

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
August 11, 2021
7:30 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Vice Chairman
Daniel Bell, Treasurer
Richard Marino, Secretary
Laura Smith, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary

Staff:

Donald D. Delamater, Township Manager
Brooke Neve, Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director
Colleen Ehrle, Assistant to Township Manager
Jack Dooley, Esq., Township Solicitor
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- This Board meeting is being held in person at the Township Meeting Hall. It is also being provided via Zoom, a video streaming option, for residents who may not be able to attend in person. With this option, the public is able to view and hear the meeting live remotely. As accorded by law and notice, 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.
- Our next concert will be Wednesday, August 25th, featuring AM Radio. The concert will begin at 7 pm at Fischer's Park. Food sales will start at 6 pm.
- The Township's Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee is seeking volunteers as "Friends of Fischer's Park." The volunteers will help maintain and make minor improvements to the park. Work will be performed under the direction of the Parks Committee and the Township Public Works Department. Tools and supplies will be provided. If you have some free time and would like to contribute, please send an e-mail to info@towamencin.org or call 215-368-7602. Be a friend! Volunteer!

- The board met in Executive Session prior to this evening’s meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Public Comments

See separate attachment listing public comment email submissions that were read prior to the in-person public comments.

Resident Evan Dimmerling, 1660 Wagon Wheel Lane, noted he is a licensed engineer and had hand-delivered a letter to the Township Manager addressed to the Board of Supervisors on January 27, 2021, expressing his opposition to the sewer system sale, and had not received a response to date. In his letter, he describes a conflict of fiduciary interest in the outcome/ conflict of interest with respect to the consultant contract. The consultant gets paid if the sale goes through and they do not get paid if the sale does not go through. Mr. Dimmerling expressed there is a responsibility to disclose such issues, and that the Board respond to his previous letter.

Mr. Dimmerling continued to describe a neighbor on Buttonwood Lane, who was in the process of connecting to the sanitary sewer system and was completely unaware that a potential sanitary sewer system sale was being contemplated. He concluded that this lack of awareness, signals a public messaging problem, as the public has not been adequately engaged.

Chairman Wilson responded that from the summary of Mr. Dimmerling’s letter, he did not believe the Board received the letter and would have recall such contents. He recommended that Mr. Dimmerling get in touch with Township Manager Donald Delamater to resubmit his letter.

Resident Kofi Osei, of 105 Cambridge Way, read the following comment:

Chuck, I did watch the rest of the last Board meeting and I’m heartened to hear the Board did a great job securing that \$400,000 grant and that the sewer has a few million dollars in capital. That does, however, reduce the little charity I had to the idea of selling the sewer to absolutely nothing. Since Chuck let me know that the sewer is well maintained and in good financial order the concerns of capital expenditure cited on the sewer valuation website seem unfounded.

As the Board continues to do its due diligence, I request that before you decide about the bids, there be a Town Hall for public comment. For that Town Hall I have a few ancillary requests. I request to see what the Board’s plans are for the revenue of a potential sale. Going off audited financial reports from 2019:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Total Liabilities in 2019</u>
Hatfield Township	\$7.1 Million
Montgomery Township	\$4.6 Million
Upper Gwynedd Township	\$7.3 Million
Towamencin Township	\$24.2 Million

Notwithstanding needed further analysis of the township’s financial statements, I would hope that the Board isn’t looking to use a sewer sale to cover up mismanagement of township finances. I also request a prospective 20-year comparative analysis of sewer rates between the township taking on upcoming repairs and the bidders taking on those repairs. I can say that since the bidders will also be paying off the lump sum to the township at 10 percent cost of capital, I am very certain the bidders’ rates will be much worse. For my last request, I would also like that a Town Hall be advertised through the mail.

Chairman Wilson explained the Board's rationale in exploring a potential sale and other points related to the sewer system.

- The Board feels it is their fiduciary responsibility to the residents and rate payers to take a look if a sale of the sewer system assets makes sense to the Township financially. They are committed to seeing the process through the bid phase to see what the system is worth.
- As part of the evaluation, a rate analysis will be included forecasting rates if the Township continues to operate the system and for each of the subsequent bidders. The rates will go up regardless of who is the owner, by how much will be determined.
- The sewer system's capital plan will be finalized soon, upon receiving the new permit limits on the system discharge from the plant.
- A summary of timeline
 - bidding documents drafts currently underway
 - two rounds of revisions
 - PFM will review the bid documents with the Board and ask for authorization to release them at public meeting.
 - The bids will be due back in January.
- There will be detailed lists of what the Board would plan to do with the proceeds, such as debt repayment, capital improvements and funding reserves.
- The system has been well maintained with annual inspection and repair activities. The plant is in good condition.
- He acknowledged that an FAQ in the public comment was an excellent suggestion and that one should have been provided to date. The focus was to post all relevant documents to the Township's data room for public view.

Chairman Wilson urged patience as it is a long process that involves a lot of analysis work.

Approval of Minutes: July 28, 2021

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the July 28, 2021 minutes.

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

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Chairman Wilson noted this was the first meeting with new Township Manager Donald Delamater and introduced him. Mr. Delamater expressed he was glad to be working here. He has been meeting with staff and getting brought up to speed on Township matters.

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

Towamencin Village Shopping Center Presentation Update

The Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation (“PSDC”) acquired the Towamencin Village Shopping Center, located on Allentown and Forty Foot Roads in 2015. The Township has been working with PSDC to facilitate the renovation and revitalization of the site. PSDC representatives are present this evening to provide an update on plans and progress for the development of the Shopping Center.

Developer representatives of Philadelphia Suburban Development Company (PSDC), Joseph J. Ferrier and John B. Anderson, presented a status update for the Towamencin Village Shopping Center. Mr. Ferrier and Mr. Anderson explained there was a lot going on behind the scenes despite the stagnant condition of the shopping center. They have been contracting work out for landscaping, roofs, and the store fronts. They acknowledged it has taken them longer than expected ordering the materials to renovate the building facades, noting shortages and delays in the supply chain for the delivery of many products. They anticipate the façade construction to begin later this month, moving from the Planet Fitness towards the front of the shopping center.

They were pleased to report the new Planet Fitness is fully-functioning and very active. There is a land development application underway for a Chipotle restaurant and Mattress Warehouse, located at the current Boston Market. They are also working on the development of two new pad sites, which would include a restaurant with drive-thru and a retail site. These pad sites would be located to the right of the entrance/intersection off of Forty Foot Road, across from the Village of Newbury community.

They noted progress is moving forward in securing a tenant at the former Genuardi’s site, and anticipate a potential announcement for this second lead tenant in the next few weeks. Mr. Ferrier explained having two lead tenants for a shopping center is critical to filling additional leases. He added that they have a number of potential tenants, a combination of food and retail, which are waiting for a second deal to be signed. They were optimistic and looked forward to making this a great vibrant corner for shopping in the Township.

Chairman Wilson asked if the renderings reflected all the landscaping changes referenced in previous meetings. Mr. Anderson noted the plan did include those changes, but they were still working on a few items from CKS’s review letter. They are almost ready to resubmit the plan. Mr. Ferrier added they are focused on getting the approval for the second anchor, so they can submit to PennDOT with the hope they will use that information to justify activating the signal at Forty Foot Road and Newbury Way.

Supervisor Marino asked what was the timeline on the façade construction. Mr. Ferrier responded later in August. Chairman Wilson asked when they would they be in for the land development of the new pad sites. Mr. Anderson replied it would be a new application and anticipated its submission by the end of August.

Supervisor Smith asked if they could confirm that the potential second anchor would not be a Wegmans or a Trader Joe’s. Mr. Ferrier confirmed neither would be the second anchor.

Village Overlay District Change Request - Starbucks

The Starbucks being constructed on the corner of Towamencin Avenue and Sumneytown Pike is well on its way toward completion and a grand opening. In moving forward to completion, Starbucks is asking to use their standard bollard. This would be a change to the bollard specified in the Township's Land Use Design Manual, which depicts a specific Sternberg bollard, and would require Board approval. Developer representatives of Philadelphia Suburban Development Company (PSDC), Joseph J. Ferrier and John B. Anderson provided a brief summary of the request.

Chairman Wilson asked why Starbucks can not comply with the Township's bollard standard within the Village Overlay District. Mr. Ferrier responded that he suspected that they can comply, but preferred to use their own standard, possibly for future maintenance reasons and that their style is used at their locations.

Supervisor Bell asked if there are existing bollards installed at the adjacent properties, namely, the Marriott Courtyard and The Flats at Lansdale apartment complex. Mr. Anderson said there are but they are located within the interior grounds of the apartment complex, so the visibility is limited.

Chairman Wilson noted Royal Farms, and he suspected The Landing, had complied with the Township's bollard standard, emphasizing the point of establishing a uniform look within the District, but understands their perspective. Supervisor Smith agreed consistency is key.

Mr. Ferrier asked if they could install the Starbucks bollard in the interim, while waiting for the Sternberg bollard order. The Board was agreeable to the temporary bollard, while waiting for the Village Overlay Standard bollard to come in.

Ordinance 21-08: Cornerstone Premier Homes – Zoning Text Amendment

Adoption of this ordinance would amend the Township's Zoning Text to allow an increase in density from 3 dwelling units per acre to 4.5 units per acre with a minimum lot area or developable land of 120,000 sf when a minimum of a half-acre of open space is created within the development. It would also eliminate the requirement for shared driveways with a minimum of 400 feet continuous road frontage. These changes would be to the Residential Business and Professional Overlay District within the Mixed Cluster Development District. The required public hearing on the matter was held at the July 14, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting and the ordinance has since been modified and re-advertised appropriately for adoption.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board adopted Ordinance 21-08, Cornerstone Premier Homes – Zoning Text Amendment.

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

Waiver of Land Development – Christ Lutheran Church

The Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2211 Mainland Road, submitted an application for a waiver of land development. The applicant proposes to remove an existing 1,250 sqft rubberized playground area and construct a pavilion with walkway. In addition, the applicant is proposing an 816 sqft expansion to the accessory building used for their Shepard's Shelf Food Pantry. Per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, an improvement of a non-residential property or the division of space to create a leasehold is considered land development. The Township Engineer has recommended approval of the waiver of land development with conditions as noted in their review letter.

Property Ministry Chair Robert Kagarise, representing the applicant, reviewed the project. Mr. Kagarise asked for clarification of the third comment listed in the CKS review letter with respect to erosion control measures. Mr. Kagarise explained the construction would be in the rear of the auxiliary building housing the Shepherd's Shelf pantry and that any movement of materials would take place on their private roadway, not on any Township road. Ms. Stover clarified that in the event they would need to move soil along a Township road, the erosion control measures should be followed.

Mr. Kagarise continued by providing the reasoning behind the two improvements. The Church had suffered by not being able to hold regular indoor services with the pandemic. The proposed pavilion would provide an option for outside service and other gatherings. Eighty percent of the pavilion footprint would consist of the grounds of an old playground.

The Church's goal is to convert the Shepherd's Shelf pantry to a "choice pantry." Currently, the pantry stores all its food in the basement. With this new pantry expansion, staff will be able to store the food on the first floor, allowing those in need to select their goods versus being handed a pre-made bag. In addition, it saves volunteer time and effort, who often are elderly, as they will not have to carry food up and down stairs. A choice pantry designation also translates to additional government benefits, which would allow the pantry to expand its programming to those they serve. The Shepherd's Shelf pantry has been in existence for approximately 10 years, serving 35 to 40 families.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized staff to prepare a resolution documenting their approval to waive the formal land development process.

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

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Matteo Stipulation Amendment Request

In June 2006, a property owner sought relief from the Zoning Hearing Board to allow vehicle sales use on the site, which was previously used as a gas service station. The application was denied by the Zoning Hearing Board and the applicant appealed this decision to the Court of

Common Pleas of Montgomery County. A subsequent stipulation agreement was reached and executed, allowing for a C-2 Vehicle Sales use at 1740 Sumneytown Pike. The property owner has leased the property to Avis/Budget car rental. Matteo Real Estate Group is requesting a change to stipulation agreement 2006-20632 pertaining to hours of operation and building signs. Any revision to the agreement must be approved by the Board.

Joseph J. Matteo, owner of Matteo Real Estate Group, reviewed his change request with respect to operation hours and signage. The proposed hours of operation would be Monday and Friday from 8 am to 6 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. The previous operation hours were Monday thru Saturday 9 am to 9 pm.

Two building signs are being requested, one for each street side. The sign facing Sumneytown Pike is a simple non-illuminated aluminum sign, measuring 3' x 11.5' (34.5 sqft) to be placed in the middle of the overhanging canopy reading "Avis/Budget." The second building sign would face Franklin Street and would be a 48" x 70" non-illuminated aluminum sign, reading "Avis/Budget," with an additional sign underneath measuring 10" x 70" (23.33 sqft) with an arrow and the word "entrance" to direct customers to the back rear office. Mr. Matteo noted both signs requested conform to the Township's sign code.

Chairman Wilson asked if there was an existing freestanding sign and would it be coming down. Mr. Matteo replied that there was one out along Sumneytown pike and that it would remain as it was allowed with the original stipulation.

The Board expressed their goal to add more green space to the Kulpsville entrance of the Township and made landscaping suggestions to the owner. Mr. Matteo acknowledged the Board comments and noted the existing landscaping at the property.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized the Township Solicitor to work with Mr. Matteo in revising the stipulation agreement.

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

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Old Business

Award of Bid – Skippack Creek Interceptor Repair & Rehabilitation

This bid is for a contract associated with the investigation, repair, and rehabilitation of the Skippack Creek Interceptor portion of the sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system. The Township was awarded a \$425,000 Commonwealth Financing Authority grant late in 2020 through the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer program to fund this project. The amount budgeted in 2021 for this project consists of the \$425,000 in grant funds plus \$75,000 in engineering expense. One bid was received. The bidder is Standard Pipe Services, LLC with a bid price of \$943,111. This bid was previously presented to the Board of Supervisors at their July 28th

meeting and clarification was sought before deciding on the award. The Sewer Engineers were consulted and the Sewer Committee met on August 9th and will provide a recommendation on how to proceed with this bid.

Township Sewer Engineer William Dingman of Gilmore and Associates reviewed his recommendation to reject the current bid with Standard Pipe Services, LLC and instead split the project into two bid components – investigative and repair. The rationale to split the contract would provide a defined scope of work for the construction phase, which should translate to more bidders, and greater accuracy with construction costs. Mr. Dingman noted he conferred with the Commonwealth Financing Authority grant staff and they will allow splitting the contract as noted. Mr. Dingman noted the concerns in receiving just one bid. In this instance, there were some duplicated items and alternatives incorporated, which helps explain the \$943,111 bid price.

Mr. Dingman estimated the investigative component to be around \$100,000 and the repair portion to be closer to \$570,000. He explained if the Board decided to split the contract and rebid, the overall project timeframe will extend to about a year compared with the estimated 6 months. The investigative component could be complete within 90 days provided the bid is advertised shortly. Mr. Dingman added that grant officials were not in favor of simply contracting out the televising effort to the Township’s current sewer maintenance contractor, Sewer Specialty Services Company, instead they recommended the televising work be included as part of the bid process.

Supervisor Bell thanked Mr. Dingman for his thorough explanation and asked if there were any risks in breaking the project into two components, besides the added time. Mr. Dingman responded there might be twice the amount of bypass pumping operations needed compared with just one contact. However, he clarified this was not a definite outcome. Mr. Dingman did not feel this potential risk was a deterrent from rebidding the project as two components.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board rejected the bid from Standard Pipe Services, LLC with a bid price of \$943,111.

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

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board authorized Gilmore & Associates to advertise bids for the investigative portion of the project.

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

Multicultural Fair Fischer’s Park Request Update

Ms. Carmina Taylor attended the Board meeting on March 24th to propose the allowance of a countywide multi-cultural event at Fisher Park on Saturday September 25, 2021. The Board was receptive to the concept and recommended that it be discussed with the Township's Special Events Facilitator and relevant staff and brought back to the Board at its May 26th meeting for an update. At the May 26 meeting, planning and funding details were provided by Ms. Taylor and Shreya Bhutani. The Board then authorized the Multicultural Fair to move forward for September 25, 2021 with a unanimous vote. The Board asked the representatives to return this evening to provide another update on the planning progress of this event.

Shreya Bhutani and Carmina Taylor, representatives from the Movement for Black and Brown Lives in Montgomery County, provided an update to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Taylor explained a conflict that arose with the September 25th date affecting the availability of the Township's and other municipal Fire Police, EMS and police officers. On the same day, there is a Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania event being held in Limerick Township. This conflict made the feasibility of continuing with the event problematic, along with the uncertainty created by the rise in COVID-19 infections, associated with the Delta variant. Ms. Taylor said with this information, it is prudent to look at hosting the event next year, and is seeking approval to move forward with planning on either September 17th or September 24th. Ms. Taylor asked for notification of potential conflicts to these days. She added she wants to make it a successful event, but in order to do so, she needs the Township and local public safety resources in place. Ms. Taylor thanked the Township staff and Special Events volunteers for all their assistance to date.

Shreya Bhutani explained that with the extended preparation time, the group will focus on sponsorship options, and technological aspects such as an event website and app, and developing a virtual passport to tie into the event's design - designating the pavilions at Fischer's Park to symbolize the seven continents, that would feature games, music, sports and traditions native to that region.

Supervisor Smith said she was initially sad to hear the event was not going to take place this September, but then realized the extra time allows for more fundraising to make it truly stellar.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved moving the Multicultural Fair at Fischer's Park to either September 17, 2022 or September 24, 2022.

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

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

New Business

Weikel Road Drainage & Pedestrian Walkway Improvement Presentation

At the recommendation of the Public Works Committee, the Board authorized an update to the Township's 2007 Strategic Stormwater Management Plan so as to better evaluate locations where stormwater related problems are occurring, develop potential solutions with associated cost estimates, and provide a prioritized ranking based on severity. The Township Engineer presented

the updated plan to the Board at their April 14th meeting. In the plan, 16 locations were evaluated and prioritized.

Recommendations for improvements/repairs were identified at seven of the locations. Weikel Road was ranked third of the seven. The Board directed the priority locations be reviewed by the Public Works Committee. The Township Engineer then prepared and presented plans to the Public Works Committee illustrating various concept options for drainage and pedestrian walkway improvements along Weikel Road. Four (4) potential project options and associated cost estimates for each project were discussed. The Public Works Advisory Committee endorsed option 4. The Committee recommended that the options and associated costs estimates be reviewed with the Board of Supervisors and subsequently be presented to the affected Weikel Road residents at a future meeting.

Township Engineer Mary Stover presented the improvement options for Weikel Road:

- Option 1 - Roadside Swale with Driveway Culverts, \$115,540
- Option 2 - Widen Road, Add Curb, Storm Sewer and Sidewalk, \$479,965
- Option 3 - Bike Lane, Roadside Swale and Driveway Culverts, \$206,290
- Option 4 - Bike Lane, Add Curb and Storm Sewer, \$390,040

The next step, if acceptable by the Board, is coordinating a meeting with affected residents to review the proposed option or all options.

Supervisor Bell asked what was the rationale behind the Committee leaning towards option 4. Ms. Stover noted the preference was based on the storm sewer and curb work and their concern with the cost associated with a sidewalk. The bike lane is an alternative to a sidewalk, posing a limited impact to residential front yards.

Chairman Wilson recommended that all four options be presented to the residents. Supervisor Marino recommended reconfiguring the options in order of magnitude and cost when presenting to residents.

Supervisor Littley asked if the cost estimates included right-of-way/easement obtainment costs. Ms. Stover responded that they did not.

Chairman Wilson added the bike lane is a nice addition with the Township's pool close by. Supervisor Marino described the Public Works Director's preference to incorporate underground subservice drainage over a roadway swale. This would keep the character of the road with minimal widening width for the bike lane.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board recommended option four from the Weikel Road Drainage and Pedestrian Walkway Improvement Presentation.

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

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Blue Print Brewery Request for 5K (Wheels Towards Hope) – September 26th

Representatives of Blueprint Brewery are seeking the Township’s approval to host a 5K on Sunday, September 26th at 11 am within an industrial park, located off of Gehman Road in Towamencin. The event would be held to benefit the non-profit organization Wheels Toward Hope, which helps quadriplegics and paraplegics in Montgomery and Bucks Counties. The proposed 5K would start and end at Blueprint Brewery Co., located at 1571 Gehman Road. It would be contained within the industrial park, while utilizing portions of Gehman Road and some of the parking lots. They anticipate approximately 100 participants. Participants will follow the rules of the road. There are no road closures being sought, nor is there a request for fire police assistance for the event.

Chairman Wilson was ok with the event itself, but had questions and concerns about designated parking, and added the need to seek permissions from the affected property and/or business owners.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Blueprint Brewery proposed 5K on September 26th, with conditions that representatives attend a future Board meeting to answer relevant questions and that necessary permissions are sought for the use of the referenced parking lots.

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

Request for Flat Fee for Field Rental – Senior Softball League

A group that formed a senior softball league has been renting a playing field at Bustard Park one morning a week. The board previously approved a flat rental rate fee of \$300 for Wednesday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm for June through October. The same group has requested that the Township consider a flat rental rate fee of \$150 to add Monday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm for August 9th through October. TYA officials have confirmed there are no programming conflicts with this request.

Rental Rate Per Fee Schedule	Hours Requested	Normal Fee	
Resident	\$20 / per two hours	30	\$300
Non-Resident	\$30 / per two hours	30	\$450

Supervisor Littley suggested the flat fee be reduced to \$100 noting the condensed usage for the remainder of the season. The other Board members were receptive to the reduced fee.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved the senior softball league’s flat fee request for \$100.

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

Fire Police Request – Limerick Township

Limerick Township is requesting the assistance of the Towamencin Fire Company Fire Police Unit on a mutual aid basis for traffic and safety control for the Annual Fireman’s Association of the State of Pennsylvania parade. The parade will travel up West Ridge Pike on Saturday, September 25th. Assistance is requested from approximately 8 am to 4 pm.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Limerick Township’s Fire Police Request for September 25th.

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

Fire Police Request – Lower Salford Township

Lower Salford Township is requesting the assistance of the Towamencin Fire Company Fire Police Unit on a mutual aid basis for traffic and safety control for their annual “Country Fair Days” fireworks and fair. The event will be held from Wednesday, September 1st through Saturday, September 4th, with fireworks taking place on Friday night, September 3rd. This request is for specific assistance on September 4th for the fireworks event.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved Lower Salford Fire Police request.

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

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Assistant to Township Manager

From: Judy Phipps
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: RE: selling sewer authority to Aqua American

Ladies and Gentleman:

Please be so kind as to read this email in regards to your proposed sale of The Towamencin Sewer Authority to Aqua America.

- 1) I am a resident of Towamencin Township and have been for nearly 50 years, except for 4 years when I lived in Eagleville.
- 2) During the time I lived in Eagleville, I had to deal, on a monthly basis, with Aqua America. I found them to be hostile to customers, continually overcharging me, bullying me when I tried to contest my bills, being verbally abusive on the phone and generally being an unbearable company with which to deal.
- 3) I lived in a 4 bedroom house in Towamencin with 2 other adults and moved into a 2 bedroom condo in Eagleville with only 1 adult. My bill for Aqua America was easily 3 times what I had paid to Towamencin and the North Penn Water Authority combined.
- 4) I subsequently moved back to Towamencin, largely because the bills from Aqua America were unsustainable and dealing with them on a monthly basis was unbearable.
- 5) I have talked with a municipal solicitor for other water and sewer authorities who has informed me that each authority for which she worked tried to hold Aqua America to task because of their "corporate raider" philosophy of paying townships large payments up front, and then passing the costs along to customers. Each time, Aqua America prevailed and customers generally bore the brunt of huge costs.
- 6) In speaking with multiple home owners (50 in this development alone, as well as countless others): none of us want to see this happen to us.

I am requesting that this email be entered into public comments so that others may hear just exactly what it is like to live under these unbearable conditions. I would present these comments in person at your township meeting, but because of Covid concerns and my age and health, I am unwilling to risk being part of a public meeting.

And, I implore the township supervisors to reconsider the plan to sell the sewer authority and particularly not to a corporation that has no conscience and does not service its end users: US, the residents of Towamencin Township.

Judy Phipps
1231 Archer Lane
Lansdale, PA 19446

From: TIMOTHY GALLAGHER <[\[redacted\]](#)>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Supervisor meeting

Please email the zoom link for the Aug 11th meeting.

Comments:

Thank you for carefully examining the possible sale of the sewer system. I have some concerns:

1. My husband and I will soon be on a fixed income so rate increases will effect us. I would like to see a side by side comparison that is longer than a year in length.
2. I find it difficult to understand the information on the township web page and feel the township could do a better job presenting the basic facts like a FAQ format.
3. I would also like to know if there are plans for the money that would be generated from the sale. Long range specific plans should be made public.

Tina Gallagher

From: samantha jackson
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Sewer system revitalization

I would like to send this email in opposition of the privatization of our sewer system. I am completely against the idea for many reasons but largely because of the financial impact it will have on residents. I am urging you to hear the voices of the residents and take into consideration the financial hardship it will cause many families. As a new resident of Towamencin township, one with a young family of 6, this is of major concern to me and because of this I wanted to make sure my voice was heard as well. The township needs to keep the sewer system, that is what's in our best interest!

Thank you,
Samantha Jackson
1105 Columbia Avenue

From: mike.rollin
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Privatization

This is the Rollin family from 1559 Yeakel Way. We are opposed to the privatization efforts underway. I would like a zoom link for the meeting on Wednesday please.

From: Katie Kelley <_____
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Public Comment 8/11/2021

Hello,

I am Katie Kelley and I live at 325 Central Drive. I am adamantly opposed to the privatization of our sewer system. Privatization will mean loss of community input, less transparency, and significantly higher utility bills from a for profit company. For the good of the township and its citizens, the waste water management system should remain in the hands of the township.

Thank you.

Katie Kelley
she/they

From: Kristen Panaski _____
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Public Comment 8/11/21

Hello,

My name is Kristen Panaski. My husband Matthew and I live at 113 Carlton Court in Liberty Knoll. We both ADAMANTLY oppose the privatization of our sewer system. Privatization will mean the loss of community input, less transparency and significantly higher utility bills for a profit company. For the good of the township and it's citizens, the waste water management system should remain in the hands of the township.

Thank you,
Kristen Panaski

From: Marilyn Alderfer _____
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:21 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Sewers

To the board of directors,

My name is Marilyn Alderfer I live at 1277 Buttonwood Dr. Lansdale. This letter is in reference to Towamencin selling the sewer plant. I Cannot Attend the meeting tonight.

My husband and I have lived in Towamencin Township for 58 yrs. We first lived on Franklin St Kulpville. Now I am at the Buttonwood address. My husband Gordon passed away 5 1/2 yrs. ago and he has wanted sewers for many years. I just recently got hooked up with sewers with a bill of almost \$32,000. I just

recently found out that you are looking into selling the plant which I am under the understanding our yearly fees will go up tremendously. That extremely upset me. I am a one person house hold and am 78 yrs old. I hope you are thinking of the strain this is going to put on so many household especially after going through what we all went through in this past year. Please reconsider and have out Township run the plant.

Sincerely Marilynn Alderfer

From: Sharif Riad
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Privatization Opposition

Hello Towamencin Board,

I have true concerns regarding the privatization of our sewer systems, especially with a company like Aqua. When profit is the main goal, your constituents within that area tend to suffer. I have seen estimates and heard anecdotal experiences of people who have been gouged by Aqua. I feel strongly that township is very capable of continuing to budget for the maintenance and repairs without a questionable corporate entity. Being forced to pay more for no improvement in service, is something that will motivate voters to make their voices heard at the ballot box if it gets snuck through against the will of the people.

Sincerely,

Sharif Riad

From: Daniel Cox
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Info Towa
Subject: Sewer Privatization

Good afternoon,

My name is Daniel Cox and I live at 1272 Orchard Lane. I am against the privatization of our sewer system. Being a former resident in another Montco town previously where the sewer system was privatized I know everything was passed on to the residents as far as raising rates was concerned and with no reason or explanation. I have not seen/or heard any reason why this is a need or benefit for our township and it's citizens.

I also feel this should not be voted on by a board of the few. This should be voted on by the citizens on Towamencin Township as this is a decision that will affect every citizen and not just those making this call.

The township should also be presented with clear and concise reasons as to why this decision will benefit us and how our rates will be altered over the next several years if this goes through.

Thanks