

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Herold	Present	Also Present:
Commissioner Haigis	Present	John Shepherd
Commissioner Bertani	Present	Michael Turley
Commissioner Gray	Present	Solicitor Craig Alexander
Commissioner Faccenda	Present	Andrew Blenko
Commissioner Kucera	Present	Rich Albert
Commissioner Martino	Present	Chief Lisiecki
		Dan Miller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Brenda Barnes from New Hope Presbyterian Church.

CITIZENS' INPUT

1. Amy Johnson ó 8583 Delaware Avenue ó wants to thank Commissioner Herold, Commissioner Faccenda, Commissioner Bertani and Dan Miller to obtain the lacrosse field for the Spring and Fall seasons.
2. Kimberly Silvis ó 14101 Ardara Road ó states it has been brought to her attention a question concerning the current Chief of Police and the staffing of him. For insubordinate officers in the police department, if it is found that their conduct is not becoming and training is not sufficient to do their job, training is sought out for them. Ms. Silvis asks that the Board also employ additional training if they are not satisfied with the effects of the current Chief and seek out training that he too can attend. There are several entities that provide training.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

There is no Board response.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Haigis
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve. (Special Meeting ó 8/11/16)

Motion Carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Bertani
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve (Regular Meeting ó 8/17/16)

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Haigis
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve (Strategic Planning Meeting ó 8/24/16)

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Commissioner Haigis
Second: Commissioner Bertani

I make a motion we pay Voucher No. 72808 through
Voucher No. 72896.

Motion Carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Commissioner Herold asks how the salt building is coming.

Mr. Albert responds the salt shed is completed and everything went well even with a few obstacles to overcome. The size of the building will hold twenty five hundred tons but the building was raised a bit higher to be able to hold more material along with making it easier for trucks to dump underneath. Mr. Albert also states the 2016 paving program has been completed. The alternative surface, fiber matting, has been completed. The only remaining is the grip tight / sealing.

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Commissioner Bertani states he has received a complaint from a resident on Robert Street about the speed on that road during school hours. He would like to look into the feasibility of speed humps. Also, the speed limit in that residential area is twenty five miles per hour where most housing plans are twenty miles per hour.

Manager Shepherd states years ago, in various locations, significant research was spent on speed humps. There are positives, but also negatives that go with the speed humps and at that time did not make sense for the Township. They traveled to Mt. Lebanon where some roads had them and found that residents were not happy with them. They stated cars would speed between the humps and are also noisy when cars go over them.

Commissioner Bertani states he can talk to the residents in that area to get their thoughts before any action would be taken. There may be other means to control the speeding.

Chief Lisiecki states a citizen in that area complained about the school buses speeding. He states they went down to place the vascar lines and also place the speed sign. He reports another street where there were complaints of speeding, they found vehicles were all within the ten mile per hour limit. He recalls the Lincoln Hills debate where they wanted speed humps and the guidelines from the State were that you cannot use them to slow down speed along with all the warrants about vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic, number of accidents, etc that wouldn't meet the criteria.

Commissioner Kucera states rumble strips were used in other communities but residents complained about the noise.

No further Board comments.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Dan Miller reports the memorial park bench for Warren Gardner at Braddocks Trail Park in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and two local scout troops, is now in progress and should be completed by the end of October.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Lisiecki addresses Ms. Silvis regarding the training of the police department. He states the department is very well trained. All the supervisors are required to go to training and the field training officers attend a field training class. The officers go through multiple classes as long as the budget allows for it.

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

There are no Board comments.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING REPORT

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

There are no Board comments.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

1) S-11-2016: Brook Haven Plan Phase III & IV, Morris Avenue / Durst Rd / Timothy Road, R-3 & 4 Zoning

Action to adopt a Resolution to subdivide a plan to create 27 single-family lots on Durst Road and Timothy Road.

Motion: Commissioner Herold

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

2) S-12-2016: Adam & Carley Painter Plan, Southhampton Drive, R-3 Zoning

Action to adopt a Resolution for a minor subdivision located on a 3.219 acre parcel at 2261 Mickanin Road.

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

3) Huntingdon Marketplace: Sewage Planning Modules

Action to adopt a Resolution to approve sewage planning modules for the Huntingdon Marketplace subdivision / site plan.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Craig Alexander

There are no action items to report.

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Action to approve the August check register.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis
Second: Commissioner Herold

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

- 2) Budget Report 6 August 2016 Report.

- 3) Mark Turnley presentation of the 2015 audit.

Mr. Turnley is at the meeting to briefly present the 2015 Audit Report. He provided the Board with a packet of the report.

- 4) Action to waive the building permit fee for Shafton Volunteer Fire Department in accordance with the letter on July 28, 2016.

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner Haigis

So moved.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

- 5) Action to accept the Right-of-Way dedication from Mark and Kelli Huss in accordance with the agreement dated September 15, 2016.

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

- 6) Action to approve the Westmoreland County Transit Authority agreement for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Motion: Commissioner Herold
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

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- 7) Action to approve the agreement with Hoffman Animal Control, Inc. beginning January 1, 2017.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani
Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

- 8) Action to approve the CDBG application for 2018.

Manager Shepherd states before the Board approves this application, they will need to prioritize the two projects being the sanitary sewer lateral replacement program and the ADA improvements at the Town House.

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to approve the application with the sewer laterals being the priority.

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

- 9) Action to set the date for Halloween Trick or Treat on Monday, October 31, 2016 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner Bertani

So moved.

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

- 10) Action to adopt the Strategic Plan 2016 ó Connected To The Future.

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to approve.

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

- 11) Police Department old canine vehicles ó discussion.

Manager Shepherd states the Board needs to decide whether to keep the vehicles in the fleet and continue to use them for a few more years or sell them outright or trade.

Commissioner Gray recalls two options of either keeping them in the fleet as per the Chief's recommendation or to sell them.

Manager Shepherd states he put the option to trade the vehicles as another option to consider which may be the best financially to trade them.

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Commissioner Gray states his preference would be to put the vehicles back into the fleet to save wear and tear on the other vehicles, but financially may be better to trade them in because they are not in bad shape.

Chief Lisiecki states the vehicles are in good shape with under fifty thousand miles on them. One of the concerns from Commissioner Martino was the odor in the car from canines, so Chief stated he could bring one of the cars up for them to inspect. He states the department gets on average fifty five hundred to six thousand dollars per vehicle when traded verses on Municibid getting around forty five hundred to five thousand dollars.

Mr. Turley states vehicles sold on Municibid had sixty to seventy thousand miles on them and got approximately thirty five hundred dollars to four thousand dollars. He states Municibid is an auction but he would expect to get four thousand dollars or so.

Chief Lisiecki reiterates the reason to do this is because with five officers on two steady shifts, in keeping those vehicles in service would have better rotation of the vehicles. The new vehicles purchased will be six cylinder instead eight cylinders which will also save on gas. For every mile on a police car, you have to put three to four miles, because a lot of the time is spent idling. By putting the vehicles back into the rotation and getting them more use, would be able to buy less vehicles per year and more use out of each vehicle.

Commissioner Gray states that out of three options, the best option would be to keep them in the fleet.

Commissioner Haigis states at last meeting, he was in favor of keeping them in the fleet to not buy as many cars every year. He states he is still in favor of keeping the cars.

Commissioner Kucera states keeping the cars especially going into budget. As far as the smell, the two officers that used the last canine vehicles, would not put up with an odor. Also, if an officer had allergies, they would not be forced to use the vehicle.

Chief Lisiecki states that is correct and there are four other vehicles that could be used.

Commissioner Martino states he still wants to get rid of the cars.

Manager Shepherd states if the Board is looking from an economic standpoint and plan to keep the vehicles for a few years, then it seems to make sense to keep the cars rather than getting more vehicles.

Commissioner Gray states the economic side of this is exactly what the taxpayers would like to see.

Chief Lisiecki clarifies that this may take a year or two to get the full rotation. After that first or second year, instead of buying two to three cars, would probably be looking at buying one to two, plus every car would get a twelve hour break.

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Commissioner Haigis states he is in favor of keeping the cars.

Motion: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to keep both cars and put them back in service.

Second: Commissioner Gray

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Herold ó NO

Commissioner Haigis ó YES

Commissioner Bertani ó YES

Commissioner Gray - YES

Commissioner Faccenda ó YES

Commissioner Kucera ó YES

Commissioner Martino ó NO

Motion carried 5 ó 2 ó 0

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to amend the agenda to include discussion and possible action regarding the Township's employment agreement with the Chief of Police.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Herold ó YES

Commissioner Haigis ó NO

Commissioner Bertani ó YES

Commissioner Gray ó NO

Commissioner Faccenda ó YES

Commissioner Kucera ó NO

Commissioner Martino ó YES

Motion carried 4 ó 3 ó 0

Commissioner Martino states at this point it is added to the agenda as a new item and there will be citizen's input.

There is no citizen's input.

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Commissioner Bertani states when he came into office eight months ago, he came in with the attitude to look, listen and learn and from that make assessments, decisions and judgements. In the past eight months, based on what he experienced and witnessed, he does not believe the current Chief of Police is the best fit for the Township nor does he believe he is the leader to take the police department into the future.

Commissioner Gray states he disagrees with everything just said.

Commissioner Haigis asks if Commissioner Bertani has any factual based reasons why he feels that way and he would like to hear them.

Commissioner Bertani states he does, but is not going to get into a debate.

Commissioner Haigis states it is not a debate, but holding Commissioner Bertani responsible for his position and the residents that came to hear his opinion tonight should hear what it is and why he has that opinion.

Commissioner Herold states Commissioner Bertani does not have to share it if he doesn't want to.

Commissioner Haigis states he owes it to the residents.

Commissioner Kucera states he hasn't shared it with the entire Board.

Chief Lisiecki states Commissioner Bertani owes his explanation to him being that he has been on the Board eight months and only spoken to Chief once in Executive Session and sent him two emails.

Commissioner Haigis states he would like to know the reasons of why Commissioner Bertani feels that way and the residents have the right to hold him accountable.

Commissioner Bertani states because of the kangaroo court he's seen held and the debates the Board has gotten it to, that it's not worth him putting it out there right now. He states it will come out in litigation and he will hold his cards until then.

Commissioner Kucera states it will be a lot of the Township's money in litigation and needs to tell the Chief what he feels he did wrong. Those reasons were not even shared with the entire Board.

Commissioner Bertani states this is his decision and his decision alone.

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Commissioner Bertani asks the Chief in 2014, he made a comment whenever another officer was dismissed that his continuing actions led to a division among members of the department and have led to serious morale problems that he alone cannot fix. Commissioner Bertani states the Board did their part, but what has the Chief done to fix that divide, because from where he sits and what he sees, there is still a divide in the department and he believes it is even worse.

Chief Lisiecki states he disagrees and thinks the divide in the department is caused by certain members of the Board allowing certain members, specifically military members, allowing them to come to the Board with all their complaints and issues. Those members have caused the divide in the department. When one member has issues with another member and voice their opinion outside the department, that is not for the Chief to address. If there is any name calling or issues within the department while they're working, that is the time for the Chief to act and will act as Chief. Chief Lisiecki states when he made that comment, that particular officer caused the divide. The divide that is down there now, has nothing to do with the Chief, it has to do with the military officers getting what they think they deserve and the Chief's support and backing of the Township in that they are getting everything they are entitled to plus more according to local, state, and federal law. This discussion was had before and Commissioner Bertani told Chief Lisiecki that he went to an officer and asked him his version of events when he was going to be disciplined and Chief states he told Commissioner Bertani that he would not fault him or any member of the Board for doing that, but also asked Commissioner Bertani to come to him also. There are two sides to every story. Chief states Commissioner Bertani is speaking to officers and individuals but never addressed the issue with him. That is not a good leadership quality. Chief Lisiecki states his integrity and ethics are not for sale. If he believes something is wrong, he will say it is wrong or if he believes something is right, he will say it is right, until he is proven wrong. The issues are not with the Chief, it is with individual officers wanting more because they think they are special quality people who believe they have the votes of the majority of the Board. Nobody should be allowed to speak directly to a Commissioner without going through the chain of command. By not following the chain of command and Commissioners dealing directly with individuals are causing the divide and chaos in the department.

Commissioner Haigis echoes those statements stating the Board just went through a Strategic Planning session and everything is to go through the Township Manager. Commissioners should not interact with employees on personnel matters and the Board agreed to that statement, however there is a group of Board members that interact with Township employees rather often.

Commissioner Gray states he recalls Commissioner Bertani getting on the Board and mentioning his military service and how he is a firm believer of chain of command and yet has violated it multiple times. There have been several discussions about meeting with the military members and Commissioner Bertani surpassed not only the chain of command but also the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Like the Chief says, the Board cannot give the military officers something they shouldn't.

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Commissioner Haigis states when the Board decided to have the meeting in public, it was decided that Commissioner Martino, the Solicitor, and Manager Shepherd. Then he receives an email stating that Commissioner Herold and Commissioner Bertani attended the meeting.

Commissioner Herold states he asked to be at the meeting.

Commissioner Bertani states he was asked to be there.

Commissioner Gray states the Board agreed that Commissioner Martino would get them a report after the meeting and have yet to get the report from August 29, 2016.

Commissioner Herold states military people are special people putting their lives on the line every day.

Commissioner Gray states and so does every police officer in this department.

Commissioner Haigis asks Commissioner Martino why Commissioners Herold and Bertani attended the meeting.

Commissioner Martino states he asked them to be there.

Commissioner Gray states that is not relevant. The relevant point is in the chain of command and the Township structure, the Manager should handle these things. Commissioner Martino has afforded the courtesy to go to the meeting because he is the Board President, but it's the individual Commissioners that start lobbying for one side or another that caused the divide the Chief is talking about.

Commissioner Bertani states he was asked to be at the meeting and was asked by Commissioner Martino because of his background with USERRA and House Bill #88.

Commissioner Kucera states he has been through six chiefs. No matter what Chief was there, there was always division. When Chief Lisiecki came to the department, he added discipline. A lot of officers weren't real happy with that. Chief added business checks and two traffic stops. Then the Board got involved and decided there will be no more minimum traffic stops. Commissioner Kucera states that cannot happen, that's why we have Manager Shepherd and should be going through him. He states unless someone can show him there are improper things being done, he is not looking to spend six to seven figures in the lawsuit just to replace him.

Commissioner Herold states then they'll spend six to seven figures in the discrimination suit the Veterans are going to file against the Township.

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Commissioner Kucera states he did not say that and Commissioner Herold continues to bring the military in to this.

Commissioner Bertani asks Chief Lisiecki if he thinks there is a drug problem in the Township. Chief Lisiecki responds yes. Commissioner Bertani then states after the August 10, 2016 meeting at the school, he got an ear-beating from his son's peers' parents about the Chief not knowing what drugs are an issue in this Township.

Chief Lisiecki responds that obviously Commissioner Bertani's peers' parents never spoke with him directly. He states that he regularly attends the Reality Tour where they give a presentation on the drugs within the Community. They also go to the ninth grade orientation and give a presentation to the parents on what to recognize so they have a thorough knowledge.

Commissioner Bertani asks so there was no reason for those parents to beat his ear over it.

Chief Lisiecki states he has no clue who these parents are being as they never spoke with him about it.

Commissioner Bertani states he'll go a step further in stating that Detective Sage and Detective Youngstead were at the meeting. (Both Detectives are present at this meeting). Commissioner Bertani states the Chief gave a presentation on what to look for and a slideshow presentation putting up a picture of cocaine explaining to the parents what it was. He states the Chief proceeded to say that he does not believe the Township has a problem with cocaine at which time he turned to the Detectives and they both were shaking their heads yes. After that, Chief put a picture of crystal meth stating the same thing.

Chief Lisiecki responds that is not correct and that the Detectives were shaking their heads agreeing with the Chief. Right now, the Township's biggest problem is heroin. He states Commissioner Bertani completely misunderstood what he said.

Motion: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to terminate the Township employment agreement of May 25, 2012 with the Chief of Police under Section 4 Paragraph 2 of the agreement effective immediately.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

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CITIZENS INPUT

1. Otis DiCerbo ó 442 Butterfield Drive ó states he completely disagrees with what the Board is saying about the Chief not knowing what the drug problem is. He states this guy gives so much time with the Reality Tour. He works all day, then comes to the tours at night to speak with the kids and parents and community members. He again states that he completely disagrees and thanks the Chief saying his heart is in the right place for the kids, families and Township. Mr. DiCerbo states he is the chairman for the Norwin Youth Commission who work with kids that get in trouble. When Chief Lisiecki first started, he was very busy and Mr. DiCerbo invited him to their first meeting in which Chief Lisiecki did attend the meeting and completely supported the Norwin Youth Commission. So from a citizen's perspective, they see someone who is doing his job, who cares, and trying to run a good police force, so the thing that is divisive are the Commissioners. The Commissioners are divisive. The Norwin School Directors are getting things done because they work together as a team and they are cooperative with each other. Mr. DiCerbo states he sees personal vendettas and political things happening that is causing our Township to move backwards instead of forward. This division started three or four years ago. We have to work together as a team because residents are noticing. Mr. DiCerbo thanks the Chief for coming to his meeting, attending the Reality Tour and states the drug accusation is completely wrong. He states Chief's heart is in the right place.
2. Regina Davis ó 9941 Buckingham Place ó states the first thing she would like to address is that our military are very special people putting their lives on the line every single day and so do our police officers, every single day. Everything that is going on in the world today, when they walk out of their house, they don't know what they're walking in to. As far as Commissioner Bertani's information goes on the Chief's knowledge on drugs, he could not be more wrong. Five years ago, she was introduced to a program called the Reality Tour. She went to one of the North Huntingdon Police Officers who is no longer with the force, and asked him for help and he looked at her just like Commissioner Bertani is without an expression on his face and made her feel so uncomfortable. Ms. Davis states when she first met Chief Lisiecki he told her whatever he can do to get this program off the ground, they'll do it. In the beginning of the program, Chief Lisiecki, Officer Bouldin, and Detective Youngstead came every single month plus a uniformed officer. Ms. Davis states she came to the Township to thank the police department for all their help to the Community and the Reality Tour. At that time, she extended an invitation to the Board to attend the Reality Tour and to her knowledge, not one of them did or ever attended. Chief Lisiecki presents to children and parents what the real problems are. There is no police officer more dedicated to this program than Chief Lisiecki, Officer Bouldin, Detective Youngstead and also Tom Harris, Dave Sage, Jay McCurdy and retired Officer Kucera, so for Commissioner Bertani to say he does not have an idea of what the drug issues are, she feels he needs to go back and question the person he's talking to. Lastly she states that she agrees with Mr. DiCerbo that the division is with the Board and for some Commissioners

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to blatantly put their vendettas in front of the Community, should be ashamed of themselves.

3. Megan Shaffer ó 2091 Guffey Road ó states the one thing she noticed this evening is that some people in the department don't like Chief Lisiecki. She states she has been a supervisor for twenty years of her career and she is not always well liked either, but it's part of being a supervisor. You can't please everybody and when there are new rules and changes that come to a department, someone is not going to like the new rules. You can't do away with someone's job because he's not liked by certain people. You have to have concrete evidence of what he did wrong whether it's something illegal, or something not tolerable but just because someone doesn't like their boss, you can't do away with their job. That's part of being a supervisor.
4. Rich Sanoksi ó 8064 Pennsylvania Avenue ó states he has lived here all his life and has attended meetings way in the past. He made a living here because it's a great community, but as he goes forth, it is a shame to see how the Board is divided. Just like any job, any occupation, you do it for the cause of the people not for personal agendas. And he feels there is a lot of that going on with this Board. Some meetings, the Board fought amongst each other over a vote. This Community is getting very divided by the people because of this Board. He states the Board is here to be a positive influence on the Community. As far as the drug thing, there is great exposure in the Community about the drug situation. He states he is the Chairman of the Board for the Norwin Chamber and have great respect for the Community but the divide on the Board is terrible. He states to quit the divide and work for the people of the Community, not individuals.
5. Susan Casper ó 423 Fairwood Drive ó states she understands everyone wants the Board to be in agreement all the time and you will discuss and disagree but she wants to hear from the four Commissioners that want to get rid of Chief Lisiecki and hear their reasons for it. This is his livelihood and he too deserves to know as well as the citizens that voted them in.
6. Melissa Faccenda ó 711 Kimlyn Avenue ó states she was at the orientation at the high school and was quite embarrassed when the Chief spoke about his lack of understanding of the cocaine and crystal meth problem in the Township. Whether it's a problem or not, the issue she had and the friends she was with had, was his lack of confidence, understanding and knowing what the issues are in having to look at other officers to talk about what those issues are. Furthermore, the friends she was with had no idea who he was. They attend a lot of community events through the Parks Department and have never seen him there. Ms. Faccenda states she supports Commissioner Bertani's approach on how things went at the high school.

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7. Anthony Marks ó 1001 Neighbors Lane ó states he is not a resident but owns two buildings and property in the Township. He states we don't have a case of malfeasance, we don't have a case of misfeasance, we don't even have a case of nonfeasance, and yet going to terminate a position which most likely will result in litigation for the Township at an extreme cost purely because an interpretation of an officer's facial gestures and a disagreement on the priorities or existence of a drug program. He states he's a little confused and asks if this is the grounds of termination. Is this the grounds that we are now going to engage in massive litigation. He states he is a business owner and served on two municipal authorities and multiple governments for twenty years, gentlemen you are opening this Township up for yet another costly affair. Whether you like the man or not, all he can say is this will not stand the mustard and we will all pay significantly because of this action. As a taxpayer, he feels we should at least have some malfeasance, some nonfeasance, or some misfeasance other than interpretations of whether officers shook their heads up and down or side to side. He states he really feels there should be some serious consideration into this other than just interpretation.

8. Bob Shuster ó 11801 Guffy Rillton Road ó states he has been a resident for seventy one years. He states he has seen six or more police chiefs and could evaluate them all, they were all good. This man (Chief Lisiecki) is better. Not because he does things a different way, he goes after these drug problems. Mr. Shuster gives an example of the road patrols that are constant plus the night patrols. He says he had thousands of dollars stolen from his sites. The police are out there. He had a problem on one of his sites and called the police to come over. It took three minutes for the first car to get there and four minutes for the second and was stopped immediately. He states the talk about military and chain of command of which this Board does not follow but need to follow it. Why wouldn't any one of the Board members take the time and go down to talk to him or go through Manager Shepherd. He states the Board is making a big witch hunt out of this whole thing. The Board is making accusations against the Chief where he feels the Chief has a legal suit against each of the individuals voting against him. You are wrong, totally wrong. This is a witch hunt because he did what he needed to do with a police officer and he did the right thing by getting rid of him. It's time to wise up. It's upsetting that the people of North Huntingdon voted you in and you're going to take a million dollars or more away from the Township.

9. Paul Hamilton ó 210 Woodall Avenue ó states he is here to address the Board just to bring the dinosaur that's in the room that needs to be discussed and Mr. Gray this particularity pertains to you. The three military men are not complaining about money, there are many other issues. It's not about warm and fuzzy, it's about discrimination. Documented discrimination that the Township residents do not know about. There are things that go on with certain members who have met with these military people. What the uninformed members of the Board need to know is this is not about money.

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RESPONSE TO CITIZENS INPUT

Commissioner Gray begins by saying he did not bring up the money issue with the military tonight, but have discussed money before and yes, that was the claim of some of the Commissioners that we owed them money and / or backpay. This was discussed with the Board, Manager Shepherd, and the Solicitor and their position was these military officers have received everything monetarily they were entitled to under Federal, State, Local and County laws and military laws and North Huntingdon Township policies. There is a complete denial that they have gotten that except the meeting held on August 29, 2016 that the Board was supposed to get a report from, but never got. He states that money is clearly not the issue and Mr. Hamilton alleged discrimination. The Board takes discrimination very seriously however no particular charges have been leveled about discrimination. The Board implored them to put something in writing, to go to the Union, to go to the Manager, or give specific items of discrimination. They have not received a single thing to address. They had this meeting to look for reasons because of the divide not only on this Board, but the divide in the police department and went around the boss, or around the Chief, or around the Township Manager to go right to the Board of Directors. If you get enough of them on your side, nobody below them matters, so if you can sway four people to do what you want, it's going to get done and that's what these people have done, failing to go to their union with a legitimate complaint otherwise they would have been served with a grievance. If there was discrimination, we should be sued but as far as he knows, nobody on the Board is aware of any discrimination because they've never been presented with anything.

Mr. Hamilton states to Commissioner Gray that he is so totally uninformed as to the occurrences.

Commissioner Martino states that citizens' input is over.

Commissioner Haigis states he feels all the citizens that are present know the four Board members that have an ax to grind are friends with a former employee. Some of them ran for office just for that reason because they have an ax to grind. He states Commissioner Bertani has been a member of the Circleville VFD for many years with Bill Sombo who was also at the polling places when he ran for election in his support. He also states Bill Sombo was riding around with Commissioner Faccenda's election signs on his truck.

Commissioner Faccenda states that comment means absolutely nothing. He states when talking about Board division, before he got on the Board there was division but "they" were in charge, now they are not in charge and it's all crying now.

Commissioner Gray states Mr. DiCerbo hit the nail on the head when he said the divide started three or four years ago. Three or four years ago is when the Chief came and did his job and somebody is no longer here and that is when the divide started.

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Commissioner Haigis states it has been clearly stated that Commissioner Herold had many run-ins with the Chief, so he personally may have an ax to grind with the Chief.

Commissioner Herold states that Bill Sombo got Commissioner Haigis a job in Johnstown as a firefighter.

Commissioner Haigis responds that he took Civil Service Test and passed it, but turned it down.

Commissioner Haigis states to Commissioner Martino that he has been involved in Circleville VFD for years with Bill Sombo and imagine he is close friends with him as well. He states these are his personal interpretations to the residents that those four Board members have an ax to grind because their friend got removed from a position and now they are trying to get back at the police chief for doing his job and standing up for the community.

Commissioner Martino states this has nothing to do with Bill Sombo, with him.

Commissioner Haigis states that is his opinion and heard from one Board member that he had two loosely based reasons why he wants to get rid of the Chief. He asks Commissioner Martino what his reason is for getting rid of him.

Commissioner Martino states he is going to hold his reasons.

Commissioner Haigis states he has not heard one good claim nor have the residents of the Township, to get rid of this man by doing a good job. The residents came here to speak for this man in his defense. The residents can see four Commissioners who don't listen to the residents and all he can do is urge them to keep coming to the meetings to let them know how you feel and when it comes to election time, maybe someone who is competent and not going for personal agendas.

Commissioner Kucera states it was said at some point during this meeting that the Chief is not out there visible to the public. He states he personally gave two talks with him and both times he asked for an officer to go, but the Chief wanted to go. The Chief is also working on a program for Wills for First Responders and Vets where a company comes in with lawyers assisting with writing wills and get notarized. The program is free for first responders, police officers, and veterans in the Township. The Chief called various people for funding, etc. so he is visible to the residents regardless of what people think.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Motion to table this item pending more information and offering the Chief a chance to go to some classes and improve himself.

Second: Commissioner Herold

September 21, 2016

ROLL CALL:

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

Motion failed 3 ó 4 ó 0

Commissioner Gray asks Solicitor Alexander if Commissioner Herold is permitted to vote since he has been involved in so many issues with the Township between the arrest at Circleville VFD, issues with police officers and the millings investigation.

Solicitor Alexander states Commissioner Herold would have to decide if he can form an unbiased opinion on this motion and whether he is able to vote appropriately.

Motion to terminate the Chief:

ROLL CALL:

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

Motion carried 4 ó 3 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to add to the agenda to appoint Al Carson as acting police chief with all the duties and responsibilities of Chief of Police of North Huntingdon Township at the pay rate that of the previous Chief, subject to negotiation memorandum with bargaining unit. Duties to commence immediately.

Second: Commissioner Herold

September 21, 2016

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Motion to table adding that item to the agenda.

Second: Commissioner Haigis

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Herold ó NO

Commissioner Haigis ó YES

Commissioner Bertani ó NO

Commissioner Gray ó YES

Commissioner Faccenda ó NO

Commissioner Kucera ó YES

Commissioner Martino ó NO

Motion failed 3 ó 4 ó 0

Manager Shepherd recommends the Board discuss this in Executive Session. He believes the Solicitor may have some words to speak to them as does he.

Motion: Commissioner Gray

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss this.

Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to come out of Executive Session.

Second: Commissioner Gray

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to rescind to add to tonight's agenda to appoint Al Carson as Acting Chief with all duties and responsibilities of the Chief of Police of North Huntingdon Township at the pay rate of the previous Chief subject to negotiation memorandum with bargaining unit. Duties to commence immediately.

Second: Commissioner Herold

September 21, 2016

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Haigis states he will speak as a resident not as a Commissioner. What transpired here tonight was ugly and obviously four Board members can make decisions in this Township, but he doesn't believe that reflects the residents that were here tonight. He states he is disgusted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) The Flu Shot Clinic will be held at the Town House on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The clinic is for residents of Westmoreland County. Pre-registration is required.
- 2) North Huntingdon Parks & Recreation is sponsoring the Youth Fishing Derby on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Indian Lake Park from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. The Derby is open to youth ages 14 and under. Register at the Town House.
- 3) North Huntingdon Parks & Recreation is sponsoring the Haunted Halloween Trail on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at Indian Lake Park from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. This event is appropriate for ages 4 and older. Register at the Town House.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Gray
Second: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to adjourn. (9:02 P.M.)

Motion Carried 7 6 0 6 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____

Tony Martino, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary
/jjm

