

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**  
**11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642**  
**Presiding Officer – Tony Martino, President, Board of Commissioners**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Martino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Herold	Present	Also Present:
Commissioner Haigis	Present	John Shepherd
Commissioner Bertani	Present	Solicitor Bruce Dice
Commissioner Gray	Present	Lieutenant Rod Mahinske
Commissioner Faccenda	Present	Andrew Blenko
Commissioner Kucera	Present	Rich Albert
Commissioner Martino	Present	Dan Miller

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pastor Raymond Lyon from Circleville Methodist Church was not in attendance for the opening prayer.

**CITIZENS' INPUT**

Mary Ann Fletcher ó 279 Huntingdon Avenue ó states she wants on public record the safety conditions of Huntingdon Avenue, where Huntingdon Avenue ends and Cascade Avenue / Irwin begin. She is aware of eight accidents that happened on this short stretch of road. On two occasions she has called to voice her concern and both times was she told that PADot would not do anything. On Saturday morning February 13, 2016 at 9:30 A.M. Huntingdon Avenue was snow covered and a driver lost control and hit into her town home. The car ended up in her dining room and she was standing four feet away from where the car stopped. An estimator with nineteen years of experience in Municipal Government told her Huntingdon Avenue is not a State Road and to call the State Representative. Ms. Fletcher states she called George Dunbarøs office and was told her safety concerns are not PADot concerns and that the Commissioners of North Huntingdon know it is a Township road. Huntingdon Avenue has a high volume of traffic and the speed is terrifying. When Huntingdon Avenue was resurfaced, the curbs were not rebuilt and the

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cars are sliding across the non-existent curbs and onto the sidewalks. Her concern is will the next accident involve a person with physical injuries. The Township should be able to do something and nothing has been done. Ms. Fletcher states the second reason she is here is to put on public record that she would like the Township Engineer do a hazard study and/or vehicle study and report the results to the Board. Her property will be re-landscaped to prevent another accident. She states she has written permission from the homeowners association to go onto common property, at her expense, to change the landscaping. In conclusion, she states that through this entire mess, the one person who has been a lot of help, very polite, and extremely professional was Tom McGuire. She would like to publicly commend him for the service he provided.

Paul Carrick ó 11650 Dennis Circle ó states he has a few questions regarding the millings issue that is in the news. He understands there is a conflict of interest which is why the North Huntingdon Township Police are not doing the investigation and have gone to an outside investigating company. What is the conflict of interest? He also understands the Township has contracted Ideal Investigations to investigate. He would assume this company is being paid for their services and he has a hard time understanding why the Township is paying somebody to investigate ourselves. His last question is why didn't we contact the County Sheriff to do the investigation and why are we paying an outside firm.

Bernie Los ó 14120 Wayne Drive ó states it has come to his attention the asphalt millings and questions why a private investigator was contracted and have they been paid. Most importantly, when are the results going to be in. It is a taxpayer expenditure.

**RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT**

Commissioner Martino states they will start with Mary Ann Fletcher and Huntingdon Avenue.

Commissioner Herold states he has spoken to Ms. Fletcher on several occasions. He spoke with Manager Shepherd who ran some ideas by the Township Engineer to extend the guiderail but states the State will not let the Township do that because it's a State guiderail. Commissioner Herold states he recommended putting rocks along her property line which he thought would be helpful and protect her house. As far as the speeding goes, there are lines on the road but doesn't know how often the police patrol that area. Ms. Fletcher states a police officer could use her driveway to patrol the area, however the white lines are no longer visible. There are also no speed limit signs or dangerous curve signs.

Lieutenant Mahinske states the lines can be repainted and get the patrol cars out. They will also make sure the road is properly posted.

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Commissioner Martino states the next two citizens will be combined to answer the millings investigation, but because the investigation is ongoing cannot comment on anything.

Commissioner Gray states this was discussed at the first meeting about using an outside agency because there was a lot of discussion about some members of the Board and some employees that are involved and that would be the conflict of interest. He also addresses the comment regarding using the County Sheriff but he does not believe the Sheriff's Office do investigations. He states the firm that was hired was used before and the rates are very reasonable and are also objective and thorough.

Solicitor Dice addresses when the results be in. The investigation started on February 17, 2016 when the Board voted to approve it and he believes the report should come to the Township in approximately ten days after the last witness is interviewed.

Commissioner Herold states he feels the proper thing for the Board to do is go through the District Attorney's Office and let them do the investigation. There would be no taxpayers money used.

Commissioner Haigis states he agrees with Commissioner Gray as to choosing the agency to do the investigation. The Township has used this firm before because of the conflict of interest, but all seven Board members voted to do the investigation.

Solicitor Dice states the results will be public once it is concluded including what the Township pays.

Commissioner Gray states this is local government and politics are involved but that is why the Board agreed to use an outside agency that wasn't political in any way so the Township would get objective results.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting of 2/11/16)

Motion Carried 7 0 0 0

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve (Regular Meeting of 2/17/16)

Motion Carried 7 0 0 0

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

I make a motion we pay Voucher No. 71845 through  
Voucher No. 71936.

Motion Carried 7 0 0 0

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Commissioner Bertani asks Mr. Albert about the water condition on Ivanhoe Drive.

Mr. Albert states the project is complete.

Commissioner Bertani also asked about the Drop Road cul de sac.

Manager Shepherd states he requested to consider paving the center of the cul de sac where there was landscaping. Bob Robinson from KLH Engineers is going to give a cost estimate.

Mr. Albert adds that there are mixed opinions from the residents as to what they are requesting. Some would like it paved and others that would like landscaping put back in.

Commissioner Faccenda asks how the bucket truck is working out.

Mr. Albert states the truck is working out very well. They have been getting a lot of use out of it. There has also been three hours of additional training on the truck.

No further Board comments.

**PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT**

Dan Miller states that next month's budget report will see a large increase in the utility line item in the Parks. They recently experienced a water leak of two water lines at Indian Lake Park so that resulted in a rather large water bill. Mr. Miller wants to publicly thank the Department of Public Works, Mr. Albert and Mr. Fyock for their willingness to assist in getting the problems resolved. Mr. Miller also adds that a number of reports of ATVs have been reported. Mr. Miller is working with Lieutenant Mahinske in getting the police dirt bikes out in the parks.

Commissioner Herold commends Mr. Miller on the Father Daughter Dance. It is a very nice event.

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Mr. Miller thanks everyone that was there.

Commissioner Faccenda asks Dan to extend the thanks to the Recreation Board and Parks Staff.

Commissioner Bertani thanks Mr. Miller and Manager Shepherd about the issue of the Parks Staff working alone. He appreciates resolving that in a timely manner.

Commissioner Gray asks Lieutenant Mahinske if the police dirt bikes are being used to go into the parks to go after the ATVs.

Lieutenant Mahinske states yes the bikes will be out soon. He states they received an anonymous letter to see if they can track down where the bikes are coming from in Braddocks Trail Park and Hilltop Park. The issues at Hilltop Park with the ATVs have been resolved and the Game Commission has resolved the hunting issue.

Commissioner Faccenda commends both the Recreation Staff and the Police Department on working together as team to take care of those issues.

Commissioner Gray asks what caused the water lines to fail.

Mr. Miller states he is unsure what caused them to fail, but they didn't fail in the same spot. The lines are plastic and have been there for a few years now. The pipes are plastic and they have material left over from a previous job. Copper piping would be much more expensive. It is a two inch line.

Commissioner Faccenda comments on the new play facility at Oak Hollow Park. It is a very nice job and looks good.

No further Board comments.

**POLICE REPORT**

Commissioner Kucera states he contacted Manager Shepherd for the Eggapalooza to have the motorcycles and the K9 Units there.

Lieutenant Mahinske states he sent out an email to the officers and K9 Units, but have not received a response yet.

Commissioner Bertani states there was another accident on Clay Pike at Brokers Lane. After the accidents, there was a lot of concern from residents about the speed on Clay Pike and the number of accidents at that location. He is unsure of the solution but could vascar lines be put in that area and have the area patrolled.

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Lieutenant Mahinske states that can be done and there are also lines by the entrance to Indian Lake Park. Several officers are proactive in working that area.

Commissioner Bertani understands it is a County Road, but if they can take a look at that area.

Lieutenant Mahinske states they can approach the County and ask them to look at it.

Manager Shepherd recommends to utilize Wooster & Associates because they are traffic engineers to this location. It is beneficial to get them involved and they have good traffic engineering background.

Commissioner Kucera suggests for residents to get in contact with Senator Kim Ward and State Representative George Dunbar because there is a Senate Bill # 535 and a House Bill # 71 that is being looked at right now that has to do with local municipalities and police departments to get radar which would be very helpful. Residents can go to [www.PAmunicipalleague.org](http://www.PAmunicipalleague.org) for more information.

Commissioner Mahinske states there are three speed signs out and the signs not only record speed, they also do traffic counts.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

There are no Board comments.

### **PLANNING AND ENGINEERING REPORT**

- 1) Action to adopt Resolution S-03-2016, Espey-Kerber Plan, First Street, R-2 Zoning.

Mr. Blenko states this Resolution is to adjust the boundary lines between two existing parcels located on First Street and is approved with no conditions.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Kucera

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

### **FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT**

- There are no Board comments.

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**SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT**

- There are no Board comments.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Bruce Dice**

- 1) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 1 of 2016 naming a private drive at Banco Industrial Park.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 0 0

- 2) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 2 of 2016 to designate Woodridge Estates Plan, Subdivision Phase 1 as an ornamental street light district and to authorize lighting assessments.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 0 0

- 3) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 3 of 2016 approving the revisions of the Civil Service Regulations.

Motion: Commissioner Gray  
Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Kucera questions the section where it is referred to giving tests for promotions. He believes in the old regulations that it states the officer that gets promoted is on a one year probation. He states they've had that for entry level but doesn't recall having a probation period for a promotion.

Manager Shepherd states it is possible that it wasn't in the old regulations and was recommended for the new regulations. The revised regulations was assisted by Bill Gamble who did the training for the Civil Service Commission last Fall. His thought is it could be in the First Class Code.

Commissioner Kucera states that in the past, when there is a change with promotions, would it reflect a contract issue.

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Solicitor Dice states he will take a look at the contract. He didn't recognize it to be an issue until now.

Commissioner Martino states it would have been nice to have the old regulations along with the new regulations to compare the changes.

Manager Shepherd states this is something that can wait if the Board wants to spend more time on it. This is also a new process for the new members of the Civil Service Commission. Their goal is to do an entry level test for new officers.

Solicitor Dice states the Motion would be in order to table.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Withdraws his motion to approve.

Manager Shepherd recommends to put it on for discussion at the next work session and himself, Bill Gamble and Solicitor Dice can answer any questions from the Board. Mr. Gamble will also assist with the testing so it is done properly.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1) Action to approve the February check register.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

- 2) Budget Report 6 February 2016 Report.

- 3) Action to approve a tax refund to Victor Marie Burgey in the amount of \$139.88 in accordance with the February 8, 2016 letter from the Westmoreland County Real Estate Tax Office.

Motion: Commissioner Herold  
Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

- 4) Action to accept the resignation of Erik Greenawalt from the Zoning Hearing Board in accordance with his March 2, 2016 correspondence.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

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5) Action to approve Resolution No. 106 of 2016 which amends the Salary and Wage Scale Resolution by increasing the hourly wage for part-time seasonal employees and interns to \$10.00 per hour.

Motion: Commissioner Herold  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

6) Action to award the 2016 Road Milling and Resurfacing Program to A. Liberoni Inc. in the amount of \$1,310,796.18 which includes the base bid and option (Frieda Drive).

Motion: Commissioner Kucera  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

7) Action to award the 2016 Road Maintenance Fiber Mat Sealing to Russell Standard Corporation in the amount of \$67,769.70.

Motion: Commissioner Herold  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

8) Proposed Public Safety Training facility ó further discussion Commissioner Bertani.

Commissioner Bertani states that last month he was approached by the Township Fire Chiefs into the possibility of constructing a Public Safety Training Facility in the Township and suggested the area in the field next to the Public Works Building. He states he spoke with Manager Shepherd and found the Township owns that property. Commissioner Bertani states he would like to get the approval of the Board to put a Committee together to determine the feasibility of constructing the building. There used to be a training facility off of Sandy Hill Road and was used quite a bit by the fire departments, but it was not the best location and also fell victim to vandalism. It eventually was removed resulting in the fire departments having to go outside the Township to conduct training. The area at the Public Works Department will be accessible for the fire departments, Rescue 8 and the police department, plus it's out of the way and will not interfere with the community when conducting training. Additionally, Commissioner Bertani states he feels we are very lucky in the Township for the volunteers and the equipment we have to service the Township. If a local place to train was provided it keeps the resources within the Township and also it keeps the younger volunteers interested. Commissioner Bertani states the Committee would consist of representatives from the police department, Rescue 8, fire departments and any other interested party.

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Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to assemble a Committee to look into the feasibility of developing a Public Safety Training facility in the area next to the Department of Public Works that will primarily support training for Township Police, EMS, and Fire Departments as well as other departments in the Township.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Commissioner Gray states this all sounds very good and everybody is in favor of Public Safety and Training. However, he asks what the genesis of this idea was and where did it come from.

Commissioner Bertani states he was approached by the Fire Chiefs.

Commissioner Gray states he attends quite a few of the Township Firemans Association meetings and they have a Chiefs meeting right before at 7:00 P.M. and then at 8:00 P.M. they recap everything that happened at the Chiefs meeting for the general membership. After attending several meetings, he cannot recall ever hearing this from the Chiefs. He would be more looking for a letter from the Township Association saying that they want the new facility and more specifically as to what they are looking for.

Commissioner Bertani states he is not looking to spend any money on this at this point. That is why he is recommending putting together the Committee to see if it's feasible. Obviously a tower, trench rescue and K9 training would be recommended.

Commissioner Gray states why look at the site to see if it's feasible before knowing exactly what they want. He recommends them sending a letter stating exactly what they are looking to build.

Commissioner Haigis states this happened with the proposed Recreation Center and everyone had their own ideas until the price was determined then nobody wanted to pay for it. He also mentions that not one of the Fire Chiefs are present at the meeting to support this.

Commissioner Gray states he has attended a few meetings recently and he's heard them talk about third party billing for insurance and not everyone was in favor of it. Commissioner Gray states at one time he was President of the Firemans Association and if there was an idea from the fire departments, it was submitted in writing, insisting the people in favor of this idea sign their name so nobody could backtrack later. The Board needs to cover themselves because if somebody has an idea, they need supporting documents stating why they want it, what they are going to do for it and why the Board is going to fund it.

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Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Withdraws his motion and will submit a letter next month.

**FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS**

Motion: Commissioner Kucera

Motion to remove the matter of the purchase of the police vehicles from the table to discussion again.

Second: Commissioner Gray

Solicitor Dice states this motion has to be taken off the table.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

Solicitor Dice states now if there is any action to be taken, it should be open to the public for discussion.

Motion: Commissioner Kucera

Motion to discuss for the feasibility of purchasing the vehicles.

Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

Solicitor Dice states since this was not advertised as part of the agenda, the public can comment on the Board's action to now discuss the purchase of vehicles.

Commissioner Gray states that he did not think the public could comment unless the Board decided to spend the money.

Solicitor Dice agrees that it is only a discussion item at this time.

Commissioner Kucera states that after the last meeting, this discussion was tabled, but he still had some questions and went to John. There were supposed to be three vehicles purchased and the motorcycles kept. There were two bids given and he asks the question if the vehicles are not ordered but were budgeted and we have items that were ordered to put in the vehicles. If next year the style changes, there are a lot of items that were ordered that will go into these vehicles. The discussion was eighty five thousand miles but some Board members felt the cars should get one hundred thousand miles or more. Normally the police department got rid of vehicles at one

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hundred thousand miles because at that point it becomes an officer safety issue. The purchase of these other three vehicles would be for to add to the units they use. Thereby the units would use less mileage of the new ones plus the ones that are already there. There is a five year plan and Commissioner Kucera feels it is a good plan and taking the vehicles out of the plan will cause the department with units well over one hundred thousand miles.

Andrew Lisiecki ó currently Chief of Police of North Huntingdon Township ó Chief Lisiecki states this plan was put into effect with last yearøs Board of Commissioners. In yearøs past, the police department purchased two to four cars at a time. The problem he noticed was when a new vehicle was purchased the new car was being used twenty four hours a day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty five days a year. Chief states there is a 2013 Ford Explorer with close to one hundred thousand miles on it and 2010 Crown Victorias with thirty thousand miles on them. Sargeant Sage and himself sat down to develop a plan to get enough vehicles to be able to have an odd and even system that would rotate the cars per shift. Each vehicle would only be used for a twelve hour period. The most cost effective way to add two more vehicles to the fleet was to purchase two Ford Explorers and give them to the K9 officers because new equipment would be needed to equip the Explorers then take the Crown Victorias and put the cages in them and make those two vehicles extra cars. Instead of purchasing two to three vehicles every year, hopefully within three to four years they would be purchasing two vehicles every two to three years. As Mr. Decker stated at last monthøs meeting, you canøt only look at the mileage of the vehicles. These are not regular cars. Chief Lisiecki spoke with other police fleet department managers and they say for every mile on a passenger car, you should calculate three miles on a police car. Engine idle times and the ways the cars are used is why itøs recommended to replace police vehicles every seventy five to eighty five thousand miles. Chief Lisiecki states he would like the Board to reconsider their decision. He would like to see the purchase of all three vehicles, if not, at least two so they can replace the K9øs. They have had issues being called to rural areas with the State Police and unfortunately couldnøt get into the area because they are rear-wheel drive vehicles.

Commissioner Kucera states it comes down to the fact that we already have a lot of equipment to outfit these vehicles. If the styles change, the equipment cannot be used plus if the equipment needs to be sent back, there will be restocking charges and shipping charges. He also states he wasnøt real happy with the pricing.

Motion: Commissioner Kucera

Motion to order the three vehicles.

Commissioner Gray asks from where.

Commissioner Kucera states they should be purchased from Day Chevrolet.

Motion: Commissioner Kucera

Motion withdrawn until Mr. Decker speaks.

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Mr. Decker states the date for the vehicles to be ordered has come and gone. The day you purchase equipment is the day the warranty starts. If something is sent back it is a thirty percent restocking fee plus shipping. Mr. Decker states he has the vehicles in stock.

Commissioner Gray asks what date has passed.

Mr. Decker states that March 11, 2016 was the last date to put any orders in.

Commissioner Gray asks if there is firm pricing on the vehicles.

Mr. Decker states the total per car is twenty six thousand five hundred fourteen dollars and the total for three units is seventy nine thousand five hundred forty two dollars.

Commissioner Martino states there are two bidders and there are supporters for Day Chevrolet. Has anyone ever invited Kenny Ross to speak at the meeting.

Commissioner Gray suggests rebidding the vehicles and give it to the lowest bidder.

Manager Shepherd states you cannot do that because Kenny Ross cannot order the vehicles nor do they have them in stock.

Commissioner Gray states the only way to get the vehicles this year is to get them from Day Chevrolet or someone else that has them in stock.

Commissioner Bertani states he agrees with Commissioner Gray in that whoever has the lowest bid gets it.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to rebid the three vehicles with sealed bids.

Chief Lisiecki states he does not pay Co-Stars price or retail price for anything. He states he does not have loyalties to any one dealer when using taxpayer's money in getting them the best price.

Manager Shepherd states he agrees with Chief Lisiecki dealing with Co-Stars in negotiating with the vendors.

Commissioner Gray asks if we want to get the cars now, what do we do.

Chief Lisiecki states he feels there is only one option and that is to purchase the vehicles from Day Chevrolet because they can't be ordered from anybody else unless the Township looks out of State.

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Commissioner Herold asks if we really need the vehicles right now. Why can't we wait a couple of months and order them from Kenny Ross.

Manager Shepherd states the vehicles cannot be ordered after the deadline.

Chief Lisiecki states the next point to order vehicles will be in September and they will be 2017 models and run the risk of the equipment not being able to retrofit into the newer model.

Commissioner Herold asks why not put the unmarked Ford Explorers into service and use on a daily routine.

Chief Lisiecki states that would be taking vehicles off of the Detectives, Lieutenant and Chief.

Manager Shepherd states that if the Board is thinking of purchasing the vehicles based on where we are in the year and what the Chief has stated, which he agrees with most of what he said, to buy them from Day Chevrolet.

Commissioner Haigis states he agrees with the Chief and Manager Shepherd on getting the lowest price, owing it to the residents. We have a great police force and owe it to them to have nice equipment.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to purchase all three vehicles at the quoted amount of seventy nine thousand five hundred forty two dollars with Day Chevrolet.

Second: Commissioner Kucera

Commissioner Herold states he feels to wait until the 2017 come out.

Rich Sanoski ó 8064 Pennsylvania Avenue ó states he has been in sales for almost thirty years. By not respecting Day Chevrolet's bid, it's very easy to under-bid. Also keep in mind the tax payer's money. Bids need to be comparable, apples to apples, which is important. The low bid is not always the answer. He feels the bid should be awarded to Day Chevrolet.

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Roll call:

Commissioner Herold ó NO  
Commissioner Haigis ó YES  
Commissioner Bertani ó YES  
Commissioner Gray ó YES  
Commissioner Faccenda ó NO  
Commissioner Kucera ó YES  
Commissioner Martino - YES

Motion carried 5 ó 2 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to hire two Public Works employees.

Second: Commissioner Herold

Commissioner Gray asks where did this come from. We just don't do stuff like this. Normally when the Board hires someone, they are named. What prompted this. Commissioner Gray asks Mr. Albert if he was aware of this and / or did he request this.

Mr. Albert states he did not request this and wasn't aware of this until thirty seconds prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Gray asks Mr. Albert if he was told or was he asked.

Mr. Albert states he was told that it was going to be put on the agenda.

Commissioner Gray asks by who.

Commissioner Martino states that he told him.

Commissioner Herold states it was discussed in Executive Session.

Solicitor Dice states everyone gets to speak once.

Commissioner Haigis states there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting but it was not to discuss personnel matters of hiring new staff for Public Works. With that being said, there is a budget set. With some new Commissioners on the Board, there was an opportunity to re-open the budget to add additional staff and that was not done. What is the motivation behind hiring additional staff and did anyone think to consult with the Department

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Head to see if additional hiring was needed.

Bernie Los ó 14120 Wayne Drive ó states Mr. Albert did not request hiring new people. Is it normal procedure that vacancies, if any, be filled. Are there two vacancies.

Commissioner Martino states Mr. Los has to speak to the Board.

Mr. Los asks the Board if there are two vacancies.

Commissioner Haigis states there are no budget vacancies.

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Withdraws the motion.

Commissioner Martino asks if there are any further Board comments.

Commissioner Gray states on February 17, 2016, Detective Youngstead requested a Public Hearing on a Grievance and it turned out to be a convoluted issue. A lot of people spoke, Board members spoke, but the one person that was missing was Chief Lisiecki. With the Chief being present, Commissioner Gray asks if he would be willing to address two memos that he wrote. One memo on January 26, 2016, Memo 16-007 and the other on February 10, 2016, Memo 16-013.

Chief Lisiecki states unfortunately when he was salting his driveway, he slipped on ice, breaking his arm. Chief Lisiecki thanks those who took the time to either call or send a card wishing a speedy recovery. He also thanks the citizens and Board members who spoke positively about the involved officers in the department. He too believes that we have one of, if not the best, department in the County and everyone should be proud of that. In May of 2012, after applying and testing with approximately seventy other candidates, he graciously accepted the job as Chief. At the meeting he was voted in on, he was immediately called into an Executive Session to review a video of an officer to determine if his conduct was appropriate. An investigation was conducted and the conduct was found to be inappropriate and unfortunately he leveled discipline against the officer. This discipline led to three frivolous, unwarranted investigations into the Chief and conduct that was caused. The Chief refused to speak to the media about the discipline, however several Board members stated after looking at the unsubstantiated alleged violations that the Chief stated, he didn't see anything that warrants termination. The neutral arbiter found differently and upheld the termination. Immediately following the termination appeal, the Chief was made aware of a hit list that contained his name and several other officers who testified during the investigation and that they would also be subject to discipline or termination. He states he constantly hears rumors that with this new Board, he is going to be terminated and replaced. Every day he walks into the Station and wonders if it is going to be his last day. On the day of the inquiry, he was called into the small meeting room with the Township Manager and two Commissioners. He was told the Commissioners had some questions for him and then the Manager left. Memo 16-007 states he

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was ordered to do an investigation on four separate matters. The first one was addressed by Commissioner Herold who asked if he knew that Sargeant Bauer was going home while on duty. Chief replied that he did know. Commissioner Herold brought this up to him eight to ten months prior when he wouldn't name her just said he had information on an unknown officer. Chief told him that as soon as he found out who it was, he immediately went to the Manager who had a discussion with the Solicitor. Sargeant Bauer advised the Chief that she had been doing this for ten to fifteen years and had the approval to do so in order to feed and medicate her Township K9 and also her retired Township K9. After discussion with the Solicitor, they believed this was past practice and to let it go instead of wasting Township money on an arbitration. After explaining the outcome, the Commissioner wanted the Chief to order Sargeant Bauer not to go home on Township time. The Chief advised at that time would be a bad thing to do because she would file a grievance, possibly an unfair labor practice, and also a Civil Rights Violation. Chief told the Commissioners instead, that he would issue a general order telling everybody that they are not permitted to go home while on duty. He was told again no, that he is to order her and her alone, that she is not permitted to go home. Commissioner Martino pointed out that the date in question was under a State of Emergency and if somebody needed backup, she needed to be there. The Chief states he told them he would not do anything without talking to his chain of command which is the Township Manager and the Solicitor. He was told several times that they are not trying to micro-manage the department but that is what he was ordered to do.

The next thing that was brought up was political activity and why was Sargeant Bauer at the Reorganization Meeting in January. The Chief states she was here because herself and several other officers asked if they could attend. The Chief gave them all permission as long as they remained available for calls. She was here to support the swearing in of every candidate that was newly elected. Commissioner Herold told Chief that no she wasn't, that she was only there for candidate Kucera because I have Youngstead's email. Chief states he does not believe she was committing any political activity because the election was over and the candidates were getting sworn in.

The next issue was the funeral processions. Chief was shown a picture where two of our officers conducted a funeral procession when asked. The Commissioners wanted to know why they were doing that for a private citizen. Chief states they've always done private processions and it has always been up to him to decide whether or not he felt the need to do it. The officers have always volunteered their time. Chief states the funeral was a vendor for the Township and Commissioner Herold stated he didn't care, the Township pays them for their services. Processions depend on certain circumstances such as how big the procession is, whether officers can volunteer and to try to have on duty officers because it benefits the Township by having the vehicles get through the intersections safely. Chief states he was told to put out a memo directly to the department that they will no longer do any type of funeral processions or motorcades for private citizens. The only people they would do it for would be police, fire, EMS, and Veterans. Chief then asked about the Blue Angels. North Huntingdon Police were specifically requested to escort them. Or what about Norwin School District. Chief states he was told absolutely not. Chief submitted an order that

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says in the future there will be no processions unless a written notice is submitted to the Chief at least thirty days in advance. He will make recommendation and send it to the Manager. Less than three weeks later, they get called to do a procession for Norwin School District when he was told specifically not to do that.

Lastly, Commissioner Herold asked why Detective Youngstead was working in uniform on Christmas Eve. Chief replied he was on overtime working a shift. He states that if they use a marked vehicle, they do not put plain clothed people in marked vehicles. Chief states it then came back that Commissioner Herold wants to know why Detective Youngstead was shopping at Giant Eagle. Chief stated he was probably doing a business check and may have made a purchase while he was there which is frequently done by officers doing business checks. It is mandatory that officers do at least one check. Some officers do more than one check but don't call them all in. Chief was ordered to do an investigation on a complaint that he was shopping and let them know of what type of discipline. Commissioner Martino states he was unaware of this complaint. Chief asked Commissioner Herold to give the name and phone number of the person who filed the complaint. There is a policy in the CBA and SOPs that they do not investigate third party complaints. When that point was brought up to Commissioner Herold, he stated he didn't care if he files a grievance but to do the investigation and tell me what you're going to do in writing. At that point, Commissioner Martino stated it may take a couple of days, but they want a written response. Several days later after the Chief submitted the response, the Chief received a call from Commissioner Faccenda who asked him if Detective Youngstead had done a business check. Chief Lisiecki stated that is what Detective Youngstead told him and it's in his memo 16-007, third page, last paragraph states "I confirmed with Detective Youngstead he was doing a business check", but he was asked to pull copies of the report and the business check and submit them in a memo to Mr. Faccenda only. Chief stated he does not do that and he has a chain of command. He pulled the information that Commissioner Faccenda requested, submitted it to the Manager, and asked him to disseminate to all the Commissioners. Chief Lisiecki states he did what he was ordered to do even though he knew it was morally and ethically wrong in addition to violating policies and procedures. He did as ordered so he would not be insubordinate to his bosses and be guilty of conduct for not doing as ordered thereby giving justification for termination as per the first class Township code. Chief gave Commissioner Herold a verbal response that day and on January 26, 2016, he submitted the memo to the Manager to be forwarded. Chief Lisiecki states he did not take this job to argue with the Commissioners. He is here to do what's best for the residents, business owners and visitors of this Township. It's time to take a negative and put it into a positive, let's put all of this behind us and work as a team to do what's best for the Township and the people we serve.

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Commissioner Faccenda comments that his name was also on a hit list and when he was at an area fish fry someone mouthed his name to another officer.

Solicitor Dice intercedes the conversation between Chief Lisiecki and Commissioner Faccenda stating that there is nothing fruitful happening now and to let this rest. People are starting to say things that could later be used in some fashion.

Commissioner Faccenda states the public needs to know what he has been dealing with too.

Commissioner Gray states to Commissioner Faccenda to claim he is not a politician and then try to hire two people off agenda like that is exactly what it is.

Commissioner Haigis comments that when Chief Lisiecki quoted some memos that were sent from Manager Shepherd that if a Board member thought they were being misinterpreted or mis-quoted, they should have said something right then and there to discuss it, not bring it to a public meeting and call him a liar.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) North Huntingdon Parks and Recreation will host the Easter Eggapalooza at Oak Hollow Park on Saturday, March 19, 2016 starting at 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. with the Egg Hunt at 12 NOON. This event is for Norwin School Students only and must pre-register at the Town House. Don't forget to bring your own basket.
  
- 2) The North Huntingdon Parks and Recreation is offering a youth volleyball program beginning Saturday, March 19, 2016 for six weeks. Interested parties can contact the Parks Department for more information.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Motion to adjourn. (9:01 P.M.)

Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion Carried 7 0 0 6 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

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Tony Martino, President

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John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary  
/jjm

