

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING                      MAY 17, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth A. O’Leary at 7:02 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President David J. Batdorf, Sam Kalbach William B. Miller and Lisha Rowe. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer, and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants. Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter was excused with prior notification.

**NOTICE:**

Public comment will be accepted in person. Please include your first name, last name and address for all comments. Any comments without a name or address will not be considered. To accommodate as many people as possible, we request that each person’s comments be limited to 3 minutes. The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 60 minutes. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Commissioners. While public comments will be given due consideration, immediate responses will be done at the discretion of the Commissioners.

**PUBLIC**

Attendance: Bill McKay, Sheldon Meyer, Andrew Donnell, Anthony Martin, Dan Bartello, Steven Topiniak, and Christine Lubic.

**COMMISSIONERS**

**A.) Executive Session**

6:24 p.m. – The Board met in executive session to discuss 1 matter of real estate, 1 labor matter and 1 personnel matter.

6:58 p.m. – The executive session ended. One matter of real estate, 1 labor matter and 1 personnel matter had been discussed.

**AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**A.) Monthly Report – April 2023**

Anthony Martin reported that TowerDirect responded to 230 calls in April with an average response time of 6 minutes and 11 seconds. They have 38 new employees and have expanded their service into Amity Township and Birdsboro. He stated that a challenge is the availability of vehicles due to supply chain issues and available capital. He reported that 18 extra staff reported for duty during the Palmer incident. Mr. Martin thanked everyone for helping during the recent fire event.

**APPROVE MINUTES**  
**ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE**  
**APPROVING THE MINUTES OF 4/18/23 – REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED.**

**TREASURER**

A.) Monthly Report – April 2023

Ms. Johnston went over the report from Mrs. Carpenter.

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the pension compliance audit is going well and is almost completed.

**TAX COLLECTOR**

A) April 2023 Report

1) Year 2023 Real Estate

Balance collectable beginning of month – \$5,233,799.96

Cash collected – \$4,695,401.34

Exonerations - \$1,466.89

Balance collectable end of month – \$536,909.34

2) Year 2022 Interim Real Estate

Balance collectable beginning of month – \$444.24

Additions - \$1,364.96

Cash collected – \$749.31

Exonerations - \$34.73

Balance collectable end of month - \$1,025.16

3) Year 2021 Interim Real Estate

Balance collectable beginning of month – \$140.16

Cash collected – \$0

Balance collectable end of month - \$140.16

4) Year 2022 Per Capita

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$690.00

Cash collected - \$110.00

Balance collectable end of the month - \$580.00

**DEPARTMENTS**

Police Department

A.) Monthly Report – April 2023

**B.) Systems Analyst Part-time Position**

Chief Winchester requested that the Board make a motion to authorize Ms. Johnston and Chief Winchester to make a conditional offer of employment for the part-time systems analyst position.

**ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PART-TIME SYSTEMS ANALYST POSITION, EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONED UPON SUCCESSFUL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING.**

C.) Fishing Derby – May 20, 2023

Chief Winchester reported that the Fishing Derby will be held this Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 9 a.m. until noon at Brady's Pond. This is an event for youth 12 and under. There will be prizes and snacks provided. Approximately 40 children have signed up to attend.

D.) Civil Service

Chief Winchester informed the Board that 16 applications were received. Letters will be sent to the 8 eligible candidates as the Police Department moves forward with the process.

Fire Department

A.) Monthly Report – April 2023

Chief Beane informed the Board that the 5<sup>th</sup> firefighter has successfully completed the HACC Academy. Mr. Miller and Chief Beane had attended the graduation ceremony on May 5, 2023. All the firefighters are currently attending a two-week training course.

**B.) Fire Station Phase 1 – application for payment no. 16**

- 1) Letter from Atlas Engineering recommending payment # 16 for Ankiewicz Enterprises, Inc. for \$25,730.75, dated 5/01/2023

**ON MOTION OF MS. ROWE, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT # 16 FOR ANKIEWICZ ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR \$25,730.75.**

C.) Fire on Philadelphia Ave. 05/13/2023

Chief Beane reported that there had been a Saturday early morning fire on Philadelphia Ave. with a fatality. The fire is still under investigation.

Administration

A.) Codes Department – April 2023

Building Permits Issued- 10

Use Permits Issued - 3

Zoning Permits Issued- 10

Notices of Violations- 18

Citations issued- 0

Zoning Hearing Board Hearings – 2 (zoning map appeals)

Violations complied- 15

Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 188

Properties condemned – 0

Permit Inspections Done – 28

Inspections with the Fire Department – 0

Training Seminars attended – 0

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that Harbor Freight is moving into the old K-mart building. The entire plaza is expected to be occupied by the end of the year. Budget Storage located at the old Giant site has completed requirements to be start construction.

#### **B.) Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Services**

- 1) Berks Enviro Tech, Inc. – Resignation of SEO Services, dated 4/19/23
- 2) Warmkessel Geo-Environmental, Inc. – Cumru SEO Services Proposal, dated 5/4/23
- 3) Warmkessel Geo-Environmental, Inc. – Terms and Conditions for SEO Services

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that Allen Maderia of Berks Enviro Tech, Inc. sent a letter of resignation to the Township regarding SEO services. The Township reached out to Warmkessel Geo-Environmental, Inc. because they handle the SMP for Muhlenberg Township, a program similar to Cumru Township's. Berks Enviro Tech Inc. will transition out as Warmkessel Geo-Environmental, Inc. transitions in.

Ms. Johnston requested that the Board appoint Warmkessel Geo-Environmental, Inc. as an additional SEO for the Township and adopt fees similar to Muhlenberg Township for services beyond the every-3-years SMP inspection. For the SMP fee, property owners already receive an annual bill for one third of the base cost, set by resolution when the budget is adopted. There should be enough money in the fund to cover any additional costs if the new fee schedule is not adequate. This can be evaluated during the budget meetings in October since the Township will have several months of experience with the new SEO.

Mr. Setley reminded the Board that Warmkessel Geo-Environmental, Inc. had previously worked for Cumru Township when they performed groundwater well testing in the Titus area and handled the closeout report with the PaDEP.

#### **ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPOINT WARMKESSEL GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. AS AN ADDITIONAL SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (SEO) FOR CUMRU TOWNSHIP WITH THE PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE.**

#### **C.) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Opportunity**

Mr. Batdorf made a presentation about electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. He explained that Cumru Township does not qualify for the fueling infrastructure discretionary grant. He believes that Cumru Township has the ability to leverage vendors and make a profit with possibly no money up front. He requested that the Board authorize a committee to investigate this topic.

Mr. Miller asked where the Township would put these stations.

Mr. Batdorf answered that is part of the research.

Mr. Miller stated that someone would have to check with the electric companies.

Steven Topiniak, a resident of Hilgert Ave., addressed the Board. He explained that he owns an Audi electric vehicle that he drives approximately 200 miles per day. He has a class 2 charger in his home that takes approximately 8 hours to charge his vehicle. This charger costs between \$3000-\$4000. This charger would not charge a Tesla which requires a special charger. Mr. Topiniak stated that he can drive more miles in the summer months than the winter months with 1 charge.

Mr. Topiniak reported that currently fast chargers are located in Pottstown, Carlisle and Allentown. Electrify America provides fast chargers that only take 30 minutes to charge vehicles. He believes that fast chargers would make more sense because with 300 kilowatts they

are larger, faster and can charge 2 vehicles at a time. Space is needed for the charging units and the bank of transformers that power the charging unit.

Mr. Miller asked how much Giant charges at the charging station. He was told nothing. Other places charge \$5-\$8 for a slow charge and approximately \$16 for a fast charge.

Mr. Miller asked how people pay for this service. Mr. Topiniak answered that he knows of 3 ways to pay. One way is to sign up for an app that uses your credit card and provides codes for the charging station. Another way is to pay with a credit card at the charging station. The third way is to call for a special card but he believes that this is not as easy as the other 2 options.

The Board thanked Mr. Topiniak for providing the information.

**D.) TASA Grant – update**

Ms. Johnston reported that the Township was notified today that the next competitive round is open to apply for TASA grants.

**Public Works**

**A.) Reed St. Culvert Replacements (emergency project) - Quotes**

Mr. McNichols reported that this is an emergency project to replace the stormwater pipes from the 1970s that are deteriorated in Reed St. The Township received 2 quotes. After consulting with the engineers, he recommends accepting the quote from Construction Masters Services, LLC for \$202,108.01.

**ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM CONSTRUCTION MASTERS SERVICES, LLC FOR \$202,108.01 FOR THE EMERGENCY CULVERT REPLACEMENT ON REED ST.**

**B.) Township Campus Paving**

1. The admin driveway is being shut down for approx. 2 weeks starting 5/17/2023.
2. Access to admin and PD from Reed St.
3. There will be flagging transitioning to temporary traffic signals on Welsh Rd. for one lane traffic starting 5/17/2023.

**Engineer**

Mr. Rogosky reported that he received correspondence from PennDOT dated 5/3/23 for the official approval of the traffic lights for SR10/ SR724 and Sr10/ Freemansville Rd. This was forwarded to the Township.

**Solicitor**

**A.) Zoning Ordinance Amendment**

**PAYMENTS OF BILLS**

**ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS DATED 4/21/23, 4/28/23 , 5/01/23, 5/05/23, 5/05/23 - PLGIT, AND 5/12/23.**

### CORRESPONDENCE

A.) Letter from Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks concerning the Berks County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program 2024-2026, dated 5/1/23.

There was discussion about whether to opt in or opt out of the Berks County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Mr. Rogosky recommended that the Township opt out in order to be eligible to apply for other DCED grants opportunities.

B.) Zoning Hearing Board notice for 05/23/23

C.) Letter from PaDEP re: permit for gas-to-energy facility at Western Berks Landfill, dated 5/11/2023

### COMMISSIONERS

B.) Reminders:

1) Zoning Hearing Board

- May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Township Building – regular meeting
- May 31, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Gov. Mifflin Intermediate School Cafeteria – zoning map appeal
- June 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Township Building – regular meeting

2) Board of Commissioners meetings for May and June 2023

- 5/30/2023 at 7:00 p.m. – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Meeting
- 6/20/2023 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

3) Planning Commission – 6/05/2023 at 6:00 p.m.

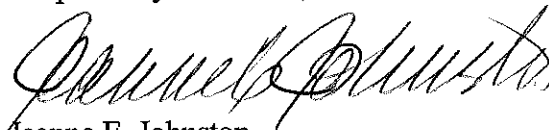
**ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO CONSIDER COMPENSATION FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR POSITION.**

**ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO INCREASE THE SALARY OF PATRICIA WYLEZIK-PFEIFFER BY \$5000.00 A YEAR AS COMPENSATION FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR POSITION.**

### ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:49 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston  
Manager/Secretary