

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Work Session
September 8, 2021
7:30 PM**

Present:

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

Staff:

Donald D. Delamater, Township Manager
Jack Dooley, Esq., Township Solicitor
Tom Zarko, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Present Remotely:

Brooke Neve, Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director

Absent:

Laura Smith, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary
Colleen Ehrle, Assistant to Township Manager

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 and also being provided via Zoom, a video streaming option, for residents who may not be able to attend in person. 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.
- Reminders were made about upcoming events in September, including:
 - Shot of Southern Band – Thursday, September 9th at 6:30pm
 - Towamencin Day – Saturday, September 11th from 12 pm - 4 pm
 - TVFC 56th Annual Chicken BBQ - Saturday, September 11th at 3:30 pm
 - Real Diamond – Thursday, September 16th at 6:00pm
- Simone Collins, the Township's planning consultant, will hold the first public meeting for the Veterans Park Master Plan project on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held in person in the Meeting Hall, as well as, streamed live.

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

Swearing-in New Police Officer

Chairman Wilson presided over the oath of the Township's newest police officer, John Tomaszewski, with his family present for the swearing-in ceremony. The Board congratulated Officer Tomaszewski on this new honor.

Chief Troxel introduced Officer Tomaszewski and welcomed him to the police department. Chief provided the following background information. Officer Tomaszewski attended Montgomery County Community College, where he earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, Magna Cum Laude, and worked as a campus security officer. He went on to West Chester University, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, also Magna Cum Laude, in 2020. In January of this year, Officer Tomaszewski enrolled in the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy, completing the academy in June. He distinguished himself with the highest academic average and was named the class valedictorian.

Public Comments

Chairman Wilson read the emailed submissions, summaries below.

Resident Richard Costlow, 2080 Parkview Drive, described the inconvenience when navigating the Township's Sewer System Valuation Data Room to determine recently added documents. He suggested a chronological list of documents related to the project.

Resident Frank Lear, 202 Green Bank Way, questioned if selling the sewer system would benefit residents. He noted it is a critical and dependable service at a reasonable price. He asked if the Board could assure that would continue.

Resident Judy Phipps, 1231 Archer Lane, expressed opposition to selling the sewer system, and made an association between the storm sewer maintenance, leading up to Ida, and water restrictions placed on Phoenixville residents, who have Aqua as their sewer and water provider.

Chairman Wilson clarified that the Township's stormwater system is separate from the sanitary sewer system and there is no consideration to sell the stormwater system.

Resident Tina Gallagher, 117 Misty Meadow Lane, noted she is looking forward to seeing the FAQ and a town hall meeting planned. She added it is important not to wait to disclose the plans for the potential sale proceeds, advocating for more transparency and accessibility.

Chairman Wilson noted the FAQ document was being finalized and will be available by the next meeting. He added modifications will be made to the data room to improve user-friendliness.

In-Person Public Comments:

Resident Kofi Osei, 105 Cambridge Way, noted the sale of the sewer system is a closed loop transaction where residents and business owners remain users after the sale. Mr. Osei stressed any funding of township finances with sewer rates should be considered a tax. He rationalized

population growth as a possible fiscal solution via rezoning. He stated the Township routinely borrows from TMA. Mr. Osei reiterated his request that any Townhall meetings should be advertised through the mail.

Chairman Wilson corrected Mr. Osei's statement that the Township has borrowed from TMA. He noted the Township has never borrowed funds from TMA.

Resident Martin Cohen, 18 Westhampton Way, suggested the utility Aqua America consisted of private equity ownership and would have limited regulation by the public utility commission. He advised waiting to observe trends at other municipalities who have sold their sewer system.

Resident Joyce Snyder, 1800 Flintlock Circle, thanked municipal employees who kept residents safe during/after storm Ida, and recommended the Anders Road closure be adjusted. She asked that Chairman Wilson slow down and speak clearly when reading the public comments, noting her difficulty hearing him, and suggested the entire Board alternate reading them.

Chairman Wilson acknowledged the point, noting he has been making efforts to slow down when reading the comments. He thanked everyone for their comments.

Approval of Minutes: August 25, 2021

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved the August 25, 2021 minutes.

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

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

Resolution 21-26: Preliminary Plan Approval – Dock Woods Health Care Expansion

Living Branches submitted a land development application for a 17,540 square foot building addition proposed for the Dock Woods Health Care Facility with associated site improvements including modifications to the parking area and stormwater management facilities to accommodate the proposed expansion. The proposed plan was presented and reviewed with the Board of Supervisors at their August 25th meeting, and recommended for approval by the Township's Planning Commission at their August 2nd meeting.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved Resolution 21-26, Preliminary Plan Approval – Dock Woods Health Care Expansion.

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

Old Business

None

New Business

Declaration of Disaster Emergency

Due to storm Ida, which brought unprecedented rain and significant damage to our Township facilities, as well as, homes and businesses in our community, an Emergency Declaration was declared by the Township Manager at the time of the storm. In order to officially declare a Township disaster emergency and to authorize the Township Manager and Emergency Management Coordinator to act as necessary to meet the needs of this emergency response, the Board must approve a Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved the Township’s Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

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

Township Emergency Radios Purchase

As part of the 2021 budget, the Board allocated \$67,000 for the purchase of emergency communication radios. Due to the pandemic and the chip shortage, the distributor has advised that the radios will cost an additional \$3,000 above the budgeted amount. The Emergency Management Coordinator is requesting the additional funds to cover this cost.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved the Township’s Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

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

Resolution 21-27: Minimum Municipal Obligation Police Pension Plan

The required municipal contribution, referred to as the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO), is calculated annually. The calculation must be prepared for the upcoming calendar year, certified by the Administration, and submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the last business day of September. The 2022 MMO for the Police Pension Fund is \$667,527.

Previous Years	2018	\$705,780	2019	\$701,195	2020	\$698,247	2021	\$725,298
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On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved Resolution 21-27, Minimum Municipal Obligation Police Pension Plan.

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

Resolution 20-28: Minimum Municipal Obligation Non-Uniform Pension Plan

The MMO for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is calculated annually and represents the Township's funding requirement. The 2022 MMO for the Non-Uniform Employees Defined Benefit Pension Fund is \$199,008. The defined benefit plan is no longer available to new hires, consequently the MMO is projected to decrease over time.

Previous Years	2018	\$162,506	2019	\$233,686	2020	\$254,182	2021	\$244,526
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On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved Resolution 21-28, Minimum Municipal Obligation Non-Uniform Pension Plan.

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

Resolution 20-29: Minimum Municipal Obligation Non-Uniform Employees Money Purchase Pension Plan

In 2014, the Board adopted an ordinance establishing a Defined Contribution Pension Plan for new non-uniformed Township employees hired subsequent to the adoption. The transition to this new plan will aid in controlling escalating costs in future funding of pensions compared to a Defined Benefit Pension. The 2022 MMO for the Non-Uniform Employees Defined Contribution Pension Fund is \$24,185.

Previous Years	2018	\$9,708	2019	\$9,971	2020	\$18,531	2021	\$19,996
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On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved Resolution 21-29, Minimum Municipal Obligation Non-Uniform Employees Money Purchase Pension Plan.

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

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Ehrle
 Assistant to Township Manager