

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Commissioner Stump | Present | Also Present: |
| Commissioner Atwood | Present | Mike Turley |
| Commissioner Gray | Tele-conference | Solicitor Alexander |
| Commissioner Zona | Present | Chief Rizzo |
| Commissioner Wengrzyn | Present | Dan Miller |
| Commissioner Gass | Present | Ryan Fonzi |
| Commissioner Haigis | Present | Rich Albert |

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

CITIZENS INPUT

Tim Morgan – 2685 Scotch Hill #2 – states at mailbox 2300 (Joe Hill) the water runs off the hill plus mine water that runs in the same area creating large ice patches that go out onto the road making a dangerous situation. He is very concerned a bad accident is going to occur and needs fixed. He suggests the pipes probably need cleaned and would like someone to take a look at it.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

Rich Albert states he is aware of issues in this area and will inspect tomorrow. Commissioner Gass states he will also meet with them to inspect the area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve. (Reorganization Mtg 1/5/22)

Commissioner Atwood corrects an error with presiding officer. Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting 1/13/22)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve (Regular Meeting 1/19/22)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Wengrzyn

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

STAFF REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Rich Albert compliments the road crews for doing an outstanding job this year even with being down a few guys and also thanks the parks department for helping out too.

Commissioner Atwood states he got a call from a resident that was stuck on Timothy Drive during one of the recent snow storms and Eric Johnson who works for Public Works pulled his plow truck over and helped her push her car out. Commissioner Atwood gives Eric along with entire department thanks and appreciates what they do.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Dan Miller publicly acknowledges the resignation of William Loeffler on the Parks & Recreation Board. He states he served the Recreation Board for thirty+ years as a volunteer.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Rizzo states Chad Simon from #1 Cochran is present at the meeting and thanks him for the generous donation of nine thousand dollars to the police department. Chief Rizzo states the donation will be used for some investigative technology and additional equipment.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

ENGINEERING REPORT

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

There are no Board comments.

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SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

- 1) **S-01-2022: Thomas Farm Acres Revision 1, Guffey Road, R-2 Zoning**
**Action to accept a slight revision to Thomas Farm Acres development.*

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Alexander

There are no action items.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Action to approve the January check register.

Motion: Commissioner Stump
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 2) Budget Report – January 2022 Report.

- 3) Action to approve a resolution amending the 2022 Budget.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 4) Motion to approve the resignation of William Loeffler from the Recreation Board.

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner Atwood

So moved with regret.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 5) Motion to approve Joint Tortfeasor Release with Walter Geiger in the amount of \$5,500.00.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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- 6) Motion to hire and extend a conditional offer to Troy Pecina to the vacant position of probationary police officer as identified by MPOETC and Act 57 of 2020 and shall undergo a physical and psychological medical examination.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 7) Motion to hire and extend a conditional offer to Erik Birk to the vacant position of probationary police officer as identified by MPOETC and Act 57 of 2020 and shall undergo a physical and psychological medical examination.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Wengrzyn

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 8) Motion to purchase 2022 Ford Police Interceptor AWD from Laurel Auto Group for \$34,055.00.

Motion: Commissioner Wengrzyn
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Atwood asks if this is the lowest bid on COSTARS. Mike Turley states it is the lowest bid.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 9) Motion to purchase 2022 Ford F-150 Police Responder Pursuit from Laurel Auto Group for \$37,345.00.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Stump

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Atwood asks if this is the appropriate vehicle and lowest bid. Chief Rizzo states it is the lowest bid.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 10) Motion to approve the Cooperative Drug Enforcement Agreement with the Office of the Attorney General.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Wengrzyn

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Gray thanks Chief Rizzo for the discussion and explanation of the program and the agreement. He states he was very transparent about it and points out that he is correct in what he said about being permitted to discuss the terms of employment and conditions in executive session however the discussion was not the original issue to him and was that there was never any public

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action to approve the agreement. Commissioner Gray asks Solicitor Alexander if he is correct in stating that discussion can be had in private but action has to be in public. Solicitor Alexander states generally action has to be in public on any contract but subsequent ratification cures any violation of the Sunshine Law. Commissioner Gray states this should have happened in December and in January, but it didn't, and to him is a failure of leadership. Commissioner Zona states this contract does not cost the Township one penny and not spending any money. This service is free to the Township. Commissioner Gray states it is still a legal agreement that has to be voted on in public. Commissioner Zona states he takes offense to the idea that the Sunshine Law was violated, he does not feel it was, and that the Board did what they did in good faith and listened to the solicitor. Commissioner Stump agrees with Commissioner Zona and states when the Board is in executive session, they rely on guidance from the solicitor as to what is Sunshine Law and what isn't and feels the Board went by how they were guided.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 11) Motion to approve the \$6.00 monthly cost for extra recycling carts consistent with the extra trash cart service under the Waste Management contract.

Commissioner Stump states a smaller container is being provided and recycling generally provides an income stream to the garbage company and she would like to see the amount lowered to four dollars instead of six dollars. She states that would require an addendum to the contract. Mike Turley states this would need to be discussed with Waste Management. Commissioner Stump states there are a lot of constituents that are upset over the increased garbage fee and was out of our control. Commissioner Haigis agrees with Commissioner Stump and should try to encourage people to recycle and see if Waste Management would agree to four dollars for the extra recycling cart. Mike Turley states the Board has valid concerns and will speak with Waste Management.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

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

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2022 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on March 16, 2022.

Zachary Haigis, President

Michael Turley, Interim Township Manager
/jjm

