

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642  
Presiding Officer – Tony Martino, President, Board of Commissioners**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Martino called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Herold	Present	Also Present:
Commissioner Haigis	Absent	John Shepherd
Commissioner Bertani	Present	Michael Turley
Commissioner Gray	Present	Solicitor Bruce Dice
Commissioner Faccenda	Present	Chief Andrew Lisiecki
Commissioner Kucera	Present	Dan Miller
Commissioner Martino	Present	Rich Albert

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer was given by Monsignor Paul Fitzmaurice from St. Agnes Church.

**CITIZENS' INPUT**

**Alan DeMarchi** – Radcliffe Circle, North Huntingdon. Mr. DeMarchi states he lives in Lily Brooke across from Indian Lake Park and right next to Mr. Plank's farm. He has already contacted Josh (Code Enforcement) and former Commissioner Brian West. He states that most of the Summer and all of the Fall, there is a kid that rides a motorcycle on the farm that is really loud and a big disturbance especially when he brings his friends. The bike is so loud that he cannot have a conversation outside and the bike is 200 yards away. Mr. DeMarchi says he's tried to talk to Mr. Plank who is 88 years old but he doesn't seem concerned. Mr. West told Mr. DeMarchi that he had prior complaints from Falcon Ridge and Ipnar Road about bikes riding on Township property, but this is private property. Mr. DeMarchi understands there is not a noise ordinance in the Township but do have Ordinances for barking dogs. Mr. DeMarchi asks that whatever is done to address this issue to apply common sense. He doesn't want to get caught up in how many decibals, whether he has permission or if the bike is legal. The bike is a disturbance. He would be interested in what happened when the people on Ipnar and Falcon Ridge brought this up.

**January 20, 2016**

**Kim Giansante** ó 560 Cedar Glenn Drive. Ms. Giansante thanks for the Board for all the hard work they do and is very proud of the Township, Parks and Police Department. She is speaking on behalf of the Cedar Glenn neighborhood which consists of Cedar Glenn Drive, Kingfred Drive and Garden Center Court. She understands those roads are on the schedule at some point to be resurfaced however she is requesting it be done this year. The roads are in horrible condition. She has lived there for 24 years and roads have never been resurfaced. She feels it would be more cost effective to resurface instead of being patched. The patched sections only last approximately two months when alot of time, effort and money is spent to continue to patch the roads. With the lower cost of oil and gas, would it not affect the resurfacing materials? She respectfully requests that Cedar Glen be on this year's schedule.

**Tim Turner** – 2025 Tomco Lane. Mr. Turner also appreciates everything the Board does and the Road Department. He has been here four to five times and again tonight to ask that something be done with Tomco Lane. Patchwork no longer does anything especially on the lower part of the road. It continues to get worse and has natural erosion with the runoff from the hillside. He is asking to consider looking at the road again and do something to improve the condition of the road. The road is tarred and chipped and was done approximately twelve to thirteen years ago. The upper part of the road is good, it's the lower half is really bad.

**Sue Weber** – 540 Kingfred Drive. She especially wants to thank the police. She really feels secure in the Township. She has lived in her home for twenty two years and agrees with Kim that nothing has been done with their neighborhood. Currently five homes are for sale and unfortunately when buyers come to walk on the street, they can either fall or trip, break an ankle, the dog gets stuck and the stormdrains are in terrible condition. Garden Center Court and the entry to Norwin High School where all the young drivers run the stop sign. It's very frustrating because they run the stop sign at Kingfred and Cedar Glenn. The storm drain in front of her address needs repaired. All the patches are lifting. You will ruin the bottom of your vehicle coming down Kingfred. She also states there are no street lights for safety, the only lights are the pole lights. The streets are pitch black except for some landscape lighting. There is also a very large ice patch by Circleville VFD.

### **RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT**

Commissioner Martino thanks the citizens for coming to speak. Regarding the road program, that topic is scheduled for discussion later in the meeting. If the Board agrees, to discuss at that time.

The Board agrees to discuss that topic later in the meeting.

Rich Albert states that he will have the road department go out tomorrow to inspect some of the inlets in Cedar Glenn. If any inlet is an unsafe condition, a barrier will be placed over it so no one gets hurt. Mr. Albert also addresses that there were several water lines breaks in the area and the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County is aware.

**January 20, 2016**

Chief Lisiecki states there were several water line breaks over the weekend and because of the cold temperatures, are going to have a lot of icy areas.

Commissioner Martino addresses Mr. DeMarchis about the motorcycle being loud on Mr. Painter's property and asks if the Board has any comments.

Chief Lisiecki states he agrees that the Ipnar Road motorcycle incident was something different because they were riding around on Township property. The police department has purchased two undercover dirt bikes to send Officers through the Township Parks in the summertime to catch the riders. As for people riding on private property, the issue was brought up last year by a woman with a small yard. Not only was it noisy, but the dirt was an issue and they couldn't even sit on their back porch. Chief Lisiecki states that unfortunately, but when it's a private property matter, there is not much the Police can do from a legal standpoint. If the Commissioners would want to entertain a noise Ordinance but then decibal levels would need to be set, purchasing decibal meters to check the levels, then you can't site until the meters are there, etc. The solicitor would be able to comment on whether there is a Constitutional issue because it's private property.

Mr. DeMarchis states he has given thought to those comments, but it's also not the bike rider's Constitutional Rights to make everyone else miserable.

Manager Shepherd responds that the Board has discussed this numerous times in the past, they understood the concerns but didn't feel comfortable enacting an Ordinance. He states he has seen it done in other communities that restrict ATV's and motorcycles but it's something the Board may want to research further.

Commissioner Faccenda asks Solicitor Dice that there are some communities that use acreage and size of land as an issue to stop motorcycles and ATV's, especially in a residential area. Can an Ordinance be put together like that.

Solicitor Dice states he'll look into it, but have to understand there is still your own private property right to complain. You can levy an action against somebody if they're interfering with property or right to live there, but the question is do you want to embark down this road of beginning to regulate noise? Solicitor Dice will also look into banning motorcycles in a residential area. If you're going to base it on noise, then expensive equipment is going to need to be ordered and training and then becomes a question of enforcement. Another thing that may work is if the Chief went down and spoke with the property owner and let him know there are complaints about the riding. Solicitor Dice will look into whether dirt bikes can be regulated in an area such as residential zone.

**January 20, 2016**

Mr. DeMarchis ask Solicitor Dice what would be his next step as he does not want to go through another summer with this issue.

Solicitor Dice states his next step is to wait and see what the Township can resolve.

Commissioner Gray states this is not a new complaint but a new location. In his area, he had this complaint for eighteen years. There was a double lot on Ridge Road that kids would ride continuously for approximately three years. The same discussion was had about noise and dirt. Complaints about the noise level of Circleville VFD whereas a decibal meter was used and a question of what you can regulate and finally found it was very difficult to enforce. Unfortunately common sense is not enforceable.

Mr. DeMarchis asks why nothing can be done to stop him.

Solicitor Dice states that nothing can stop you from enforcing that. Sometimes Government doesn't have a place in private property matters. He recommends Mr. DeMarchis try to talk to Mr. Painter first.

Chief Lisiecki asks Mr. DeMarchis for the address of Mr. Painter. Mr. DeMarchis didn't have it, so Chief Lisiecki asks to call the Police station one he has it.

Commissioner Herold asks Mr. DeMarchis if Mr. Painter knows they are riding on his property. Mr. DeMarchis states he is aware.

Manager Shepherd addresses Mrs. Weber about the street lights and states that there are some plans that have streetlights but are paid for by the residents, so if her and her neighbors have an interest in streetlights, there is a form / petition available. Allegheny Power puts the streetlights up and there is a cost to them but is billed as a tax.

Commissioner Gray states on Hi Ridge Drive, the neighbors took a petition of whoever was in favor of it. It was very easy to do and the residents are happy with it.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Commissioner Herold  
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting ó 12/10/15)

Motion Carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

**January 20, 2016**

Motion: Commissioner Herold      Motion to approve (Regular Meeting ó 12/16/15)  
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion Carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

Commissioner Faccenda states the three new Commissioners cannot vote on the minutes as they were not on the Board at that time.

Solicitor Dice states they are able vote if you read the minutes, you can disagree. It's not like when you approve these minutes that you are necessarily agreeing with everything rather approving them saying that is what was done whether agreed or not.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion: Commissioner Herold      I make a motion we pay Voucher No. 71540 through  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda      Voucher No. 71614.

Motion Carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Commissioner Herold asks how the salt is.

Rich Albert states the salt is in good condition.

Commissioner Herold thanks the Road Department for doing a good job.

Commissioner Kucera asks about the run off on Church Drive and how they milled the gutter. He noticed on Ormsby Drive there are two areas that will be repaired in the Spring but currently are areas where ice is coming out onto the road about three feet, so maybe Road Department can look at those areas.

Rich Albert states this is normal for this time of the year with water runoff and icy conditions.

Commissioner Kucera says he understands that but haven't had this problem until the sewage project. Same on Marven Drive and St Clair.

Commissioner Faccenda states runoff situation off of Clay Pike at Buttermilk Hollow Drive forming large icing condition.

**January 20, 2016**

**PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT**

Commissioner Faccenda thank Dan Miller, Chief Lisiecki and staff for the quick action at Hilltop Park.

Dan Miller summarizes that a resident complaint regarding some issues at Hilltop Park with hunting and ATV's. It was discussed at the Staff Meeting and resolved with Chief Lisiecki and Mr. Miller to initiate an Operations Team to investigate. The areas were found and the Pennsylvania Game Commission was called and took action and the Police took action on the ATV's.

Commissioner Faccenda states it was a good job and good coordination with the Chief and the Police Department. He also states that Dan's call to the resident was very much appreciated. He asks if doing a better job on posting more signs in the Parks would help.

Mr. Miller responds that he doesn't feel you can ever post enough signs.

Chief Lisiecki comments that the more signs you post, they just get torn down.

No further Board comments.

**POLICE REPORT**

Commissioner Kucera states that quite a few drug busts were made and with all the hype in the papers about Narcan and the drug problem in Westmoreland County that he's glad to see the amount of drugs taken off the road. Approximately, \$785,000.00 worth of drugs were taken. Good job to the guys.

Chief Lisiecki states about the work they are doing with the Drug Task Force and suggested to Detective Youngstead and the others that are part of that team to start logging the amounts so they can see what is being taken.

No further Board comments.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

No Board Comments.

**January 20, 2016**

**PLANNING AND ENGINEERING REPORT**

**FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT**

- No Board comments

**SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT**

Mr. Blenko reports there are no action items tonight. Mr. Blenko states there is a year-end report provided to the Board and just wanted to point out that in 2015 had eighty five new houses verses eighty six in 2014. It seems that the activity level has dropped but it has not. There have not been a lot a new plans come in and realistically will not be any new Lincoln Hills. Tuscan Hills will have 250 homes but Mr. Blenko expects in the years forward will see the numbers drop for single family homes. There was no Planning Commission in January but several things in the pipeline upcoming.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Bruce Dice**

There are no action items for this evening.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1) Action to approve the December check register.

Motion: Commissioner Herold                      Motion to approve.  
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion carried 6 6 0 6 0

- 2) Budget Report 6 December 2015 Report.

- 3) Action to appoint Bill Chapman to a four year term on the Planning Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Herold                      Motion to approve.  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 6 6 0 6 0

**January 20, 2016**

- 4) Action to appoint Stephen Cross to a four year term on the Planning Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Gray                      So moved.  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

- 5) Action to appoint Theodore Wawrzyniak to a five year term on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani                      Motion to approve.  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

- 6) Action to appoint Charles Gilbert to a five year term on the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority.

Motion: Commissioner Herold                      Motion to approve.  
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

- 7) Action to appoint Melanie Harris to a five year term on the Recreation Board.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani                      Motion to approve.  
Second: Commissioner Herold

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

- 8) Action to appoint Kristin Bavolek to a five year term on the Recreation Board.

Motion: Commissioner Herold                      Motion to approve.  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

- 9) Action to appoint Daniel Wensel to the Recreation Board to fulfill the unexpired term ending on December 31, 2019.

Motion: Commissioner Gray                      So moved.  
Second: Commissioner Kucera

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

**January 20, 2016**

10) Action to appoint Gene Komondor as the Emergency Management Coordinator with a term expiring December 31, 2019.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

So moved.

Second: Commissioner Kucera

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

11) Action to appoint the following members to the Emergency Management Committee with a term expiring December 31, 2019.

- Mitch Astalos
- Rod Mahinske
- Harry Pawluk
- Rich Matason
- Jack Boylan
- Byron Handra

Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

12) Action to appoint Manmohan Chabey to Civil Service Commission alternate with a term ending January 20, 2022.

Motion: Commissioner Herold

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

13) Action to appoint Paul Dumnich to Civil Service Commission alternate to fulfill an unexpired term ending on April 20, 2016.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissiner Faccenda

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

**January 20, 2016**

14) Action to hire Shane Steel as a Public Works Department Truck Driver / Laborer at a starting wage of \$23.00. This action is contingent upon pre-employment physical and drug screening.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

So moved.

Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

15) 2016 Road Paving Program ó discussion.

Manager Shepherd introduces Bob Robinson, a consulting engineer with KLH Engineers who provides assistance when preparing the road paving program, does all the bid specifications, and makes sure the Township follows all the legal requirements because of the size of the bid. He also makes sure to follow all of PADot's requirements because a significant amount of the funding for this program comes through PADot. Mr. Robinson has a lot of experience and is here tonight to answer any questions about the road program. Manager Shepherd says the program is open for discussion. There are two pieces to the program, one is the road paving program and also alternative treatment program which is a fiber mat program on various rural areas. Last year was Scotch Hill Road and Timothy Road and Barner Hill Road. Included in the information provided by Mr. Shepherd is a timetable on bidding and on what Mr. Robinson would like to do. The concept is to get moving and getting out earlier than later. There is a lot of work to be done by Public Works to get the roads prepared and drains fixed.

Commissioner Gray addresses Mr. Turner and Tomco Lane. This has been an issue and has been an ongoing issue over the years. The upper part of the road is in pretty good condition that it's the lower part that needs repaired. A portion of the road is actually in White Oak Borough.

Manager Shepherd states it is more than the dirt turn around that's in White Oak. He says if the Township gets involved, then need to speak with the Solicitor and the engineer. The ownership and part that is not in the Township is very confusing.

Commissioner Gray states that at one point talked about having an agreement with White Oak to work out an arrangement to maintain it.

Manager Shepherd states it is a sticky situation. It's confusing and Bruce Dice was not our solicitor at that time. Usually the Township does not own and maintain roads in other communities. There are some roads that the Township owns a portion of. This year talking about doing Aspen and a road out in Rillton, but will only do the part that the Township owns.

Solicitor Dice asks if there is an Ordinance that accepts the roadways.

Manager Shepherd states there is an Ordinance but it is in another community.

**January 20, 2016**

Solicitor Dice asks if the part that is in another community passed an Ordinance to take care of.

Manager Shepherd states another Board did pass an Ordinance and is not certain they knew what they were doing. The portion of that road that is in North Huntingdon could be a candidate for the alternative treatment program. Recommends Mr. Robinson look at it.

Solicitor Dice asks the Board if they are in agreement for Mr. Robinson to look at that portion of the road.

The Board agrees.

Solicitor Dice asks what other roads were mentioned (Cedar Glenn, Kingfred, and Garden Center Court). He asks if they are on the list.

Manager Shepherd says the only road that is on the list is Cedar Glenn Drive.

Commissioner Faccenda states that Kingfred is on there for 2017.

Assistant Manager Michael Turley states they are aware of both of those roads and are on the five year plan. There are a lot of other streets that are rated D or F also in Ward 6. Those roads are tentatively set for next year but relooking at the five year plan.

Commissioner Herold address Ms. Giansante and Ms. Weber saying Kingfred Drive is terrible and all the roads in Cedar Glenn need repaved.

Commissioner Martino asks Mr. Turley if he can re-evaluate Kingfred Drive.

Manager Shepherd states the problem is timing. He feels the Board can take more time and meet again but his recommendation is to get moving on this. Maybe it can be included as an alternative. Mr. Robinson will give a detailed analysis of pricing.

Commissioner Martino agrees that having the pricing in front of the Board will help make that decision.

Motion: Commissioner Herold makes a motion \$500,000.00 be added to the paving program. We have the money and can get a lot more paving done since the price of oil is down.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda seconds the motion.

Commissioner Martino states that item is not on the agenda and asks the public if they have any questions on that motion.

Solicitor Dice states the initial motion should be to add that item to the agenda.

**January 20, 2016**

Motion: Commissioner Herold  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

To add the said item to the agenda.

Commissioner Faccenda states he's driven every road in Ward 6 and Ward 6 has some serious road issues. He asks Mr. Turley if Old Trail Road is on for next year.

Mr. Turley states yes, Old Trail is on for next year. This project is a water line project and are developing an agreement with the Water Authority which is a \$200,000.00 project. He would estimate Cedar Glenn and Kingfred would be at least in the \$150,000.00 range.

Commissioner Faccenda states he is looking at the price of oil. That could save some money and this is the opportunity to upgrade and increase some road work. The streets in Cedar Glenn need done.

Mr. Turley states there are lots of streets, particularly in Ward 6 and Ward 1, that need done. The planning exercise a few years ago was to get a better handle what the long term demands were for the road program and to be budget. Is a million dollars per year enough to catch up? All the streets and funding will be evaluated. At the end of 2014, there were about seven million dollars worth of roads in D or F deteriorated or poor condition, it will take approximately 1.3 million dollars to do the D or F streets not including C rated streets. The exercise gives an understanding of what the burden is and what the cost is and how long it's going to take to complete.

Mr. Robinson comments on the cost in 2016. He spoke with several contractors about the bidding and what they are looking at from this years versus last year and the contractors feel it will be about the same with the cost of oil going down. The bidding will be very competitive.

Commissioner Martino states he has a motion and a second to add the increase to the agenda for discussion purposes.

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

Commissioner Martino states this subject is now open to the public.

Kim Giansante states she has a question regarding the exercise that you've gone through the planning and is wondering if there is something that shows once a road reaches a certain age it is evaluated or is it just based on the condition of the road. Is there a method to evaluate our entire road system?

Manager Shepherd states that age can be a criteria but it really isn't. It's mainly the condition of the road and traffic volume.

Mr. Turley states that volume is also considered because the date shows heavily traveled road will deteriorate.

**January 20, 2016**

Commissioner Herold asks Mr. Blenko and Rich Albert about the drainage in Cedar Glenn. Does it need updated or are there any gas or sewer lines going in?

Mr. Blenko states he cannot speak for the gas lines. All the drainage in Cedar Glenn runs down to a valley that is between Kingfred and Cedar Glenn Drive. Both roads have a high side and a low side and when the road has a high side, ground water is getting underneath the road accelerating the deterioration of the road.

Commissioner Herold asks on the high side of the road, couldn't drainage rock be put there so it doesn't go underneath the road?

Mr. Blenko states there should have been an underdrain when the road was built.

Mr. Albert states that is part of their preparation for paving to evaluate the road and any upgrades needed prior to paving, drainage or base repair, is done prior to paving. Mr. Albert states he would like the Board to take into consideration if they are planning on approving the additional funding that there is a lot of work in getting the list prepared for them this evening. Every year for the last few years, the paving program has been increased a few hundred thousand dollars and to increase it right now, \$500,000.00, will require to start over from the beginning. The paving program will almost be doubled from last year. The letter to proceed to the contractor was sent the end of July and the paving was barely completed by the end of the year. The contractor had ninety days to complete the program and it was finished mid to the end of October. Mr. Albert states that is the reason they wanted to have something to present early to the Board for approval so they could start sooner. A one million dollar paving program is a considerable amount of work to get the roads prepared for a million dollars worth of paving. At this point, if the increase of \$500,000.00 is approved the letter to proceed was given ninety days last year but a new contractor would need to be given one hundred twenty days.

Mr. Robinson feels seventy five days should work with a million dollar project. Should be ready July 1<sup>st</sup>. Roads should still be able to get done late September or early October.

Mr. Albert states that before the decision is made to increase \$500,000.00, there is going to be a lot more work for Public Works Department and more time to go back to revise the list of streets which will push back the program not allowing enough time to get the roads prepared. This program is almost double than it was last year.

Commissioner Herold states they can work overtime in order to get the roads done.

Commissioner Faccenda asks Mr. Albert if they worked overtime last year.

Mr. Albert states not very much. The program two years back was more overtime.

Commissioner Faccenda states the program used and the amount of time put in it, is excellent, but that is not the conditions of the roads. The conditions of the roads call for an increase and to give better service to the roads. We got caught and need to try to catch up.

**January 20, 2016**

Commissioner Bertani states that as far as adding roads to the plan, Mr. Shepherd provided the five year road program which lays out the plan over five years. If money was added to the program this year, could roads be moved up that are supposed to be in 2017 and get them done in 2016.

Commissioner Herold states that if there are no major drainage work other than repairing inlets, then there shouldn't be that much extra work. If they have to work overtime to get them caught up, then so be it. Residents deserve nice roads and we need to do everything on our part to make sure that happens.

Manager Shepherd responds to Commissioner Bertani that he agrees with him. There are roads that could be fit in. Roads come on, roads come off. Old Trail is on and is a \$190,000.00 project. That wasn't scheduled for 2016, but now it is.

Mr. Turley states the road survey was used for that purpose.

Commissioner Faccenda states he doesn't think it's any fault of anyone here. He just feels we got caught. He feels every community deals with the same thing, but as the roads increase every year, we have to come to a point where we try to catch up. Roads are still being built. If Rich and his crew cannot get the work done, what is the difference if the Board looks at the schedule, divide all the roads into Sectors. Maybe he does Sector One first, then tell the pavers.

Manager Shepherd states that is not how it's done. The entire program is turned over to the contractor. Bob and Rich are very good at knowing the logistics on how to do it and have done it for a lot of years. Manager Shepherd states that Rich's main concern is can they get it done. He is very familiar with the roads and knows what kind of work would be involved. Some roads were taken off because of significant drainage issues or easements and the amount of work involved.

Ms. Weber states that when Cedar Glenn Drive was repaired last year, the road lifted up approximately two feet. The road was patched and she states she can pick pieces of asphalt off that patch and feels money was wasted doing a patch. There are four large patches of asphalt that can be picked up.

Manager Shepherd states he has concerns and if they are planning on doing any work in Cedar Glenn that the engineer look at because if there are other problems there, it may not be ready to go this year. Scotch Hill Road was done last year which was possibly the worst road in the Township and a lot of time was spent on how to repair the road. Ardara Road will be done this year. If there are other issue on a road, that needs to be looked at first, so he recommends to be careful adding roads.

Commissioner Gray states this is not a new problem or a new discussion, but a new location. Commissioner Faccenda stated several times that the Township got caught. The Township did not get caught and this has been an issue for many years. At one point, Andy stated at the rate we were going years ago, we would only pave a road every fifty years and all agreed on that

## January 20, 2016

as to why the road assessment program was created spending a lot of time so the roads could be analyzed. Commissioner Gray states that the Township doesn't want to pave a road every fifteen years just because it's been fifteen years. At one time, the Board took the paving money and split it seven ways choosing what roads to be paved themselves. There was barely an engineer involved and the Public Work Director was also barely involved. The Board now knows where the problems are and where the money needs to go. He feels the program established needs a little bit of time to work and let the professionals make the decisions. Is \$500,000.00 enough? Let the professionals staff, engineers, and consultant analyze everything, put together a needs based program and proceed that way.

Commissioner Herold states that one third of the money used for paving is to mill the road, it's not solely paving. He still feels the budget should be increased \$500,000.00.

Commissioner Gray states that is a good point about the millings. Years ago, the roads were not even milled and created a lot of drainage issues. A lot of progress has been made over the years, but he feels a \$500,000.00 increase is a mistake at this point.

Manager Shepherd states if the Board votes to increase \$500,000.00, we will need direction. Can this decision be delayed a month to spend more time and talk about it in February and put it out for bid in March? Mr. Robinson wanted to get it done in advance but he can answer that.

Mr. Robinson states they wanted to receive bids by March 10<sup>th</sup> and to make recommendation at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, but the sooner the better for better pricing.

Manager Shepherd states one thing we can do is to email it to everyone telling what we have and the Board can get back. It just wouldn't be in a meeting setting, unless the Board wants a special meeting at the end of January.

Solicitor Dice suggests to not use emails. It should be discussed in public.

Manager Shepherd states alternates are on the plan and more can be added but keep in mind that the alternate program cannot be just picked an alternate. PADot wants them chosen in order. The roads are ranked in importance.

Mr. Robinson states that if the Board waited until February 17<sup>th</sup> to make their decision, the bids would be delayed until April to have sufficient time.

Manager Shepherd asks if a special meeting was held at the end of January.

Mr. Robinson states that would work and will give enough time.

Commissioner Bertani asks if it will give enough time for the analysis.

Manager Shepherd states it will give enough time.

**January 20, 2017**

Commissioner Martino asks adding \$500,000.00 to the road program, why if a bad road is an alternate, why can't it go to the top?

Manager Shepherd states it's because of the budget amount. If you look at the base-bid, the base-bid for this program without the alternates is \$1,056, 575.50. That is above the budget. The budget for this year is \$1,000,020.00. His opinion is it is close enough, maybe a bit over, but can sustain that. His goal is to get the estimated base-bid close to the budget amount. The alternates are added in because maybe Mr. Robinson's numbers are high, the contractor is getting you a great price, so the alternates can be added. The base price is already approximately \$35,000.00 over budget. The base repair is an estimated number.

Manager Shepherd recommends voting on adding the additional \$500,000.00 instead of going out and adding roads if you're not adding the money. If the majority is not in favor of adding money, does it make sense for Mr. Robinson, Mr. Turley, Rich Albert and himself to spend a lot of time if the money isn't added?

Motion: Commissioner Herold Makes the motion to add \$500,000.00 to the paving budget.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion: Commissioner Gray Makes a motion to table the action until Zach Haigis is present and gives his input.

Commissioner Herold states he is not in favor of withdrawing his motion.

Solicitor Dice states the motion on the table needs a second. If it doesn't get one, it fails.

Motion on the floor to add the \$500,000.00 ó discussion.

Motion 5 ó 1 ó 0

Roll Call:

Commissioner Herold ó YES  
Commissioner Bertani ó YES  
Commissioner Gray ó NO  
Commissioner Faccenda ó YES  
Commissioner Kucera ó YES  
Commissioner Martino ó YES

Motion carried 5 ó 1 ó 0

**January 20, 2016**

Manager Shepherd recommends at this point for the staff to go back and look at the additional roads to be included with additional funding and to schedule an additional meeting. That will help to get it done in time for Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Turley asks if the \$500,000.00 is in addition to the one million, so a total of 1.5 million.

Commissioner Herold asks Mr. Robinson if crack sealing will be included in the program.

Mr. Robinson agrees that it is very important to include.

Manager Shepherd asks the Board if they are comfortable in determining their next meeting date. It's possible, for Mr. Robinson to say if the information can be to him by February 3<sup>rd</sup>, that's fine.

Commissioner Martino states to let Mr. Robinson do his job, get back with Mr. Shepherd, then decide the meeting date.

Commissioner Gray asks if you are going to approve \$500,000.00, then what roads are going to be looked at or will certain roads be looked at and moved to the top of the list?

Commissioner Bertani states to leave it up to the experts who are doing the analysis. Maybe Cedar Glenn is not one that we can do and do it right, this year, but maybe there are some roads that can added that will be done correctly.

Commissioner Gray states he agrees completely but is there enough time to look at all the roads? How are they going to know what roads to look at?

Commissioner Bertani feels to work off of the five year plan because those roads have already been looked at and move some of those roads to 2016.

Manager Shepherd states to look at 2017 and maybe 2018.

Commissioner Bertani states he also feels you also have to base it on how much prep work is involved to get the roads ready.

Commissioner Herold asks Mr. Turley if he checks with the utilities before the roads get paved to make sure they don't have any plans.

Mr. Turley responds their programs change also.

Mr. Shepherd states water lines are one the biggest concerns even more than gas.

Mr. Robinson states every utility will receive a letter stating what the Township is going to be doing to eliminate any conflicts.

**January 20, 2015**

Manager Shepherd states there is good direction on the road program and asks if there are any questions on the alternative treatment program? It's a smaller program, approximately \$100,000.00. It's the fiber mat program being used on a few streets in Rillton that are overlooked.

Commissioner Herold states the fiber mat held up well and was impressed with that program.

Commissioner Kucera asks if fiber mat was used on Marven Drive.

Manager Shepherd states no and the only place fiber mat was used on Barner Hill Road, Scotch Hill, Rice Lane and Timothy Road. Ardara Road will be done over the course of a few years.

16) W.W.M.A. Building Permit Fee Request ó discussion.

Manager Shepherd states some representatives from WWMA are present to discuss this topic. Kevin Fisher, the General Manager of WWMA and also Brad Boddy, the consulting engineer. Andy Blenko, the Township Consulting Engineer, put together some recommendations. He also has background on waste water and can explain his thoughts on building permit requests.

Commissioner Martino asks if there are any questions from the Board.

Mr. Blenko states the basis of their requests is that there is a lot of work in their contract which is not specifically related to the erection of a building. It's site work, underground piping, manholes, water lines, grading, grubbing, and erosion control measures, etc. They also point out that an awful lot of their equipment is fabricated off-site. You buy a \$400,000.00 variable speed pump, brought in on a truck, it comes off with a fork lift, it gets uncrated, bolted into place, piped in and hooked up electrically. Their point is the cost of the pump, the actual piece of machinery isn't something that is inspected. In his memo, he likened it to somebody that builds a new home and goes out to an appliance store to purchase a refrigerator, a washer and dryer, microwave which are things that are part of the final home but not part of the construction cost. In the past, reductions in building permit fees were not granted. The building permit fee based on their bids would be \$191,625.00 based on the rate of \$7.50 per thousand dollars of cost. WWMA would like the Board to consider that rather than a twenty five and a half million dollar project when you back out the equipment and site work, that brings the total contract value down to twelve million dollars and would cut their building permit fee down to half to \$90,528.00. That being said, it would still be the largest fee ever collected. Mr. Blenko looked at ExpressScripts, WalMart, Excelsa Health and the Hampton Inn and none of those were under \$100,000.00 in building permit fees.

Manager Shepherd states he believes the school projects were, but that's going back a few years.

Commissioner Martino asks if the Board has any comments.

Kevin Fisher, the General Manager of WWMA, states the purpose of the project was mandated by the Department of Environmental of Protection under a consent order that the Authority

agreed to back in 2011. The purpose of that was to eliminate illegal sewage discharges from not only at the plant but also at the interceptor. The Authority owns and operates approximately eight and a half miles of main interceptor from the Brush Creek Plant to the east up through Manor towards Harrison City and also up Paintertown Road. The second part of the project is to expand service. The raw sewage bypasses were in part caused by excessive inflow and infiltration. The project description involves a forty five million gallon pump station. Mr. Fisher continues with his presentation of this project. This project will begin by March 16<sup>th</sup> with completion of mid-November 2018. The cost of the first phase of the project is 25.55 million in just construction costs. Phase two is replacing approximately five miles of main interceptor. Phase three of the project is to replace approximately three and a half miles of interceptor. In all, they are looking at a total project cost of fifty to fifty five million dollars. The consent order requires them to be complete by the end of 2020.

Commissioner Gray asks if the rate payers will be affected and understands there will be two rate increases.

Mr. Fisher gives an overview of how they are slowly going to increase the rates \$2.50 twice this year.

Commissioner Gray states they have done some very efficient funding strategies on behalf of the rate payers, but the bottom line is there will be two increases this year of \$2.50, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Commissioner Gray states the point he is trying to make is through the meeting he has attended at WWMA and DEP, this project is going to be very expensive and will affect all the rate payers. It is \$2.50 twice this year and even though not all of North Huntingdon's sewage flows into WWMA, that rate is passed onto our Sewage Authority and then spread over all the residents of North Huntingdon. This is something that will go on for a long time. These types of rate increases can be anticipated for some time.

Mr. Fisher states that right now they should be good through 2016 and 2017. No rate increases should occur until 2018 depending on the funding of Phase Two.

Manager Shepherd asks if the Board has interest in taking action of this subject.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Makes a motion to accept Mr. Blenko's recommendation memo dated January 19, 2016.

Commissioner Kucera asks Mr. Blenko that the sticking point is what he feels it is going to cost for the inspections compared to what they feel.

Mr. Blenko states he is trying to come up with he feels is a fair basis of what the true total dollar value is of the building that will be inspected and use the standard rate of \$7.50 per thousand dollars of contract value.

Commissioner Kucera states the WWMA looking to go half the fee and Mr. Blenko feels it should be a little more.

## January 20, 2016

Mr. Blenko states he feels a reasonable compromise would be one hundred thousand dollars which is somewhere between the two contract dollar amounts.

Solicitor Dice states that Commissioner Gray's motion is to accept the Terms and Conditions of Mr. Blenko's memo dated January 19, 2016.

Second. Dave Herold

Solicitor Dice states this is an unusual situation to the extent of waiving what is traditionally a larger fee. The justification is this is a quasi-legislative agency in charge of rate making for the tax payers, so we're talking about tax payer dollars versus tax payer rates. There is certainly some justification if you choose to accept Mr. Blenko's memorandum to reduce the fee and the fact is the tax payers are ultimately the ones who are paying this because they don't have any other money other than tax payer rates that they can use to offset this. For the future, any developer that is doing for a private industry doesn't think the Township will consider waiving rates.

Motion carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

### FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

There are no further Board comments.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Discount ski tickets are available for sale at the Township Administration Office for Seven Springs and Hidden Valley. Please call the office for details on ski times and rates.
- 2) North Huntingdon Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a "Family Fun Snowman Contest" beginning with the first snow in December and ending on February 28, 2015. Photos can be submitted by mail, hand delivery to the Town House or emailed to [dmiller@nhtpa.us](mailto:dmiller@nhtpa.us). Categories are "Biggest Snowman", "Funniest Snowman" or "Norwin Community Spirit".
- 3) Westmoreland Cleanways is sponsoring a live Christmas tree recycling drop-off at the Public Works Building every Saturday and Sunday in January from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Please be sure to remove all decorations and tree bags before disposing.
- 4) The AARP Tax Aide will be available starting every Tuesday and Thursday on February 2, 2016 from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

\*\* The Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session on Thursday, January 14, 2016 to discuss Volunteer Board Appointments and Public Works Department hiring.

**January 20, 2016**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Commissioner Gray  
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to adjourn. (9:21 P.M.)

Motion Carried 6 ó 0 ó 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Martino, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary  
/jjm