

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Work Session
November 10, 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
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 7:32 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. As accorded by law and notice, public comments submitted by 4:30 pm on the meeting day will be read at the start of the meeting. For those physically present, public comment is available at the start of the meeting.
- Veterans Day is November 11th. To all veterans in all branches of our Township: Thank you for your sacrifice, your bravery, and the example you set for us all. In short, thank you for your service. The Township's Veterans Advisory Committee will be holding a brief ceremony tomorrow at our Veterans Park, located on Allentown Road.
- Our annual Turkey Trot 5k Run and Walk will be held this Saturday, November 13th. This is a great event for the Township with all proceeds supporting Towamencin's Special Events fund, which provides free events for the entire community throughout the year.

Public Comments

In-Person Public Comments:

Resident Kofi Osei, 105 Cambridge Way, responded and agreed to Chairman Wilson's previous comment to keep money in the ratepayers' pockets when responding to not raising sewer rates for

years. Mr. Osei outlined what gradual rate increases might translate to and the implied benefits. He provided commentary to Section 9 of the FAQ, related to how potential proceeds could be utilized – reducing debt for the sewer authority and Township, regulating risk, building reserves, creation of a rate stabilization fund. Mr. Osei referenced Limerick Township as analogous with Towamencin in size/population, taking issue with their supervisors bragging about their debt elimination from their sewer sale, while their residents face a 90 percent sewer rate hike.

Resident Martin Cohen, 18 Westhampton Way, referenced the recent resident sewer mailing, acknowledging that perhaps the sewer system could be more efficiently operated by a private utility, but the loss of control as a taxpayer is concerning. Mr. Cohen also expressed concern with how a utility may choose to recoup the price tag of a sale.

Resident James Collins, 596 Weikel Road, expressed concerns about the loss of control if the sewer system is sold. He challenged the debt relief rationalization, noting residents will still have to pay for the sewer system post-sale, either residents will pay now or later and it will effect future generations. Mr. Collins continued that sewer, road, police and fire services are best managed by the public sector. He added residents should be informed about the potential sale and be able to vote on the prospect of a sewer sale.

Approval of Minutes: October 27, 2021

Supervisor Littley noted edits were needed, recommending deferral. On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board deferred the October 27, 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

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Weikel Road Improvements Presentation

At the Board's August 11th meeting, the Township Engineer presented plans illustrating various concept options for drainage and pedestrian walkway improvements along Weikel Road. Four (4) potential options and associated cost estimates were discussed. The Board recommended that the various options and associated cost estimates be presented to the affected residents at a future meeting, which was held on October 12th. Nearly all the impacted residents were in attendance, providing valuable input, which resulted in a hybrid option. CKS Engineers has provided a proposal to perform the project's engineering design and bidding in the amount of \$35,000.

Township Engineer Mary Stover provided a summary of the Weikel Road residents' meeting, noting residents were not interested in a bike lane, sidewalk, or other pedestrian access, but did express their concern to include parking for guests on the roadway. Ms. Stover described the preferred option which included a storm sewer with a curb/gutter combination, which allows parking partially on the lawn. This option would include a bituminous curb/gutter to keep the character of roadway.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Bell, the Board approved the proposal to perform the engineering design and bidding for the Weikel Road Project \$35,000.

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

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 accounts of the Township 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.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized advertising the Board's intent to appoint Mallie LLP to perform the 2021 audit, which will be considered at its organization meeting in January 2022.

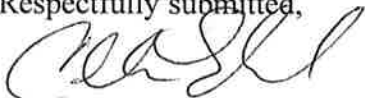
Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Richard Marino, Daniel Bell, Laura Smith
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Additional Business

Chairman Wilson provided an update with respect to the 2022 budget schedule. At the Board's November 23rd meeting, the Board will authorize the advertising of the proposed budget, with approval scheduled for the December 22nd meeting.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle

Assistant to Township Manager