

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
August 24, 2022
7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Staff:

Donald D. Delamater, Township Manager
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Present Remotely:

Colleen Ehrle, Manager of Administration, Communication & Human Resources

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards & Recognitions

Commendation – Dr. Joseph Rossi

Dr. Rossi from the North Penn Animal Hospital was recognized for his achievements and contributions to the Township and North Penn Community and on receiving the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show's inaugural Veterinarian of the Year award. Supervisor Smith read the prepared commendation, presenting it to Dr. Rossi. The Board congratulated Dr. Rossi on his recent acknowledgment and the special work he provides to the Township. Dr. Rossi thanked the Board for the recognition.

Police Sergeant Swear-in – Officer Wood

After a thorough process that included a written test, oral interviews and a management assessment, Officer Travis Wood has been selected for the promotion to Sergeant.

Chief Troxel provided Officer Wood's impressive bio. Beginning his career at Towamencin in 2006, he served as a patrol officer until 2010, when he was assigned to the highway safety unit as

a traffic safety officer. In this role, Travis earned certification as a crash reconstructionist, which he uses to investigate crashes throughout the North Penn region, as he serves on the regional crash investigation team. In 2012, Wood earned qualifications as a firearms trainer and serves as a field training officer for new officers of the department. Wood earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Mansfield University and a master's degree in homeland security from St. Joseph's University. Travis has been committed to his ongoing training and professional skill development throughout his career.

Chairman Wilson administered the oath to Officer Wood. The Board congratulated Sergeant Wood on his promotion.

Mental Health Training Recognition – Montgomery County Health Department

Anna Trout, Director of Crisis and Diversion at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Michelle Monzo, of Montgomery County Emergency Service (MCES), presented Chief Tim Troxel and the Towamencin Police Department with a plaque commemorating their collective accomplishment and dedication by attaining 100 percent participation in the MCES Crisis Intervention Specialist Program. Ms. Monzo noted attendance of the program is not a County or State requirement, but that the Towamencin Police Department has made it a requirement; adding that two-thirds of the department are enrolled for the CIS Advanced class. The skills the officers have acquired through the program have made them invaluable resources to the community and the mental health system.

The Crisis Intervention School through MCES builds officer skills through education on mental illness, aims to increase empathy, and decrease the probability of criminal justice system involvement. This school teaches trainees how to interact with individuals in crisis and provides guidance on county resources.

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.
- The last scheduled concert at Fischer's Park is Wednesday, August 31st featuring "High Noon."
- The coordinator of the Multicultural Fair advised that the event, originally scheduled in mid-September, has been cancelled and she will work to reschedule with staff in 2023.
- Prior to the meeting, the Board met in executive session and previously met on August 9th to discuss personnel matters.

Public Comments

Resident Kofi Osei, 105 Cambridge Way, emailed he was excited to review the traffic calming handbook presentation.

Approval of Minutes: July 27, 2022

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved the July 27, 2022 minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Old Business

None

New Business

Welsh/Orvilla Intersection Project Update

Utilizing a DCED Grant, Towamencin and Hatfield Townships are analyzing and preparing plans to improve the intersection at Welsh and Orvilla Roads. McMahon Associates, is preparing these plans. The grant funding is for design only.

Traffic Engineer Chad Dixson, along with John Jones, lead engineer on the project, provided an overview and reviewed the scope of improvements, including additions of left-turn lanes at all four legs of the intersection, widening of Welsh Road's cart width, full traffic signal upgrade, and drainage and pedestrian improvements. Mr. Jones noted the initial design phase has been completed with plans submitted to PennDOT. The next step would be contacting the eight (8) property owners on the southside of Welsh Road impacted by the proposed road widening. The design and permitting is anticipated to last 18-24 months.

Warrant List

The August warrant list was presented for approval. On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$870,030.94.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

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 August 18th. Supervisor Marino provided the Committee's report with the following topics reviewed:

- Welsh/Orvilla Intersection Project Update
- 1540/1556 Kriebel Road Storm Sewer Replacement Project Update
- Weikel Road Drainage /Pedestrian Walkway Update
- Central Drive Storm Sewer Repair Project
- Bocci Courts Update
- 2022 Paving and ADA Ramp Replacement Project
- 2023 Paving Contract – resident curb notifications sent
- Traffic Calming Handbook
- Allentown Road/Walton Farm School Crosswalk
- Old Forty Foot/Rittenhouse Road Intersection
- Municipal Complex Driveway Lighting
- Kibler Meadow Parking Lot
- Kerr Road Analysis
- Forty Foot Road Pedestrian Bridge Rust
- Towamencin Swimming Pool Repairs
- Valley View Way Storm Sewer Replacement
- Public Works Salt and Equipment Storage Facility Request
- Nash Soccer Field
- Drinnon Park Budgeted Improvements
- 1690 Old Forty Foot Road Flooding in Flood Way
- Public Works Salary Adjustments

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized CKS to obtain bids for the repair of the pool's supply line to the slide.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the CKS proposal to provide engineering services for the Nash Soccer Field Development – including preparing bid design plans, construction specifications, permit applications, bid documents and administration services.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Chairman Wilson stressed the importance of timeliness with the CKS work associated with the impending pool repairs, so there are no delays heading into next year's spring opening.

Chairman Wilson recommended the Municipal driveway light project be reimagined, including direct purchase of light fixtures from COSTARS and having Public Works Department perform trench work.

Finance Committee Report

The Township Finance Committee meets monthly throughout the year and more often when needed. The Committee monitors economic indicators and the pulse of the Township's revenues and expenditures. They also address various requests and concerns that may arise. The Committee met on August 12. Chairman Wilson provided the report. Discussion items included:

- Township 2022 July YTD Financial Summary
- Caselle Vendor ACH/Direct Pay and MiExcel Software Quote Update
- TTIA Dissolution Towamencin Township Infrastructure Authority (TTIA) Update

The Committee recommends the Board of Supervisors authorize the Township Solicitor to prepare an ordinance to dissolve the Towamencin Township Infrastructure Authority and assume its assets and liabilities.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized the Township Solicitor to prepare an ordinance dissolving Towamencin Township Infrastructure Authority, and assuming its assets and liabilities.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

- Resident Curb Reimbursement Request

In 2017, a property owner's driveway curbing was damaged by a township contractor during road milling. Working with the owner, a prior Township Manager directed the contractor to patch the damage. After the repair, the owner emailed the manager noting he was pleased with the repair. The resident now claims that the patch work failed, had a private contractor address the curbing and is requesting Township reimbursement for \$1,800. The Committee does not recommend reimbursement.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board declined the resident's reimbursement request.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

- Review Township - TMA Budgeted vs Actual Transfers
- 2023 Budget Assumptions

Traffic Calming Policy Presentation

Over the past several months, the Public Works Committee has been creating a Traffic Calming Handbook that would establish a process for handling traffic calming requests from the public. The Township Traffic Engineer, Chad Dixson, reviewed the process to date, outlining the goal and principles of the policy, including:

- Create and maintain safe and attractive streets
- Promote safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists
- Achieve reasonable speeds for motor vehicles
- Reduce cut-through traffic
- Support police traffic enforcement
- Evaluations and selection follows an objective process
- Satisfaction of traffic calming criteria does not guarantee implementation

Traffic Calming Eligibility Guidelines:

- Residential or village commercial areas
- Street is owned and maintained by Towamencin Township
- Collector or local access roads
- Speed limit is 35 MPH or less
- 85th percentile speed more than 10 MPH over posted speed
- Cut through traffic: 40% of one-hour directional volume & 100 one-hour directional trips
- Traffic calming will not be considered on cul-de-sac streets

Design considerations were reviewed, and the implementation process was outlined.

Supervisor Snyder asked for clarification of Level 2 traffic-calming measures. The Board discussed installing light-post speed detection devices and Township locations that would be beneficial.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Traffic Calming Policy.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Skippack Creek Interceptor Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 - Award Contract

One bid was received by Doli Construction Corporation on August 16th in the amount of \$928,800. The Township has a grant to cover a portion of the costs associated with this project. The awarded grant was for \$425,000 with a Township match of \$75,000. The Township has spent \$113,430 on the televising and investigation portion of the project. Should this bid be approved, the remaining grant funds would cover \$311,570 of the total costs and the Township would need to fund the remaining \$617,230, plus engineering costs.

TJ Figaniak from Gilmore Associates reviewed the history of the project to date. His recommendation was to reject the bid and redefine the scope of work, noting concerns of volatility in pipe costs and uncertainty with the bid's competitiveness.

Chairman Wilson expressed his preference to move forward with the project using sewer capital reserve funds. Supervisor Marino asked if the pipe-bursting method was limiting the total bidders. Mr. Figaniak suspected that to be the case. Supervisor Marino suggested the project be modified in scope, with varied options to address the rehabilitation. The Board further discussed varying the means and methods, allowing some flexibility to contractors if the project is rebid.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board rejected the Doli Construction bid. The project scope will be modified and rebid with flexibility of means and methods.

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

Review Township Farming Agreements

The Board received comments and a request from the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee to terminate the farming activities adjacent to Fischer's Park as well as the future Veterans Park property based on resident concerns including the use of chemicals, potential impacts their use may have on residents nearby, the environment, and the park habitat. The Board has been asked to discuss and review this request.

Supervisor Snyder indicated she wanted to hear from the farmers before deciding on the existing farming agreements. Supervisor Smith emphasized a collaborative meeting with all parties should be coordinated. Supervisor Snyder favored a public meeting for such a discussion. Chairman Wilson added he felt the farmers should be allowed to farm into next year, while such a process is underway. Supervisor Marino asked Joe Meehan, Chairman Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee, to review the issue.

Mr. Meehan, provided background, reviewing the concerns raised by the Committee at their July 18, 2022 meeting, where they unanimously agreed that farming should be terminated on Township property by Fischer's Park and the future Veterans Park, citing the destruction of habitat, and the

potential for contamination of stormwater and ground water to adjacent residential properties supplied by private wells from herbicide/pesticide use. The Committee would like to see the two farming sites be transitioned to meadows.

Resident John Ginther argued that the chemicals being used are not safe, despite the literature that implies otherwise. Resident Andrew Dolan expressed his concern that there is no public posting or notification provided ahead of the farmer spraying chemicals to the site and requested that future farming of the sites be chemical free.

Resident Susan Wolfe expressed its unfair the farmer has been allowed to farm public property for his benefit when he has over 100 acres of his land to farm.

Supervisor Marino commented the future Veterans Park farming site should resolve itself with planning underway for the location. The Board acknowledged the tradition of farming in the Township and discussed the proposed park development at both locations.

Chairman Wilson noted he is inclined to allow the farming until future park development is underway for each parcel. It was the consensus of the Board to continue communication with the farmers to discuss the concerns raised by the residents and Committee.

Resolution 22-22: Sale of Public Works Truck

According §1504 to the Second Class Township Code, the Board of Supervisors must authorize the disposal of personal property. Anything with a Fair Market Value of \$2,000 or more needs to be advertised and sold at auction. This resolution authorizes the disposal through sale on Municibid of one (1) 2007 Ford F-150 truck used by the Public Works Department which has been replaced by a recent 2022 budgeted purchase.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Resolution 22-22, Sale of Public Works Truck.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Police Department Request – Training with Overnight Travel

Chief Troxel is requesting approval to send Officers Check and Wood to the annual PA State Police crash reconstruction training seminar from October 24th – 26th in Erie Pennsylvania. This training program includes updates on current crash investigation and reconstruction trends as well as live crash testing scenarios where participants can conduct the investigation and reconstruction of the staged crash scene.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Police Department's training request with overnight travel.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle

Manager of Administration, Communication & Human Resources