

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022, 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 7:09 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Stump Present
Commissioner Atwood Present
Commissioner Gray Present
Commissioner Zona Present
Commissioner Wengrzyn Present
Commissioner Gass Present
Commissioner Haigis Present

Also Present:
Harry Faulk
Mike Turley
Solicitor Dice
Ryan Fonzi
Chief Rizzo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS INPUT

Keith Rhodes – 2400 Coulterville Road – is speaking on behalf of his mother who is ninety five years old and states she has the single bag garbage through Waste Management. He states he was told by WM in the beginning that he could put her garbage into a can so animals don't get into it, then later was notified by WM to no longer put the garbage inside a can. Mr. Rhodes states he is getting conflicting information from WM about if he is actually able to use a can or not.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

Commissioner Haigis states this is an issue for other residents and asks Mike Turley if we can get a clear answer from WM. Mike Turley states the problem with the senior bags being put into a can is it is hard to keep track of and then putting multiple bags inside the can or go to the discounted senior option and use a can. Commissioner Stump states she has received the same complaints and when you are ninety five years old will not be able to push the cart and should be some accommodation for seniors or disabled. Mike Turley states there is also a side door collection service available for an extra fee. Commissioner Haigis suggests to get clarification on the bag program and possibly get a smaller container to put the bag in so animals don't get into it. Commissioner Atwood asks when an animal gets into the trash bag, who is responsible for cleaning it up. Mike Turley states it would fall on the property owner. Commissioner Gray asks if there could be a special can that tells the driver only one bag should be in since the driver has to get out of the truck anyway. Commissioner Haigis asks Mike to reach out to WM to try to figure out a resolution.

June 9, 2022

Work Sessions Discussion Topics

- 1) Action to hire Matthew Lichota and Christopher Costa for the position of summer help in the Parks Department at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, contingent upon successful pre-employment drug and alcohol testing.*

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.
Motion to approve 7 – 0 – 0

- 2) Request from Norwin School District to waive building permit fees for the replacement of the Hillcrest Intermediate School roof replacement project.*

Manager Faulk states the school district is seeking a waiver of approximately fifteen thousand seven hundred fifty five dollars for the 2.1 million dollar roof replacement. Commissioner Zona asks if anyone had a conversation with them or just receive the letter from them. Commissioner Haigis states he was not contacted by anyone from the school district or any Board members. Manager Faulk adds that letters were sent to each individual Board member and he verified with Director Fonzi as far as what the building permit would cost. Director Fonzi states he spoke with Josh Andrykovitch who was in touch with the school district and they requested any way to waive the permit fees. **Commissioner Gray states customarily that has been done in the past and he would make the motion to waive the permit fees. Commissioner Wengrzyn states she would second the motion.** Commissioner Stump asks if the Board waives the fees, who pays for the inspections. Director Fonzi states it would be Township staff time. Commissioner Zona asks if the school district applied for a building permit and Director Fonzi states they did and also we have thirty days from application to issue or deny the permit. Commissioner Zona states the school district just voted and approved to raise taxes by one mil. Commissioner Haigis states customarily in the past if it was any of the fire departments or non profit organization would waive the building fees. Commissioner Stump asks if it is possible to require the school district to perform their own inspections and provide a copy of the report. Director Fonzi states he doesn't know how much money they would be saving by getting a third party inspector. Commissioner Wengrzyn states she doesn't see what the point is if this is something that was done in the past and is just tax dollars. Commissioner Stump states she would be opposed as we are two different entities and the Township is trying to hold down the cost of the taxes. Commissioner Zona adds he too is against this when the school district is asking us to waive the permit fees while they are not trying to and increasing taxes. Commissioner Haigis states he is not in favor of the school raising taxes but this is a different issue all together and would be ok in waiving the fees. Commissioner Gray states he attended to school board meeting and would have been nice if more people were there to speak out against the tax increase.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Stump – NO
Commissioner Atwood – NO
Commissioner Gray – YES
Commissioner Zona – NO
Commissioner Wengrzyn – YES
Commissioner Gass – NO
Commissioner Haigis – YES

Motion fails 3 – 4 – 0

June 9, 2022

Commissioner Atwood adds that if the school district could provide a list of the programs that they have referenced, maybe he would be more inclined to voting yes. Commissioner Stump and Zona also agree.

3) Memorandum of Understanding with Adelphoi regarding School Resource Officer at Hartford Heights.*

Manager Faulk states representatives from Adelphoi are present to answer any questions regarding a school resource officer and reimbursing the Township for the cost of the wages. Chief Rizzo states they were approached about a month ago by Adelphoi about a school resource officer and provided benefits received by the Latrobe Police Department. The Adelphoi representatives present the benefits the program provides to the police department and the current school resource officer from Latrobe details his day to day activity and interaction with students.

Commissioner Gass asks what Township residents get out of this deal. Chief Rizzo states they will get to hire another officer increasing to thirty officers and many more benefits that Manager Faulk will discuss later is the meeting. Commissioner Wengrzyn asks Chief Rizzo if there was any pushback from the officer he is thinking of to fill this position or are they looking forward to this change. Chief Rizzo responds that this position cannot be an assignment and this officer needs to be committed to the Adelphoi mission and do what he can to change the hearts and minds of that school.

Manager Faulk states a sample MMO was provided to the Board from Latrobe. He states the officer will submit his timesheet for reimbursement and that will cover the cost of a new officer. Also, while the officer is at Adelphoi performing his duties and something is going on in the Township, that officer can leave the post and respond as needed. He states Adelphoi will also donate fifty thousand dollars earmarked towards the purchase of a new police cruiser and outfit it. Commissioner Zona clarifies that the reimbursement for the officer is for twelve months but Manager Faulk states it's only for one hundred eighty three school days.

4) Comprehensive Plan.*

Manager Faulk states the last time the comprehensive plan was completed was in 2000 and needs to be updated every ten years. He states he met with Representative George Dunbar and Senator Kim Ward and they are willing to write letters of recommendation to go after the grant funding to pay for fifty percent of the plan. He states it could cost anywhere between forty to eighty thousand dollars however first an RFP has to be put out for companies to come in and submit proposals. Commissioner Stump asks if this is able to be done inhouse because of the estimated cost. Manager Faulk states there are agencies that specialize in this and requires a lot of background work. Commissioner Gass states he agrees with Commissioner Stump in not paying an agency to come in and tell us about our own community. Manager Faulk states by State code a comprehensive plan is required every ten years.

June 9, 2022

5) Communication devices for Commissioners.

Manager Faulk states there has been discussion about getting tablets for the Board and he wanted to get an idea of what the Board would prefer. Commissioner Stump states she personally does not want to charge another device and also does not want to incur the expense on the taxpayers. Commissioner Atwood states he has his own device to use and would there be any cost savings instead of paper copies. Manager Faulk states either way is possible. Commissioner Wengrzyn feels the paper copies are incredibly wasteful and prefers a PDF version. Manager Faulk suggests to let him know what each individual Commissioner would prefer. Commissioner Haigis states he would prefer the paper copy and Commissioners Gray, Zona and Gass would also like paper copies.

PLANNING / ENGINEERING TOPICS:

1) S-10-2022: Brooke Haven IV Revision I

**Proposed lot consolidation on Morris Avenue.*

Director Fonzi states there were two remaining lots in the phase, Lot 480 & Lot 481, and RWS wishes to consolidate the lots and will be 8.93 acres with a single family home.

2) S-11-2022: JP Land Holdings Plan 2

**Proposed subdivision on Clay Pike.*

Director Fonzi states this is at the intersection of Guffy Road and Clay Pike, just over thirteen acres. He states what the owners would like to do is subdivide two lots for single family homes and create a private drive. He also states the solicitor would have to review a Declaration of Covenant describing the ownership of the private road and they are responsible for the maintenance, not the Township, and would be recorded at the County Courthouse. The two conditions on the plan are the sewage planning and recording the declaration. Solicitor Dice states to put somewhere on the subdivision to say they agree the road will always remain private.

3) S-03-2022: Rhodin Enterprises

**Proposed subdivision on Industry Boulevard.*

Director Fonzi states this is a subdivision that was approved back in March where ExOne is on the industrial piece and thirty seven acres of residential properties and required sewage planning and is a plan revision for DEP.

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Zona states he wants to renew his call for the tax office to open and bring in their rental agreement for next month's meeting to bring them up to fare market value and raise the rent. This is a dis-service to the residents. Mike Turley states he looked into the tax rental agreement, other rental rates and contacted a commercial realtor who agreed that twelve to thirteen dollars per square foot is fair. Manager Faulk states the tax office has concerns with COVID, but residents

June 9, 2022

can knock on their door for assistance. Commissioner Wengrzyn adds the complaints from residents about poor customer service. Solicitor Dice states he would like to see a copy of the rental agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Zona

Motion to adjourn.

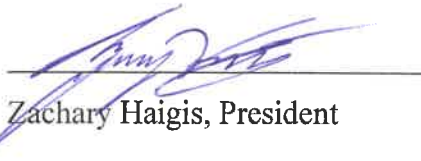
Second: Commissioner Wengrzyn

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0 (8:27 P.M.)

- Special Meeting minutes of June 9, 2022 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on July 20, 2022.



Harry R. Faulk, Township Secretary


Zachary Haigis, President

