

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 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	Harry Faulk
Commissioner Gray	Present	Solicitor Alexander
Commissioner Zona	Present	Mike Turley
Commissioner Wengrzyn	Present	Ryan Fonzi
Commissioner Gass	Present	Chief Rizzo
Commissioner Haigis	Present	Rich Albert

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

CITIZENS INPUT

Melissa Karaban – 1417 Willow Heights Drive – states she would like to discuss the Board’s decision to not waive the roof inspection fee for Norwin School District. She gives statistics about the school district’s rankings and are among the top districts. She asks why fees have been waived for other government entities in the past.

Bob Morgan – 871 Northeast Drive – thanks the Board, Manger Faulk, Dan Miller, and Dept of Public Works for drainage work that was done on his street.

Lynn Clark – 11479 Drop Road – thanks Rich for work done on her street and mailbox. Secondly, she addresses speeding on McKee Road and how dangerous it is. She states she teaches free water aerobics classes for senior citizens, but there are many more programs offered for seniors through the school district and asks the Board to consider that when making the final decision on the building permit fee.

Rick Keenan – 700 Leger Road – states he would like to have more information on the addendum to the Waste Management contract on the senior citizen bag program. He states animals continue to tear open the bags and is a constant problem.

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RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

Commissioner Stump responds to the Norwin building fee issue and states the Township employees have to be trained and engineers have to be paid to do commercial inspections. The school district sued the Township, at one time, over the crossing guards and now the Township pays for the cost of the crossing guards for twenty two thousand dollars, but in return the residents of the Township were to get use of the pool, adult continuing education and recreation. She states tonight she heard of free classes that were offered but the only classes she knows of were classes being offered at a cost. Commissioner Gray states he finds problematic that there is no line item budget and nobody questioned the integrity as far as an audit. Secondly, he states the cost of the street sweeper is approximately three hundred thousand dollars and the Township also has bills to pay. Thirdly, he states, more importantly, he voted to not waive the permit fee was because of the resident outcry from people who were not associated with the school district, were not employees or teachers, just regular taxpayers who were concerned. Commissioner Gass states he agrees with Commissioner Gray and too heard from residents who were upset about waiving the permit fee. Commissioner Haigis states he originally was in favor of waiving the fee but after hearing some other Board comments had second thoughts, but more importantly not one person from the school board or district publicly came to speak at any of the meetings. Commissioner Wengrzyn states she was the only one that voted to waive the permit fee and still stands behind her vote. She feels it is very important to try to keep personal feelings out of it and not play political sides. Commissioner Zona states he received calls on both sides but the majority approved the Boards decision to not waive the fees. Secondly, he feels this is not political at all and the school district failed to provide a line item budget. He would consider changing his vote if he could see what the school district is spending their money on. Commissioner Atwood states his decision was based on one thing and that was the cost of the fee divided by the tax base.

Commissioner Haigis asks Chief Rizzo if patrols could be sent to McKee Road. Chief Rizzo states he is going to that area to inspect and will contact Ms. Clark. Mike Turley states this area was inspected and there is adequate sight distance.

Commissioner Haigis states the Waste Management Addendum is on the agenda and will be discussed at that time, but in short, residents on the senior bag program will have the option to get a thirty two gallon container for an upcharge of \$2.50 to put their bag in.

Commissioner Haigis states a letter was sent to the Board from Jane Brosnyak from Roth Drive with concerns about her neighbor that has backyard chickens that was approved by the Board. He states she reported odor from the property and that it is an eyesore.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting 7/14/22)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

Motion: Commissioner Gass
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve (Regular Meeting 7/20/22)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

Commissioner Atwood requests a change under the Township Managers Report, item #3, where there was a motion by Commissioner Stump, seconded by Commissioner Zona, for the tax office rent change. He states this item was tabled and not approved.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion to approve as changed.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Stump states she has asked Manager Faulk to check on voucher no. 15227 for air conditioning not working properly in the amount of one thousand five hundred forty four dollars since this involves the new system.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

STAFF REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Commissioner Gray asks Rich Albert if Bob Robinson has any input concerning Lynch Drive. Rich Albert states he and Bob Robinson did an inspection and he should have a report to send.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Commissioner Zona asks how many high grass accounts there are as Dan Miller has said that it takes up a lot of time of mowing. Director Fonzi estimates between two or three dozen depending on the year or bank owned properties.

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POLICE REPORT

Chief Rizzo states during the critical incident in the Camelot Plan, he commends the citizens who opened up their houses to the officers and brought food the police station and he thanks them for the community support. He also states how proud he is of the officers and their bravery they displayed that day and professionalism.

Commissioner Atwood adds this incident happened in his neighborhood and states he never felt unsafe in his home knowing all the officers involved and how efficient everything worked and nobody got hurt.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

ENGINEERING REPORT

FIRE OFFICIAL’S REPORT

There are no Board comments.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

1) S-14-2022: Sulava Plan I

**Action to approve a subdivision on State Route 30 for a billboard.*

Motion: Commissioner Wengrzyn

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

2) S-15-2022: Legends III Revision 4

**Action to approve a consolidation in the Legends Plan.*

Motion: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

3) S-16-2022: Willow Estates I Revision 5

**Action to approve a consolidation and boundary line revision on Yorkshire Drive.*

Motion: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Gass

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Alexander

- 1) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 5 of 2022 of the Township of North Huntingdon, Westmoreland County, accepting the dedication to public use certain roads known as Augusta Circle and Elliot Lane in the Legends Phase III.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Action to approve the July check register.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
Second: Commissioner Zona

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 - 0 – 0

- 2) Budget Report – July 2022 Report.

- 3) Action to approve Resolution No. 126 of 2022 authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Environmental Planning & Design to develop the 2023 Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$59,710.00 and Authorize the Township Manager to sign all needed documents.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Commissioner Gass states he is against this. Commissioner Stump asks how old is the existing comprehensive plan is. Manager Faulk states the current plan was approved in 2000 and has to be updated by State Code every ten years. Commissioner Stump states the purpose of the comprehensive plan is for the Board of Commissioners is to make their decisions based on that plan which is the desire of the citizens and based on the presentation, would be in favor of the plan. Commissioner Wengrzyn asks if more quotes were received. Manager Faulk states the proposal was sent to three or four different agencies and also publicized it. Commissioner Stump asks what was the highest bid. Manager Faulk states the highest bid was ninety seven thousand dollars. Commissioner Stump states the bid to be voted on is reasonable. Commissioner Zona agrees and states the Township is required to do this. Commissioner Atwood asks if anyone has approached Irwin and North Irwin about splitting the cost making it a group effort. Manager Faulk states if the Board chooses to, can make a motion to direct him to talk to the other boroughs. Commissioner Haigis states he would be comfortable with that and could offer Irwin and North Irwin be a part of the discussions but would not be in favor in doing one general comp plan. He also states doing this inhouse would not work with the current staffing levels.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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- 4) Action to approve Resolution No. 127 of 2022, authorizing an Application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program for the 2023 Comprehensive Plan Project and authorize the Township Manager to sign all needed documents.

Motion: Commissioner Stump Motion to approve.
 Second: Commissioner Zona

Manager Faulk explains that after this is authorized, he will submit an application to the DCED on behalf of the municipality to apply for fifty percent of the funding and also send letters of support to State Representatives and State Senator.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 5) Action to advertise and accept letters of interest to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Motion: Commissioner Zona Motion to approve.
 Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 6) Action to approve the Addendum to the contract with Waste Management for Residential Solid Waste / Recycling to modify the Senior Bag Program.

Motion: Commissioner Zona Motion to approve.
 Second: Commissioner Atwood

Commissioner Gass states representatives from Waste Management were at the meeting and discussed the addendum to offer cans for residents having issues with animals getting into their garbage for an additional \$2.50 per month for a thirty two gallon can.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 7) Action to appoint Bob Morgan and Dan Kohrnak to the Recreation Advisory Board with terms ending December 31 2021 and December 31, 2022, respectfully.

Motion: Commissioner Wengryzn Motion corrects the dates to December 2027 and
 December 2022

Motion: Commissioner Atwood
 Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 8) Action to advertise and accept letters of interest to serve on the Code Hearing Board.

Motion: Commissioner Zona Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Gass
 Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

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- 9) Action to terminate services with Remington & Vernick Engineers, serving as the Consulting Engineer effective September 1, 2022.

Motion: Commissioner Stump
Second: Commissioner Atwood

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 10) Action to award the Mickanin Storm Sewer Improvements to JP Operations Inc., in the amount of \$258,320.00.

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Zona comments for the tax collector to open her office window up.

Commissioner Atwood recognizes the passing of Mike Faccenda.

Commissioner Stump states that if residents still want to use the senior bag program for five dollars per month can still do so.

Commissioner Gass states a dangerous tree that was on Stewartsville Elementary property hanging over Ward Drive has been resolved.


ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Zona
Second: Commissioner Gray

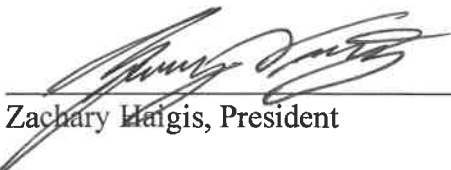
Motion to adjourn. (8:07 P.M.)

Motion carried 7 – 0 – 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2022 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on September 21, 2022.



Harry R. Faulk, Township Manager
/jjm



Zachary Haigis, President

