

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING JULY 30, 2019**

The Workshop Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth O'Leary at 7:00 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Sheri Hoover, William B Miller and David J. Batdorf. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James A. Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Business Personnel/Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, Secretary Latoya Procopio, and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

Attendance: Terry Styer of 2 Sandy Way and Madelyn Johnston of 443 Calyn Drive.

Ruth O'Leary invited comment. No one indicated the desire to speak.

COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Mrs. O'Leary informed the public that the Board was responsible to fill the vacancy from Mr. Gottschall's passing.

Mrs. Hoover nominated Mike Thompson to complete Mr. Edward Gottschall's term as Township Commissioner from today through the first Monday of January 2020. Mr. Batdorf seconded the nomination.

Mr. Miller nominated Sam Kalbach for Township Commissioner to complete Mr. Edward Gottschall's term from today through the first Monday of January 2020. The nomination failed for lack of a second.

A UNANIMOUS BALLOT WAS RECORDED FOR MIKE THOMPSON TO COMPLETE THE TERM OF EDWARD GOTTSCHALL AS TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER, FROM TODAY UNTIL THE FIRST MONDAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

Mr. Thompson, who was in the audience, was seated with the Board.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mrs. O'Leary noted that Mr. Thompson had to resign from the Planning Commission since he had been appointed as a Township Commissioner. Mr. Thompson offered his resignation from the Planning Commission.

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING MIKE THOMPSON'S RESIGNATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPOINTING SAM KALBACH TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

BALLOT VACANCY

Mr. Setley stated that, since Mr. Gottschall had been successful in the Republican primary election for another term as Township Commissioner, the Berks County Republican Committee will make a decision regarding who would be on the ballot in his place during the election in November. He noted that the Board of Commissioners are able to make a recommendation to the Republican Committee.

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE RECOMMENDING TO THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO ADD MIKE THOMPSON TO THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO COMPOSE A LETTER TO THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD TO SIGN.

DEPARTMENTS

Police and Fire Departments

A) Fire at 501 Governor Dr. on 7/29/2019

Chief Beane reported a fatality at a fire at 501 Governor Dr. yesterday. Chief Winchester informed the Board that the investigation was ongoing.

Public Works

A) Flooding Event 6/20/2019 – update

1) stormwater pipe north of Lancaster Ave. – no blockage

Mr. McNichols informed the Board of Commissioners that the stormwater pipe north of Lancaster Ave is not clogged. Mrs. Hoover questioned what the actual issue is with the pipe. Mr. McNichols stated the pipe is not equipped to handle the amount of rain that the pipe received.

Ms. Johnston reported requesting a meeting with Shillington and the City of Reading. With respect to the alley, Shillington stated they would patch the pot holes but would not pave. Shillington seemed to be willing to look into the storm sewer matter further along with the Township. It is unclear if the City of Reading will be participating in the study. The goal is to come up with a list of options to hopefully help this issue. Mr. Batdorf questioned what the point of performing the study would be if no solution will result in the end. Ms. Johnston stated the study is to demonstrate the complexity of the matter. Part of the goal is to produce a reference document of the system, such as the capacity of the system. Mr. Rogosky informed the Board that he would produce a quote on how much the study may cost.

2) SBA disaster loans

Ms. Johnston informed the public that information on low interest loans was posted on the Township website and flyers were available at this meeting. She informed the Board that the

Emergency Management Coordinator had identified affected residents and phone calls had been placed to them, based on the best contact information available.

3) request for emergency declaration – Yorkshire Rd. mudslide

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that Yorkshire Rd. had been undermined in a certain location due to the heavy rains.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDROF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO DECLARE THE YORKSHIRE ROAD MUDSLIDE AN EMERGENCY REPAIR.

B) 2019 Sanitary Sewer Replacement – Broad St. and Oregon Rd. (partial)

Bidders	Bid Amount
A.H. Moyer, Inc.	\$514,168.00
Barrasso Excavation, Inc.	\$394,610.00
BP Paterson, Inc.	\$377,916.80
Construction Masters	\$554,490.00
DOLI Construction Corp.	\$387,810.00
Wexcon, Inc.	\$361,849.00

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A MAJORITY VOTE AWARDING THE 2019 SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT BID TO WEXCON, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$361,849.00

Mr. Thompson abstained from the vote.

C) Discussion of Road Work

Ms. Johnston reviewed a work selection matrix which rates roads on some of the different factors involved with decision making about road work projects. The matrix is not determinative; it is a guide. Some important factors are:

1. Is the road a collector road? What is the status of a road relative to the overall road network and does it connect to another municipality? Examples of collector roads are Cedar Top Rd., Summit Ave., and Welsh Rd.
2. How many households are served by a road? How many rooftops are affected?
3. Is there other work that needs to be done in a particular road right of way? For example, Reed St. is intended for reconstruction in conjunction with sewer line and other utility replacement and installation.
4. What is the condition of the road?
5. Are there entities of particular note on a road? For example, Mt. View Rd. reconstruction was important for Southern Berks EMS.

The most difficult roads to finance are the long, country roads with no other infrastructure.

It has been determined that Oregon Rd. will be reconstructed in 2020 using a Pa Infrastructure Bank (PIB) loan. PennDOT has approved the project and it can move to the next stage in the application process. Sanitary sewer replacement in 951 feet of Oregon Rd. will take place this year as a part of the I&I plan for Point of Connection 8 (POC-8). The sewer fund will pay for that section of restoration.

Originally, the Township had intended to use another PIB loan for reconstruction of the northern half of Hunters Rd. in 2021. However, given the scope of the Reed St. project and the

required permitting, it might be delayed. The Township has requested a pre-application meeting with DEP for an expanded NPDES permit, due to the combined utility project. If Reed St. is delayed, it would be prudent to delay Hunters Rd., because closing both roads at the same time would pose significant problems for emergency services access to some locations.

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that, in many past years, only liquid fuels money was spent on roadwork, which is why some of the roads have not been worked on. It is simply not enough money; capital funds should also be spent on maintaining the roads within the Township.

Mr. McNichols stated some of the roads on the matrix have not been worked on in decades. He presented photographs of several different roads that need repair.

Broad Street – The TV and grouting sewer program that the Board of Commissioners authorizes every year helped to uncover a sewer main break that will be addressed this year. The road will be restored as part of the sewer main replacement project.

Oregon Road – The road needed patch work in 2019 to keep the road passable. A PIB loan is intended to be obtained in 2020. Mrs. O’Leary questioned if the paperwork was ready for the PIB loan to be processed. Mr. Rogosky stated GVC defined the scope of work that will be needed and a detailed estimate was given to PennDOT. The Township received project approval from PennDOT.

Angstadt Lane – Mr. McNichols stated this road has the classic alligator pattern, as it is patches on top of patches. The road will need to be done more robustly as it receives very heavy truck traffic from South Reading Blacktop.

Cedar Top Road (Scenic – Pennwyn) – The slope of this road contributes to wear and tear. Sanitary sewer replacement could be done with this road. However, the Township has to also take into consideration devoting sewer capital funds to POC-8, which currently has a moratorium in place.

Fawn Drive – Mr. McNichols stated it would be reasonable to think of Fawn Drive in sections. There are numerous homes on Fawn Dr.

Hampshire Road (Old Lancaster Pike to Scarlett) – Mr. McNichols stated that this portion of the road should be looked at differently as sanitary sewer is to be installed with Phase 3 of the Matz Tract Subdivision. It would be reasonable to wait for reconstruction until that project is finished.

Hampshire (Scarlett – Vermont) – A box culvert will need to be installed and a permit is in the process of being obtained.

Hickory Rd. – Mrs. Hoover questioned how many box culverts will need to be installed and how many have permits that are being processed? Mr. McNichols informed the Board that Hickory will also need a box culvert replacement.

Reed Street – Ms. Johnston stated DEP has pushed back Reed Street which also pushes back the work on Hunters Road, as previously stated. Although Hunters road is not as in as bad shape as some of the other roads within the Township.

Kachel Blvd – Ms. Johnston stated this road serves Green Hills Corp. Center, also known as the Penske complex. It is the Township’s understanding that there are approximately 4,000 employees that enter and exit the complex on a daily basis, so the traffic volume is significant.

Summit Avenue (North) – Mrs. O’Leary questioned if the money in the sewer escrow for Fritz’s Island could be utilized to replace the sewer and restoration of the road. Ms. Johnston replied that the Board could make such a decision.

Mrs. O’Leary requested the Public Work Liaisons to prioritize the list and view all of the possible options in regards to budgeting including looking at the Fritz’s Island escrow.

Mr. Miller thanked Bob McNichols and Mike Yost for their time on their presentation. The Board as a whole also thanked Public Works for their presentation.

D) Consent Order and Agreement from PaDEP re: Angelica Interceptor

Mr. Setley informed the Board that a revision from the PaDEP had been received. Since the deadline for comments is prior to the August meeting, he recommended execution of the agreement, subject to any comments from the Board or engineer.

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, MRS. HOOVER, A MAJORITY VOTE
AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS TO EXECUTE AND RETURN THE
CONSENT ORDER AND AGREEMENT ON THE JOINT ANGELICA INTERCEPTOR
TO PaDEP, SUBJECT TO ANY BOARD OR ENGINEER COMMENTS, IF
RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER.**

Mr. Thompson abstained from the vote.

COMMISSIONERS

A) Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS
VOTE ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 8:46 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Latoya Procopio
Township Secretary