

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 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 Teleconference
Commissioner Zona Present
Commissioner Bevan Present
Commissioner Gass Present
Commissioner Haigis Present

Also Present:
Jeffrey Silka
Mike Turley
Solicitor Dice
Ryan Fonzi
Chief Rizzo
Dan Miller
Rich Albert
Bob Robinson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS INPUT

There was no citizens input.

Work Sessions Discussion Topics

1) Trash / Recycling Bid Process

Assistant Manager Mike Turley states there are a lot of issues with garbage collection these days, some related to pandemic issues and other issues that are driving costs. He states a bid specification was put together with the collection service we have now for a four year agreement and fifth year option year. The industry is having a number of changes and moving towards automated system where special carts are used and will be paid for in an added monthly cost over the length of the contract. He states to expect increases in either service, manual or automated, and the senior sticker program will be kept. He states the bid information will be presented in September.

Commissioner Gass asks if the bids are sealed and when will the bids be opened.

Mike Turley states the bids are sealed and will be opened on September 2nd.

Commissioner Gass states so what that means is nobody knows who is bidding.

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Manager Silka states the bids are not due until September 2nd and are only two companies in this area that can bid, Waste Management and Republic, who are large enough to service the Township.

Commissioner Haigis states our current hauler came in under market value and clarifies their price was an eight to ten dollar difference from Waste Management.

Mike Turley states it varied from year to year, but roughly was five dollars per unit per month.

Commissioner Stump asks how much was County Hauling going to be come January 1st and secondly the senior citizens on the sticker program seem to get stuck with any leftover stickers.

Mike Turley states he believes the number for this year is \$16.95 and the other bidders were approximately \$22 to \$23 dollars. The senior sticker program is proven to be a little difficult for various reasons and some people were abusing the program by not using their stickers. There were some changes made for a minimum amount of stickers required to purchase of twenty four stickers per year and there were no provisions for returning stickers. Currently, for a \$1.89 per sticker you can put a bag of garbage out and also get recycling, household hazardous waste collection and yard waste and only required to buy twenty four stickers per year.

Commissioner Stump thanks Mike for explaining that and suggests posting a notice to use up all the stickers by the end of the year.

2) HVAC Bid Review

Manager Silka states two bids were received on July 28th from East West Manufacturing who was the low bid at seven hundred forty seven thousand dollars with RB Mechanical at eight hundred twenty seven thousand four hundred dollars. He states the engineer's estimate was nine hundred thousand to 1.1 million. Manager Silka states the current HVAC system is being recharged no less than every two weeks. He also states this is an approved use of the Rescue Act Funds because it improves air circulation in a public building. His recommendation is to place it on the agenda for consideration at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Gass asks what is the Township getting for seven hundred forty seven thousand dollars.

Manager Silka states what we are getting is a new chiller, air handlers, duct work and circulation chillers and proper controls. He states it is a new air conditioning and chilling system.

Commissioner Gass asks if there is a warranty. Manager Silka states there is a warranty for ten years on the parts. Commissioner Gass asks if there is warranty on the work. Manager Silka states there is a bond for eighteen months on the work.

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3) 2022 Budget Discussions (Expenditures)

Manager Silka states he asked all the Directors to be here tonight to answer any questions and discuss the 2022 budget. He states within the last five years all departments cut expenses. He will work to have the official budget presented in October. Manager Silka discusses each line item in each department.

Commissioner Gass asks what the fringe benefits for the police department are.

Manager Silka states this is healthcare, vision & dental, taxes, social security, etc.

Commissioner Zona asks what Professional Services are in the Planning & Zoning Department.

Manager Silka states this is for plan reviews.

Commissioner Stump asks if we could consider giving school crossing guards back to the school district.

Manager Silka states that would be a Board directive and there is nothing in code that says we have to provide school crossing guards.

Commissioner Zona states he believes originally when this started the Township was paying for the guards but the school would put money into local parks in return.

Manager Silka believes that started in the beginning but that program went away and the Township pays for the crossing guards with nothing in return from the school district.

Commissioner Zona suggests giving the guards back to the school.

Chief Rizzo states whenever there is a crossing guard call off, the sector car will cover the call offs. Commissioner Zona states then that is taking police off the roads.

Commissioner Stump asks what the necessity is for the crossing guards.

Chief Rizzo states Sergeant Kauffman runs the crossing guard detail and would defer to him with questions.

Commissioner Stump states the reason she asked about the necessity is because she sees some of the school buses pull over the double yellow line so nobody can pass them.

Commissioner Bevan adds there is also the unknown of what children are going to do. She feels crossing guards are necessary.

Commissioner Zona agrees and states they wear reflective vests and get out onto the road to stop the cars. He feels it is necessary in high traffic areas.

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Commissioner Gass states he agrees with Commissioner Stump in that he does not feel it should be a cost the Township should endure and the school district should be paying for it.

Commissioner Haigis agrees but suggests to tread lightly because if we put it back on the school district that number may increase twice and end up paying for it anyway. If the Township is paying for it, there is some sort of control.

Commissioner Gass states he does not feel it is right for the school district to put the financial burden on the Township and not get any reimbursement from the school.

Commissioner Atwood suggests asking the school district for half of the money.

Commissioner Zona states the Board can vote to send it back to the school, but that does not necessarily mean they will take it over and will have to talk to the school board to see if they are willing to take them over.

Manager Silka states the school district can eliminate positions.

Dept of Public Works: Manager Silka states gas and fuel for both the Public Works Dept and Police worry him some because we are one hundred percent dependent on commercial entities to give us fuel, so if all of the sudden Sheetz, GetGo and Marathon shut down, we have no fuel. He states for a fleet our size and to not have a fuel depot is something he feels needs to be looked at as a major capital investment to put fuel tanks and a fuel service system into the Public Works Facility.

Commissioner Gass suggests to get with the fuel companies and have a special pump with a special key. Manager Silka states we would still be dependent on commercial fuel, plus would have to provide keys to the fire departments, EMS, etc.

Commissioner Stump asks if there should be an infrastructure bill passed, could we take advantage of that somehow.

Manager Silka would say no because the infrastructure bill is to build new projects.

Commissioner Stump asks if it could be used for paving projects.

Manager Silka states he does not think it could be used for paving local roads.

Commissioner Gass asks Chief Rizzo in the police department budget why there are two line items for fringe benefits. Commissioner Haigis answers that one is for the dispatchers and the other for police officers.

Manager Silka states he was pleasantly surprised when double checking his facts, that at the end of July 2021, we are roughly seven hundred sixty eight thousand dollars ahead on the Capital Reserve Fund from last year.

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4) American Rescue Plan Act Funding Discussion

Manager Silka states the Township received their allocation of three million one hundred eighty thousand dollars with 1.6 million dollars in the bank and will receive the second payment in July 2022. He states he has been trying to find the rules on how to spend the money and is taking a very conservative approach on how to spend it because if you spend it outside the approved projects, you have to pay the money back. The EPA views for a stormwater project to have a public benefit would have to have a clean water component, so you could not pump stormwater into inlets unless you can make the water better than when it came in.

Commissioner Stump asks if it would be helpful in some of the flooded areas to install rain gardens.

Manager Silka states rain gardens are fine but not for the areas that have been flooded because rain gardens are for small areas.

Commissioner Stump asks if there is anything we could do with the runoff of the newer developments since we maintain the retention ponds.

Manager Silka states to take a look at SALDO and zoning ordinance. He states that we have to spend this money and can't put it into savings or invest it and have four years to obligate and spend the money. He states currently we have 1.6 million dollars in the bank and to fund the HVAC system will be seven hundred forty seven thousand dollars and will probably have a couple change orders simply because whenever you start ripping walls apart will find things that need repaired.

Commissioner Gass states with the HVAC system, the recommendation is to go with East West Manufacturing at seven hundred forty seven thousand dollars but we also paid McKim & Creed twenty six thousand dollars. He states he brings this up because he feels we should not spend seven hundred forty seven thousand dollars if they start opening up walls and finding more repairs and should assume the extra cost.

Manager Silka states the difference in an engineer giving you an estimate verses unforeseen circumstances on repairing a building once they start tearing into walls. He states you can't budget for something you don't know what's there.

Commissioner Gass states why can't we go through the solicitor's office to go after whoever did the original work.

Commissioner Haigis states we did that with the original company that did the HVAC, but the previous Board took a settlement. He states he was against that and didn't care what the money figure was and preferred to have the system fixed instead.

Commissioner Gass states he just does not want the expense to go back on the Township residents.

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Manager Silka states that is why the independent study was done and feels this Board did the judicial steps to protect the tax payers.

5) Consulting Engineer Discussion

Manager Silka states the Board met with the two finalists. There were no Board comments.

6) Guffey Road Speed Limit (Commissioner Atwood)

Commissioner Atwood states this was brought to his attention from a resident that lives on Joseph Street which is adjacent to the stop sign on Guffey Road. The speed limit is thirty five miles per hour and have since built a school and a dense residential section. He suggests lowering that section to twenty five miles per hour if not the entire road. He understands this is a State Road and there will be steps to go through but wanted to first bring it the Board. Commissioner Haigis states he does not have a problem exploring the option and maybe Chief Rizzo can put some speed signs and get some data as a good starting point.

7) Cohen & Associates – Comcast Agreement

Manager Silka states Cohen & Associates has since settled again with Comcast and agreed to pay for the Netflix, so we should receive almost thirty nine thousand dollars.

8) Police Car

Manager Silka states one of the new police cars was totaled and received a check for enough money to purchase a new one as soon as one is found on CoStars. He hopes to have a motion for next week.

PLANNING / ENGINEERING TOPICS:

1) S-11-2021: Tuscan Hills V & VI, R-2 Zoning

**Proposed major subdivision in the fifth and sixth phases in Tuscan Hills.*

Director Fonzi states this is an item that was discussed at the June work session. The Planning Commission approved it but the item of the cell tower in Phase VI was discussed and the developer had not accounted for a fall zone. There has been limited contact with the developer in regards to this but he just received an updated plan with a one hundred foot radius all around. Director Fonzi feels in his estimation cures this problem and he recommends the Board consider approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Alcohol in Parks

Manager Silka states at the last meeting was approved for publication and the ordinance will be on the agenda next week for consideration.

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FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

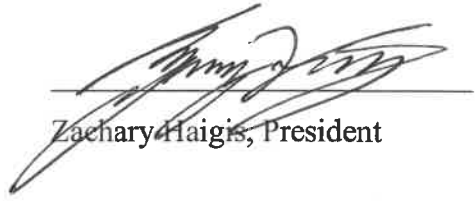
Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0 (8:32 P.M.)

- Special Meeting minutes of August 12, 2021 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on September 15, 2021.



Jeffrey Silka, Township Secretary
/jjm



Zachary Haigis, President

