a lifelong resident of Towamencin Township. Officer Rubas attended Montgomery County Community College, earning an associate's degree in Liberal Arts Studies in 2018. In 2021, he completed the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police

Academy. In October of 2022, Officer Rubas began working as a police officer for the Philadelphia Housing Authority Police Department, where he served honorably until joining our force in December.

Chairman Wilson swore-in both officers.

Swearing-in Special Fire Police Officer

Max Fang completed his probationary period with the Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company and has been voted in as a full member. Max has completed the Basic Fire Police and Advanced Fire Police classes and has attended the required practices and calls. Chairman Wilson swore-in Max Fang as a Special Fire Police Officer.

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- This Board meeting is being provided via Zoom for residents unable to attend in person, but wish to view and hear the meeting live remotely. Public comments submitted by 4:30 pm on the day of the meeting will be read at the start of the meeting. For those physically present, public comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting.
- The Board of Supervisors will meet on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 7:00 pm to reorganize.
- The Elected Auditors Reorganization Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

Public Comments

Resident Kofi Osei, of Cambridge Way, appreciated the Board's proposal to increase taxes for 2023, as it was necessary; he criticized the tax philosophy the Township has chosen in recent years, instead of larger tax hikes, he suggested annual incremental tax increases of a half percent. He emphasized the proposed tax hike with no sewer increase is incongruent with the sewer-monetization analysis presented earlier this year. He also criticized political mailings that misquoted him with respect to his campaign for a Home Rule Charter.

Emailed Submission

Resident Vanessa Gaynor of Woodlawn Drive, encouraged the Board to begin the process of creating a strategic plan for the township and its finances. This year, the pool repair fund and employee salaries were underfunded. Who knows what other shortfalls await us in the future? A full, comprehensive review will help safeguard residents from drastic tax increases going forward.

Chairman Wilson responded that updating the Township's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans are priorities for 2023. He defended unanticipated inflation factors that impacted the 2023 tax increase. He continued the Township acted accordingly by undertaking a comprehensive

compensation and classification study for non-uniform employees. In 2023, needed adjustments to keep employee salaries competitive with local municipalities will be reflected.

Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2022 & December 14, 2022

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved the October 26, 2022 minutes.

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

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the December 14, 2022 minutes.

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

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

None

Old Business

None

New Business

NPHS Student Engineering Project: Grace McGeehan

North Penn High School student Grace McGeehan, a junior in the engineering program, proposed to construct an “insect hotel” at Fischer’s Park as part of her program requirements to develop and implement a project. Grace presented an overview of her proposed project to the Board of Supervisors.

Grace explained an insect hotel is a wood structure that can be found in a garden and be made in a variety of shapes. The structures include a variety of nesting material selected for insect types designed to host, and provide shelter for insects that help pollinate plants. The hotels help the environment by drawing helpful insects, such as ladybugs, that help with pest problems, and beetles that resolve issues with fungus or dead plants and eat aphids, that feed on crops and flowers. She reviewed the materials she planned to use and her resources to date.

Supervisor Snyder asked if the beetles attracted to the hotel would intercede with the Spotted Lantern Fly issue. Supervisor Marino asked what Grace's construction timeline would be. Grace noted she had already started and planned to add the hotel to the park by January 10th. Chairman Wilson asked how the structure would be mounted. Resident Joe Silverman asked what would entice the bugs to the hotel.

Joseph Meehan, Chairman of the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee, advocated for the addition to the park and shared the Committee supports such projects. Supervisor Marino asked where the insect hotel would be located. Mr. Meehan replied that Grace discussed the trail by Metz Road and agreed this location seemed appropriate.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved Grace McGeehan's project as presented.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Warrant List

The December warrant list was presented for approval. On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$1,346,376.13.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Public Works Committee Report

The Public Works Committee meets on a monthly basis to review projects and identify deficiencies related to Township infrastructure, properties, and equipment. The Committee met on December 15th. Supervisor Marino provided the Committee's report with the following topics reviewed:

- 1540/1556 Kriebel Road, Orchard Lane, Eagle Way & Valley View Way Storm Sewer Improvements
- Weikel Road Drainage /Pedestrian Walkway Update
- Central Drive Storm Sewer Repair Project
- Bocci Courts Update
- 2022 ADA Ramp 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
- Nash Soccer Field
- Drinnon Park Budgeted Improvements
- Welsh/Orvilla Intersection Project Update
- Route 309 Connector/Sumneytown Pike Improvements
- Inglewood Traffic Evaluation

Resolution 22-38: 2022 Budget Amendment

The Second-Class Township Code provides that the Board of Supervisors may, by Resolution, amend the Operating and Capital Budgets transferring unencumbered appropriations from one account to another. The Finance Committee has closely monitored revenues and expenditures throughout the year, and based on a year-end projection prepared by staff, it has been determined that certain budget line items need to be amended in the 2022 Budget as we close out the year.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-38, 2022 Budget Amendment.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Resolution 22-39: Adopt 2023 Budget

The Towamencin Township Supervisors authorized the advertising and release for public inspection of the Township’s 2023 Budget at its November 22, 2022 meeting. This resolution will adopt the budget as presented. Highlights include:

- Property tax millage increase to 5.6895 mills, from 4.558 mills
- No Sewer Rental Fee increase - \$450 annually
- Maintain Homestead / Farmstead Exemption to \$50,000
- General Fund Balance Maintained at Recommended 10% as per our Fund Balance Policy
- Continuation of Sanitary Sewer System maintenance and I&I program
- Continue robust Road Paving Program
- Continue expanded Special Events programs and concerts at Fischer’s Park
- Continue extensive parks capital projects, including trail development and existing park improvements.
- Funding for stormwater projects throughout the Township to both rehabilitate existing systems and install a new system to address major flooding problems.

Chairman Wilson added the Board is proud that this budget addresses the compensation issues for non-uniform staff.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-39, Adopt 2023 Budget.

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

Resolution 22-40: Sewer Capital Fund Transfer in lieu of “TAN”

Certain Township funds could incur temporary indebtedness in anticipation of the receipt of taxes and other revenue during the first two quarters of the year. Rather than incur the costs of a Tax Anticipation Note (“TAN”) from a bank, the Sewer Capital Fund has funds available to lend temporarily to the General, Fire, Park and Recreation and Debt Services Funds as needed in the short term. As an annual practice, staff recommends that a short-term loan not to exceed \$500,000 from the Sewer Capital Fund be made available, if needed, in anticipation of taxes and other revenue. The loan shall bear interest at the weekly variable rate computed on the basis of a 365-day year and paid monthly to the Sewer Capital Fund. The principal portion of the loan shall be repaid no later than December 31, 2023.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-40, Sewer Capital Fund Transfer in lieu of “TAN”.

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

Resolution 22-41: Interfund Capital Loan

The Board authorized a line of credit be established from Sewer Capital Fund to the General Capital Fund not to exceed \$1 million to provide funds for 2023 planned capital projects including (1) salt storage facility and (2) Welsh and Orvilla Road intersection right-of-way acquisition.

An interfund loan resolution has been prepared outlining the terms of the loan, authorizing funds be drawn as needed by 12/31/2023 for a duration of 10 years (maturity date August 15, 2032). Monthly interest payments will be due on the 15th of each month (or preceding business day) and a principal payment due on August 15th. The loan interest shall be paid at the monthly variable rate charged by similar notes with the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved Resolution 22-41, Interfund Capital Loan.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A

Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Resolution 22-42: North Valley View Way Street Light District

Located near the intersection of Valley Forge Road and Morris Road, this is the Township's only established Street Light District. Property owners within this area are assessed annually to fund the operation and maintenance of the six streetlights in this development. These lights were converted to LED lamps in 2017. The amount assessed to each property is \$35.00 annually.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-42, North Valley View Way Street Light District.

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

Resolution 22-43: Sewer Rental Rate

This resolution will establish the annual sewer rate of \$450 for an EDU, which remains unchanged from the 2022 rate.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved Resolution 22-43: Sewer Rental Rate.

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

Resolution 22-44: Tax Levy

This action establishes the millage rate at 5.6895 for 2023 to satisfy the requirements of the proposed 2023 budget.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-44, Tax Levy.

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

Resolution 22-45: Homestead Exemption

This establishes the Homestead Exemption at \$50,000. In 2000, the County implemented the Homestead Exemption Program that allows for the reduction the amount of the assessed value of a property that is taxed by the Township. In order to participate, the property must be the primary residence of the property owner. Once a property is participating, it will remain in the program unless its status changes (i.e., sold or rented). A new buyer must register with the County to participate. As part of its budget process, the Township annually determines the amount of exemption. For the 2022 Budget, the Board increased this exemption from \$45,000 to \$50,000. Participating homeowners will receive an exemption on the township portion of their tax bill only.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Resolution 22-45, Homestead Exemption establishing exemption amount at \$50,000.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Resolution 22-46: Farmstead Exemption

The farmstead exclusion is a similar method of targeting real property tax relief to farmers. It allows real property tax relief to farmers on the taxes they pay on farm buildings (other than the farmhouse, which receives tax relief through the homestead exclusion), as long as at least one farm owner lives on that farm. By law, if homestead exemption is offered in a taxing jurisdiction, the farmstead exemption must also be offered. The farmstead exemption rate is set by the governing body and cannot exceed the amount of the homestead exemption. This resolution establishes the Farmstead Exemption at \$50,000.00.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-46, Farmstead Exemption establishing exemption amount at \$50,000.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Resolution 22-47: Adoption of 2023 Fee Schedule

This establishes the fees charged for various permits and Township services, including zoning, land development, building, fire suppression systems, etc.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-47, Adoption of 2023 Fee Schedule.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: Laura Smith, Kristin Warner

Resolution 22-48: Investment Policy

At the recommendation of the Township appointed auditors several years ago, the Finance Committee prepared an “Investment Policy” that was subsequently approved by the Board. The purpose of an Investment Policy is to establish cash management and investment guidelines for the stewardship of public funds under the jurisdiction of Towamencin Township. It is the policy of Towamencin Township to invest its funds in a manner that will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow needs of the Township and to comply with all state statutes governing the investment of public funds. In accordance with the recommendation of the auditors, the policy is reviewed annually.

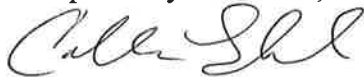
On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 22-48, Investment Policy.

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

Chairman Wilson wished residents a happy and prosperous new year. He emphasized the busy schedule for 2023, with several projects advancing, including updating the Township’s Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Manager of Administration, Communication & Human Resources