

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
October 28, 2020
7:30 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Treasurer
Richard Marino, Secretary

Staff:

Robert A. Ford, Township Manager
Jack Dooley, Esq., Township Solicitor
Tom Zarko, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff
Paul T. Dickinson, Chief of Police

Present Remotely:

Laura Smith, Vice Chairman
Daniel Bell, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary
Colleen Ehrle, Assistant to Township Manager
Brooke Neve, Finance Director/Assistant Township Manager

Absent:

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, the meeting is being held via Zoom video communications. The public was invited to participate remotely and e-mail questions to info@towamencin.org prior to the meeting.
- The next budget work session will be held on November 4th, at 7:00 pm. Due to the continuing COVID Emergency restrictions, this meeting will be held via Zoom. The public will be able to view and hear the meeting remotely. The proposed budget is tentatively scheduled for release on November 11th and formal adoption on December 9th.
- This year we are “turkey-trotting” virtually! All registrants get a long-sleeve shirt, bib, and medal. The top winners in this year's categories also get a turkey and pie! All proceeds support the Towamencin Special Events Fund to continue providing free events for the community. You may use the Turkey Trot Course, a course of your choosing, or a treadmill/stationary bike. Distances are 10 miles on a bike or 3.1 miles walking or running.

Registration and additional details are available through the Towamencin Township website. Chairman Wilson encouraged participation as this is the main fundraiser supporting our community events.

Public Comments

Truck Restrictions Destine Road – comments/questions

Resident Janine Paillard, of 120 Kimberly Way, asked: assuming the Township is moving ahead with new signs, what is the timeframe for when they will be put up? How will you enforce them? Warnings won't stop trucks from coming, but giving tickets might. Also, will Hatfield Township be enforcing the signs too because that's part of their property?

Resident Sheryl Ciotti, of 115 Sterling Way, asked: if the Township has stopped police enforcement of the truck ban because we no longer see police patrolling the area. However, we have seen countless trucks ignore the ban. Now that buses are up and running, this is more important than ever. I watched a truck fly around the blind curve, cross over the yellow line, and go through a red light this morning. Will a sign be enough?

Chairman Wilson responded that authorization for staff to prepare and advertise the ordinance amendment to restrict truck travel in the southbound direction was on the agenda later in the evening. The ordinance will be on an agenda at one of the November or December Board meetings for approval. In addition, Township staff will be working with the Township's Traffic Engineer to increase the signage along for the existing ban. Mr. Wilson added that the police overtime detail did stop for a few weeks to evaluate the budget impact, but noted this area remains on their directed patrol list.

Chief Dickinson provided statistics related to the truck restriction enforcement year-to-date, noting the following: enforcement patrol (mobile and stationary) was conducted 82 times, resulting in 32 enforcement stops and 22 citations issued; 11 trucks were stopped for safety inspections; and 12 violations letters were sent to trucking companies with drivers observed violating the truck ban. Chief Dickinson explained the level of police activity will fluctuate depending on the workload and the need to re-focus efforts on other areas of concern on any given day, but the patrol enforcement continues.

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

None

New Business

Warrant List

The October warrant list was presented for approval. On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$1,516,685.04.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Richard Marino, Daniel Bell
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Central Drive Area Storm Sewer Assessment Summary Report

The Public Works Committee has been working with the Township Engineer to address ongoing resident concerns about a storm sewer collection line off Central Drive. Over the summer, video inspection reports were conducted and the Township Engineer compiled the findings of the Central Drive Drainage Improvement Project.

Tom Zarko, the Township’s Engineer, reviewed the results of the inspection reports. The sewer assessment included a review of approximately 5,796 linear feet of piping. The inspection determined 21 pipes had defects requiring repair or replacement. The estimated project cost is \$322,500. In addition, the Township Engineer performed a physical inspection of 37 storm sewer inlet structures within the network, with 31 needing repairs. It was determined that the Township’s Public Works department would perform these repairs.

The Public Works Committee had reviewed this storm sewer report earlier in the day and recommended the Board consider these cost estimates in capital budget discussions for 2021.

Chairman Wilson asked what steps are next to move forward. Mr. Zarko responded that funding would need to be established, then design and permitting work, bid document preparation and the bid process, and ending with construction. Chairman Wilson asked if Mr. Zarko could provide the engineering/design cost estimate so the Board could consider that amount for the 2021 budget. Mr. Zarko said he would provide that figure to staff.

Supervisor Bell asked if the project could be broken down into sections, and if there were sections that were more urgent to repair than others. Mr. Zarko noted there were more urgent sections, but that his recommendation would be to do the entire project at one time, as it would be the most cost effective option.

Consider Acceptance of Donation: Police

The Police Department recently received a \$100 donation from Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Seiler, Jr. The Board must consider acceptance of this gift in accordance with the Township’s donation policy.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved the donation to the police department.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Richard Marino, Daniel Bell
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Intent to Appoint Auditor

The Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code provides that the Board of Supervisors, at its annual organization meeting in January, may appoint a firm of certified or competent public accountants to make an examination of all the Township accounts for the fiscal year. At least thirty days prior to such appointment, the Board shall advertise their intent to appoint a firm of certified or competent public accountants.

Chairman Wilson asked Township Manager Robert Ford how much time was remaining with the Township’s current auditing agreement. Mr. Ford noted one year remained, but that the Township was not locked into a term. Chairman Wilson recommended continuing with the existing auditing firm, Maillie LLP, thinking it may be too late in the fiscal year to seek proposals for the 2020 audit. The Board was agreeable to continue with Maillie LLP to conduct the 2020 audit.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board directed staff to prepare and place an advertisement, no later than December 1, 2020, announcing the Board’s intent to appoint a firm of certified or competent public accountants at its organization meeting in January.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Richard Marino, Daniel Bell

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Authorization to Prepare Ordinance – Truck Restrictions Destine Road

In November 2018, the Board enacted an ordinance restricting certain size trucks (Classes 6 through 13) from traveling northbound on Derstine Road, from the intersection of Allentown Road to the municipal border with Hatfield Township. Due to continuing safety concerns, staff is recommending that the restriction be placed for both directions of travel along this section of roadway. This would require amending Chapter 147 of the Towamencin Township Code.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board authorized staff to prepare and advertise an ordinance to add the southbound direction to the truck restriction along Derstine Road.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Richard Marino, Daniel Bell

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Authorization to Execute Agreement with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy for Tree Planting

At their October 14th meeting, the Board accepted a Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy proposal seeking a grant to fund the planting of 100 trees at Township-owned open space, located at

Pheasant Hill and Kriebel Roads, in the fall of 2021. These plantings would help the Township meet the required sediment and nutrient reductions for the Skippack Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) that were submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This grant application requires the submission of a "Landowner-Grantee Agreement" that confirms the Watershed has Township permission to plant the trees.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board authorized executing the agreement with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy for tree plantings.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Richard Marino, Daniel Bell

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Other Business

Supervisor Littley urged residents to exercise caution with impending storm Zeta expected to hit the area Thursday into Friday with projected rainfall of 1 to 3 inches.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle

Assistant to Township Manager