

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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:  
Mike Turley  
Solicitor Dice  
Ryan Fonzi  
Chief Rizzo

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CITIZENS INPUT**

Rick Keenan – 700 Leger Road – thanks Commissioner Gass for coming over to work on the water problem that has lasted three years. He states he went to the State and spoke with people but got no response. He also spoke with the State Rep. He states there has been six days of ice on Leger Road and is a hazardous condition. Mr. Keenan also discusses the topic of prohibiting brake retarders and states he drove a truck and trucks run heavy and he would not like to see an accident occur by prohibiting them.

**RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT**

Commissioner Gass states he went to Leger Road and saw water coming out of the hillside thinking maybe it was a spring but when looking at the water noticed algae. He states the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County is going to further investigate.

**Work Sessions Discussion Topics**

- 1) **Authorization to advertise engine brake retarder prohibition on Route 30 between Malts Lane and Bethel Road.**

Mike Turley states PADot has standards for this and has reviewed and approved it with limitation on the westbound movement based on their criteria.

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**2) Appoint Matt Gracin Code IV Equipment Operator in the Public Works Department effective December 1, 2021.**

Motion: Commissioner Atwood  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

**3) HVAC - Update.**

Mike Turley states they began working a few weeks ago mainly in the roof area and completing the installation of the roof curbs and the gravity vents. Some of the upcoming work includes installation of chilled water pumps and accessories. The air handlers are supposed to ship tomorrow but have seen a lot of delays and issues with materials and shipping, so this could be delayed.

Commissioner Atwood asks if this is affecting anyone working in the building with heat or air quality. Mike Turley states there have been no affects.

Commissioner Blasko asks what the warranty or guarantee of the HVAC system is. Mike Turley states he will check into the warranty.

**4) Townhouse Security Camera Upgrade – Update.**

Mike Turley states this work was completed last week.

**5) Garbage Transition - Update.**

Mike Turley states in moving towards the end of the year, we are working with the current hauler to be wrapping up and taking their dumpsters and equipment out. Waste Management will be the new hauler with the automated service. Public communication has been sent out and the delivery of carts began this week and will continue throughout the month. Thirty thousand carts will be delivered and will be a substantial effort coordinating it.

Commissioner Gass asks Mike Turley to speak as to what the senior citizens should expect. He states they are concerned on the size of the cans and not being able to get them up gravel driveways.

Mike Turley states there are two programs for senior citizens either a sixty five gallon cart which is not difficult to wheel because of the size of the wheels. The other program is the bag program which is good value at five dollars per month for one bag weekly plus the recycling cart.

Commissioner Blasko asks if there are any changes on what can be recycled from County Hauling to Waste Management. Mike Turley states glass has been an issue for a few years and a dumpster was provided at the Public Works Department for County Hauling to collect the glass separately and then recycle it. He states Waste Management's system has a way to separate the glass and can be put out as single stream recycling.

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Commissioner Atwood states he has been getting feedback about oversized items or at times too much trash. Mike Turley states this will be an automated system and will need to have pick a size of cart that will work for you. Commissioner Atwood asks if any bags placed outside of the cart will be picked up. Mike Turley states if any bags are placed outside of the cart will not be picked up because that will defeat the purpose of automated collection.

Commissioner Stump states residents should still call if they have a large item such as a refrigerator or couch. Mike Turley states it used to be unlimited collection but with economic changes, rising costs, not having enough employees or drivers, bulk item collection will be one time per month during the second full week of each month.

Rick Keenan – 700 Leger Road – states the bag system requires the bag not be put in a can but his concern is animals getting into the bags. Waste Management told him the bag can be put in the can and to be sure to put the house number on the can. Mike Turley states he will follow up with Waste Management as there have been a number of discussions and some mis-information being told.

Commissioner Blasko asks there will be more information being sent to the residents. Mike Turley states yes, there will be more information sent out.

Commissioner Gass states with rising costs of everything, he asks Mike Turley to work with Waste Management to keep the five dollar bag program to help the senior citizens. Mike Turley states he has worked with Waste Management regarding the senior bag program which is such a value and is beneficial.

Commissioner Blasko asks if Waste Management is adequately staffed to handle the new routes. Mike Turley states Waste Management has told him yes, they are staffed.

#### **6) MS4 Stormwater Facility Maintenance.**

Mike Turley states recently some work has been started in the stormwater facilities owned by the Township. These facilities are required to work properly and residents should not be dumping grass clippings and yard waste in these facilities. He states this is State mandated.

#### **7) Sinc-Up Project Update.**

Mike Turley states this project moved slowly during the summer and he now has a final report with PADot approving it. He states he will give a more detailed briefing early next year and give a summary of what work will be done. Sinc-Up is a Synchronized Timing Program and equipment upgrade.

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**PLANNING / ENGINEERING TOPICS:**

\*\*There are no discussion topics.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Atwood states he has spoken with many residents about the possibility of opening a rec center. He knows it was discussed years ago, but a lot has changed in the community, so maybe the feasibility study can be reopened. Commissioner Gass asks how many acres would be needed because he has some information that he would like to share. Commissioner Atwood states he would like to look at the study to see what would be needed. Commissioner Stump suggests talking to the who is developing the senior complex behind the Norwin Library. She also states when discussed before, Excelsa was willing to donate the land plus a lot of people did not understand what a loan guarantee was and possibly is why the voters shut it down.

**FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Atwood apologizes to the Board, specifically Commissioner Gass and the residents for his outburst at last meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Commissioner Zona  
Second: Commissioner Blasko

Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0 (7:48 P.M.)

- Special Meeting minutes of December 9, 2021 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on January 19, 2022.

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Zachary Haigis, President

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Michael Turley, Interim Township Secretary  
/jjm