

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 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	Also Present:
Commissioner Atwood	Present	Jeffrey Silka
Commissioner Blasko	Present	Solicitor Alexander
Commissioner Zona	Present	Mike Turley
Commissioner Bevan	Present	Ryan Fonzi
Commissioner Gass	Present	Dan Miller
Commissioner Haigis	Present	Chief Rizzo
		Rich Albert

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Moment of silence.

**CITIZENS INPUT**

Thomas Hempel – 1259 Julius Street – thanks the Board for what they do and would like to discuss a few things. With the recent incident in the Township, he wants to extend a huge thank you to Chief Rizzo and the police department for making the community safe again. He also updates the Board on Tom’s Turkeys and is very proud to say it is continuing and is now a non-profit corporation. He states to date, seven thousand dollars have been given to needy families. Lastly, he states the We Support Our Police signs were created by a group of residents and want to let the police know they are in support of them. He states they are constantly ordering more signs as more and more people are purchasing them. He invites the Board to Shirley’s Funeral Home on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 5PM – 10PM for a show of support for the police.

Commissioner Zona echoes Mr. Hempel’s thanks for the recent incident and states the NHT Police Department is more than professional and by the book. He asks where residents can purchase the signs.

Mr. Hempel states they can purchase them at Palarino’s Car Wash, Sarris Candy store in Irwin and Luchms, and Candy’s Corner Café.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting 4/15/21)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to approve. (Regular Meeting 4/21/21)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion: Commissioner Blasko  
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Rich Albert states the Public Works crews are working diligently to get the roads ready for the paving program. There are a few issues with the supply chain in receiving materials and the supply on pipe is low, but the ordered is delayed.

Commissioner Gass thanks Rich and Public Works for a recent job at Mr. Paul's residence.

**PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT**

Commissioner Blasko asks if a Mother / Son Dance has ever been considered.

Dan Miller states this has often been considered and actually tried a mother / son event at Penns Woods Park with games, etc. He states it really didn't go over too well for various reasons and hasn't been a whole lot of requests.

Commissioner Gass states Shane with the Eagle Scout program did a great job at Lions Park

Dan Miller states that Commissioner Atwood requested to do a ribbon-cutting ceremony and once everything is complete can open that up.

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**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Rizzo publicly makes a few comments to reach out to the officers, detectives and investigators. The amount of hours that went into the case during the last four days has been staggering and he would like to say how grateful he is to all their efforts. He states his officers put their lives on the line and threw themselves into harm's way and he couldn't be more proud of them. To coordinate multiple agencies on multiple levels and sharing information was a great effort by everyone and thankfully the case was closed with no one else getting injured.

Commissioner Atwood echoes Chief Rizzo's comments and states we are all lucky for Chief Rizzo's leadership and the officers underneath him and we are lucky to have those types of people on our force.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

There were no Board comments.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT**

There are no Board comments.

**SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT**

**1) S-08-2021: Palmer Subdivision**

*\*Action to approve a proposed subdivision on Hahntown-Wendel Road.*

Motion: Commissioner Atwood  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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

*\*Action to approve a boundary line revision in Willow Spring Acres.*

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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**3) S-10-2021: Perz Consolidation**

*\* Action to approve a proposed subdivision on Park Hill Road.*

Motion: Commissioner Blasko  
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**4) S-12-2021: Willow Estates II Revision I**

*\* Action to approve a proposed reduced setback in Willow Estates II.*

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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

*\* Action to approve a proposed service building on existing KIA dealership site.*

Director Fonzi states that Commissioner Gass inquired about adding a fence around the detention pond and the applicant was agreeable to that. Mr. Fonzi added it to the resolution as a condition of approval.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood  
Second: Commissioner Bevan

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Alexander**

- 1) Action to approve an ordinance of the Township of North Huntingdon repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 2253 of 2019, establishing a volunteer service credit program; enacting tax credits for volunteer members of volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical agencies; and establishing administrative procedures and appeals.

Motion: Commissioner Blasko  
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Haigis clarifies that this is increasing the funding available to volunteer firefighters from two hundred fifty dollars to five hundred dollars.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1) Action to approve the April check register.

Motion: Commissioner Blasko  
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 2) Budget Report – April 2021 Report.

- 3) Action to approve a proclamation declaring June 24, 2021, as J. Howard Snyder Day in the Township of North Huntingdon.

Motion: Commissioner Stump  
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 4) Action to approve a resolution extending the term of the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority to December 31, 2070.

Manager Silka states that in speaking with Mike Branthoover from NHTMA they need the term extended to December 31, 2070. He states what that does is allow them to be in existence through all three phases of their proposed borrowing.

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Bevan

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 5) Action to approve an Intergovernmental Cooperation with Irwin Borough for the Colony of Irwin development.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 6) Action to authorize the Township Manager to submit a letter to PennDot requesting a ban on engine brakes on State Route 30 between Malts Lane and Bethel Road.

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 7) Action to add to the agenda to appoint Charles Gilbert to the vacant position on the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority board.

Motion: Commissioner Blasko  
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to add to the agenda.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

There was no public input.

- 8) Action to appoint Charles Gilbert to the vacant position on the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority board.

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Bevan

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

### **FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Blasko states he would like to add there was some mis-communication on the Board at last month's meeting regarding doing a presentation and award to the Public Works Department for their service to the community this past winter because despite the fact that they receive overtime pay for making the roads safe to pass, but don't directly recognize the time spent away from their families. He states this past winter, they were out Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day so the roads were safe. He thanks the department for their service.

Commissioner Zona states as we just saw with the police department that a serious incident can happen at any time, on any day of week. With that being said, the police department officers deliver the Commissioner's mail approximately twice a month and when speaking with some of the officers was brought up that that is one of their concerns when delivering the mail. Commissioner Zona states that he would like his mail to be held at the police department and when it is ready to send him an email so he can pick it up himself. He would rather them not come to his house. He feels it takes them off the road and even if it's a minute or two, something can happen that quick where their services are needed elsewhere.

Commissioner Gass states he likes to speak with the officers when they deliver the mail, but agrees with Commissioner Zona to have them not deliver his mail also.

Chief Rizzo states this will be well-received as it's always been a detail that has not been cherished by the officers. It would be much appreciated to find an alternative in getting the commissioner's mail to them.

Commissioner Bevan suggests for Commissioner Zona to put that in form of a motion to vote on it.

May 19, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Zona

Motion to add to the agenda to cease with the police department delivering the mail to the Commissioners' homes.

Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**Citizens Input:**

Rich Gray – 12229 Adams Drive – states he agrees with Commissioner Zona and this should have been done a long time ago. He states he used to pick up his mail here and knows it's not convenient for everybody to pick up their mail depending on work schedules, but know they would appreciate it.

Motion: Commissioner Zona

Motion to cease having the police department deliver the Commissioners' mail to their residences.

Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**ADJOURNMENT**


Motion: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to adjourn. (7:32 P.M.)

Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2021 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 16, 2021.

  
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Jeffrey Silka, Township Manager  
/jjm

  
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Zachary Haigis, President

