

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – Zachary Haigis, President, Board of Commissioners**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Stump Present
Commissioner Atwood Present
Commissioner Blasko Present
Commissioner Zona Present
Commissioner Bevan Present
Commissioner Gass Present
Commissioner Haigis Present

Also Present:
Jeffrey Silka
Mike Turley
Solicitor Dice
Ryan Fonzi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS INPUT

There was no citizen's input.

Work Sessions Discussion Topics

1) Website Update Presentation

Manager Silka states that Jonathan Beskid will give an update on the new website. He states the website was updated that was put in three years ago and this is the first major update on the contract. Jonathan Beskid gives a presentation on the upgraded website.

Commissioner Blasko states this looks fabulous and he was on the old website one day and states the upgraded version is so much nicer. He asks about the ordinances and states himself and residents are looking for them. He asks if all the ordinances are on there or still in the process of adding them.

Jonathan Beskid states a lot of the most requested ones are on there but not every single ordinance because there is a very large database of those.

Manager Silka states what needs to be done is a codified section of the code book. That was in the budget for this year and got taken out. It was worked on a few years ago, but was put aside. He states he is hoping in the budget of 2022 to have that project done.

Commissioner Stump asks if there is a link to the Ackerman Nature Preserve through the parks.

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Jonathan states he can add it.

2) American Rescue Plan Act – Funding Update

Manager Silka states on May 11th guidance was to be given and on the evening of May 10th it was sent. It's one hundred fifty five pages. He states this is only interim guidance with final guidance coming within sixty days of interim final guidance. There are a few things it did solidify. One being, air filtration is definitely in the expressly. Building modifications to disperse staff will be a covered expense. The lost revenue in 2019-2020 is only two hundred sixty six thousand dollars. Stormwater projects are also approved. He states all this money will need to be spent by December 2024.

Commissioner Zona asks what the status of HVAC system is.

Manager Silka states the design was ready to go in May but didn't want to get into a situation where we couldn't fund it because it was a pre-existing debt. He states he is ready to put it out for bid in June. He states it is turned on and working.

3) NHTMA Term Extension Request

Manager Silka states this a request from the North Huntingdon Municipal Authority to extend their term to 2051. As they are building the new sewage plant, are taking out long term debt and the thirty year note exceeds their current authorized lifespan. What they are asking is to extend the term to December 2051 to align with their anticipated borrowing. He states in the letter from Mike Branthoover states they are hoping the borrowing and extending the term will allow them to not have an adverse impact on rates. This resolution also amends their current new address.

Commissioner Gass states the extension is for only nine years which will bring it to December 2051. By doing this will ensure constituents will not see a raise in rates.

Manager Silka states that this is no guarantee. Based on information provided by NHTMA, their current financing structure and debt structure is set up to not incur a rate increase.

4) Intergovernmental Agreement for Colony Development

Manager Silka states this is an agreement with the Borough of Irwin for their inspection services on the new auto parts store coming in the old Penn Irwin section. The site is between Irwin and North Huntingdon with the majority of the structure will be in Irwin. He states the Township was adamant that we will do the retention wall. Our inspectors are certified and the retention wall is the key part of the project, so we want to make sure we permit that and will give the developer a clear sense of who he submits what to and where the fees go to.

Commissioner Gass states he has had a lot of people ask why another auto parts store.

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Manager Silka states it is private property and corporations especially restaurants have a strict expansion plan and don't deviate from it.

5) Request to send letter to PADot requesting a jake break restriction

Commissioner Zona states he would like to get put on the agenda a request to have the Township send a letter to PADot requesting a jake break restriction in the area of Bethel Road and Route 30 from Malts Lane to Bethel Road as he is getting a lot of complaints of trucks coming eastbound on Route 30 using jake breaks. He states he spoke with George Dunbar's office and they are getting the same complaints and suggested the Township send a letter to PADot as they will send a letter also. He states he is requesting this be on the agenda.

Commissioner Gass states there was a petition requesting a PADot study of the intersection and installation of a ICWS, which is an Intersection Conflict Warning System specifically dealing with Cherry Lane.

Manager Silka states he is familiar with this and this came in about a year ago or so and is a very misaligned intersection. He states there is no sense in doing anything right now because it is part of PADot's upgrade.

Commissioner Gass asks when the upgrades are scheduled for.

Manager Silka states it is not scheduled yet and need to reach out to PADot for an update. He states it is two phases but don't have a start date yet for phase one.

Commissioner Atwood asks what would need to be done to put a No Left Turn on Cherry Lane.

Manager Silka states that is something that can be looked into.

Commissioner Atwood states if the problem is making a left turn onto Route 30, then just post it No Left Turn.

Manager Silka states to look into it and approach PADot for approval.

Commissioner Zona asks if they are talking about a No Left Turn sign coming out of Cherry Lane.

Commissioner Atwood states yes, out of Cherry Lane onto Route 30.

Commissioner Zona states another thing to consider would be a No Left Turn into Cherry Lane.

Commissioner Atwood states that is an illegal turn because of the double yellow line.

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Manager Silka states he thought the same thing but it is actually not an illegal turn in talking to Chief.

Commissioner Zona states that is not a State law. State law are the signs regardless of the lines. The have to have signage stating a No Left Turn.

Mike Turley states this is a complicated issue tied into lots of different things. He states you can turn left over a double yellow line. Cherry Lane is an offset intersection and not a regular signal operation. He states there was a recent fatality and people are not expecting to have to stop there and when they do, they try to switch lanes quickly and could be pushed into oncoming traffic. He states at the last sinc-up project tried to make it a regular operation and really had a lot of meetings and SPC the designer and WRA were very much in favor of just a regular red, yellow, green phase, but PADot would not allow it. He states eventually there will be a barrier put there and wouldn't be able to make the left turn anyway. He states as you can see, there are a whole bunch of issues here and it's something that have gone over numerous times and he feels there is really not much that can be done right now.

Commissioner Zona asks to have a restricted Left Turn coming out of Cherry Lane onto Route 30, would we need PADot's approval.

Mike Turley states typically there should be some justification to do it.

Manager Silka states we would need PADot's approval to restrict entry onto their road.

Commissioner Gass states if PADot puts a barrier in front of Hartford Height VFD would prevent the fire department from leaving their station and make a left turn onto Route 30.

Commissioner Atwood states in their design there is a lane for just the fire department to get onto Route 30.

Manager Silka states this was addressed three years ago and had an Emergency Management meeting with PADot and was something that was addressed.

PLANNING / ENGINEERING TOPICS:

1) S-08-2021: Palmer Subdivision

****Proposed subdivision on Hahntown-Wendel Road.***

Director Fonzi states Daniel Palmer Jr. lives at 1120 Hahntown Wendel Road near the intersection with Crestwood Drive. He owns 2.75 acres and would like to subdivide a new lot just over a half-acre in size which will be a flag lot down to Hahntown Wendel Road. He still maintains the minimum frontage for his existing home lot. He states the new lot would require a full planning module for the sewage planning. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

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2) S-09-2021: Slavin-Craft Plan

****Proposed boundary line revision in Willow Spring Acres.***

Director Fonzi states this is a true boundary line revision on Whitehead Lane and Rebecca Drive. The Slavin's live on 870 Whitehead Lane and the Craft's live on 795 Rebecca Street. The Slavins would like to add seventy five hundred square feet to their rear yard. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

3) S-10-2021: Perz Consolidation

****Proposed subdivision on Park Hill Road.***

Director Fonzi states this involves three lots and two existing homes. The first lot is owned by Martin Perz and Joann Sloan and they would like to add acreage from the other two lots. Joseph and Cecilia Perz live at 2021 Park Hill Road and looking to downsize their lot. Cecilia Perz also owns another lot which is approximately over thirteen acres. After the boundary line revision / lot consolidation, Martin Perz & Joann Sloan will gain acreage to seventeen acres and Joseph & Cecilia Perz's lot will be reduced but still be 1.715 acres. He states both lots meet the minimum dimension requirements and no need for sewage planning. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

4) S-12-2021: Willow Estates II Revision 1

****Proposed reduced setbacks in Willow Estates III.***

Director Fonzi states this is an existing cul de sac on Trafalgar Court where the road is there and eleven lots are created and the development would like to do is reduce the front setback on the entire street from thirty feet to twenty two feet. He states the other thing Mr. Crack is requesting is to add four feet to an existing easement because the landscaping from residents up on Warwick Drive infringed on the existing easement. The extra four feet would allow Mr. Crack to regrade the swell and give enough room to take the drainage. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

5) S-14-2021 / SP-03-2021: Shorkey KIA Service Center

****Proposed service building on existing KIA dealership site.***

Director Fonzi states this is a service building that will be added to the Jim Shorkey Kia Dealership site. It will be a twelve service bay building, ten thousand three hundred twenty square feet and there will also be an adjoining parking / inventory lot. There were four lots that needed consolidated. The applicant is asking for one waiver from the SALDO, which states no more than twenty parking spaces and they are requesting seventy eight spaces. This lot is going to be inventory only with no public visiting this lot. The Planning Commission recommended approval with the waiver.

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FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Blasko states several Township issues were brought to his attention by Township residents. He states he has some but not all the information on these topics, so he would like to get some clarification on these issues to properly address these concerns.

He asks Manager Silka if it is possible for the Board of Commissioners to resolve issues that customers are having with Verizon Landline telephones within the Township or is that just an issue that customers have to resolve within Verizon themselves.

Manager Silka states that is a private issue.

Secondly, Commissioner Blasko states he has questions about a budgetary item that was proposed for the 2021 budget. He was able to find the November 12, 2020 meeting minutes which discussed expenditure of the Board and it read that governing bodies are set by State code. He states Manager Silka says constituent services is a line item requested by Commissioner Blasko to give five hundred dollars to each Commissioner for educational events within their Ward. He asks Manager Silka does this line item get approved for the 2021 budget. Manager Silka states it did not. Commissioner Blasko asks Manager Silka if the Township provides reimbursement for the purchase of alcohol to any Township entity. Manager Silka states no. Commissioner Blasko states so it is not possible to purchase alcohol with tax payers dollars. Manager Silka responds not at the present time.

Commissioner Blasko asks if the police department use funds from their budget to host educational and community outreach events. Manager Silka responds yes. Thank you for your answers to those questions.

Commissioner Blasko states the next topic that citizens reached out to him about is in concerns to the noise ordinance. He reads a memo dated August 9, 2019 regarding updating the noise ordinance. He asks Manager Silka if he wrote the draft ordinance. Manager Silka responds that he compiled it and was not original work. Commissioner Blasko states the draft ordinance that was presented to the Board was a compilation of noise ordinances from other municipalities. Manager Silka states that is correct. Commissioner Blasko then states the draft ordinance was reviewed by Manager Silka, our legal council, Mr. Andrykovitch, as well as the Board of Commissioners. Do you remember if Chief Rizzo reviewed it as well. Manager Silka states not the original one. Do you recall if there were any revisions made to the draft ordinance. Manager Silka states basically a complete reworking of the ordinance. In our current noise ordinance, is there anything regulating or restricting the use of snow throwers. Manager Silka responds not expressly.

Commissioner Blasko states the last concern that was brought to his attention is the declining General Fund balance. From the March budget meeting, he found a summary of what has brought the Township to this financial point. He reads the meeting minutes and asks Manager Silka if spending down the surplus was a planned budgetary measures. Manager Silka responds yes. He asks if what would have been the alternative to not spending down the general fund. Manager Silka states that would be to not fund certain programs, raise taxes or take debt. Commissioner

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Blasko asks what major unexpected cost have imposed a significant financial impact on the Township. Manager Silka responds the major unexpected costs have been landslides and stormwater issues. Commissioner Blasko asks if these costs and expenditures have been predicted. Manager Silka responds no.

Commissioner Gass states he could not have been proud of North Huntingdon community when the little boy went missing back in April and all the residents that were out looking for him.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0 (7:54 P.M.)

- Special Meeting minutes of May 13, 2021 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 16, 2021.



Jeffrey Silka, Township Secretary
jjm



Zachary Haigis, President

