

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2019**

The Regular 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. Michael Thompson was absent with prior notification to the Board. 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 L. Yost, Business Personnel/Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, Secretary Latoya Procopio.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

A) Mifflin Community Library

Carey Babczak, a Board member on the Mifflin Community Library, addressed the Board of Commissioners. She stated she has served on the board since 2015. She stated there are 3 Cumru Township residents who currently serve on the Board, as well as holding officer positions. Their goal within the community is to create and promote free and equal access to knowledge and resources to our community through dynamic media, technology and programming in a safe and warm environment.

In 2018, the Library was awarded Pennsylvania Forwards Gold Star; the library is very proud that they have maintained that Gold Status in 2019 by delivering a variety of quality programming and resources, such as their weekly story times with all age groups, the summer concert series, and coloring for adults. They supplement their paid staff with over 70 dedicated volunteers to help run the facility and the programs provided. The Library considers Cumru Township to be a critical partner to the success of the Library.

Ms. Babczak thanked the Commissioners for their continued support in the library. She stated the Library does receive funding from the state as long as the municipalities that the Library serves also contributes. The funding rewards system libraries who gain financial support from municipalities at a rate of at least \$2.50 per capita. In 2019, the library received a number of grants to help projects, such as the onsite greenhouse. Mrs. O'Leary questioned the amount quoted in a news article that said the library would need \$2.65 per capita to get the matching funds by the State. Ms. Babczak stated at this time the Library is only requesting \$2.50 per capita, according to the latest meeting that Ms. Babczak attended. Mrs. O'Leary stated the Board is in the process of formulating a budget and will take their request under advisement. Ms. Babczak requested the Board keep the Library at the level of funding that the Township is currently contributing, however, the Library is requesting the Township budget to allow for an increase from \$2.41 to \$2.50 per capita.

B) Clifton Herr re: 2399 Old Lancaster Pike - *was not present*

SOUTHERN BERKS REGIONAL EMS

A) Monthly Report – September 2019

Mr. Malcom Cole was present for discussion. Mr. Cole informed the Board that Southern Berks Regional EMS responded to 160 calls for the month of September. He stated the Township's second payment was received.

TREASURER

A) Monthly Report – September 2019

Mrs. Carpenter informed the Board that the State Aid was received in the amount of \$363,555.40. She stated the Fireman's Relief was distributed as assigned and the Animal Rescue League payment was made. She stated the Township has one more payment to be made to Southern Berks Regional EMS.

TAX COLLECTOR

A) Monthly Report – September 2019

1) Year 2019 Real Estate

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$199,836.67

Cash collected - \$4,931.61

Balance collectable end of month - \$195,353.41

2) Year 2019 Real Estate Interim

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$14.55

Cash collected - \$0

Balance collectable end of month - \$14.55

3) Year 2019 SMP

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$3,750.00

Cash collected - \$0

Balance collectable end of the month - \$3,375.00

4) Year 2019 Refuse

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$49,170.00

Cash collected - \$858.00

Balance collectable end of the month - \$48,390.00

5) Year 2019 Per Capita

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$20,930.00

Cash collected - \$854.90

Balance collectable end of the month - \$19,990.00

B) Tax Collector Position

1) Letter of Resignation, effective 12/31/2019

2) **Appointment effective 1/1/2020**

3) **Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector**

Ms. Johnston informed the Board of the Tax Collector's resignation. She stated it is the Board's obligation to appoint someone to finish out the rest of Mrs. Sonnen's term. The current Deputy Tax Collector, Betsy Diebolt, is interested in being appointed to the remainder of Mrs. Sonnen's term.

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING THE TAX COLLECTOR'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE 12/31/2019.

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPOINTING BETSY DIEBOLT TO THE CUMRU TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR POSITION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM, EFFECTIVE 1/1/2019, CONDITIONED UPON RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION AND BEING BONDABLE.

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPOINTING SUE SUMMERS AS THE CUMRU TOWNSHIP DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR, EFFECTIVE 1/1/2020 CONDITIONED UPON RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION.

APPROVE MINUTES

September 17, 2019 – Regular Meeting

Mrs. O’Leary requested the minutes be amended to include additional items on page 9. The Board of Commissioners deferred further action until the next scheduled meeting.

DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – September 2019

Chief Winchester notified the Board of the FDX training exercise that occurred at the Penske complex on October 1. It was a great learning exercise and the Department plans to do it again the in future.

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – September 2019

B) Fire Relief Funds 2019

Chief Beane informed the Board that the 2019 Fire Relief money was received and passed onto the Relief Association. Ms. Johnston advised the money is proportionate to the amount of volunteers to career staff.

Administration

A) Codes Report- September 2019

Building Permits Issued- 9

Use Permits Issued- 4

Zoning Permits Issued- 14

Notices of Violations- 16

Citations Issued- 0

Violations complied - 25

Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 201

Permit Inspections Done – 25

Inspections with the Fire Department – 4

B) Distribution of State Aid for Pensions

- 1) Adopt resolution

ON MOTION OF MR. BATRDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION FOR THE STATE AID FOR PENSIONS TO AFFIRM THE DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AID DEPOSITED TO BOTH THE NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN AND THE POLICE PENSION PLAN AS PRESENTED BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

C) Western Berks Landfill

- 1) Public comment period for modification permit

Ms. Johnston advised the Board of the scheduled meeting with Western Berks Landfill regarding the modification of height to the landfill. The DEP will be in attendance at the meeting which is scheduled to be held at the Township Building. Along with a representative from all of the municipalities that contribute waste to the landfill. The permit modification is not regarding the opening of a new cell, it is strictly to modify the height restrictions. There are 6 estimated years until the landfill is projected to be full. The Township receives a host fee from the landfill and would benefit from the modification permit approval. The modification would not directly affect any neighborhoods, as there are no residents in that area.

D) Wyomissing Creek Tree Planting and Clean up

- 1) Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8:30am – 11:30am

Ms. Johnston informed the Board of the Wyomissing Creek Watershed Coalition tree planting and clean up event. Everyone who is attending will be meeting at the Township's Recreation Center. The trees have been donated by PP&L and some will be planted at the Ashley Run open space area.

Public Works

A) Monthly Report – September 2019

B) Sewer Replacement 2019

- 1) Notice to residents on Broad Street

Mr. McNichols advised the Board that the Broad Street pipework has been completed. The trench restoration is scheduled to be completed within the next week or so, weather permitting. They are currently performing saw cutting on Oregon Road.

Mrs. O'Leary questioned if the road side mowing had been completed for the year and if leaf picking had begun. Mr. McNichols explained that the Township is still road side mowing and leaf picking started that morning.

Mrs. O'Leary questioned what was happening with the Pennwyn Place sewer relocation. Mr. McNichols stated BCM sent the plans to DEP and the Township is waiting for their approval as well as PennDOT's approval.

Engineer

A) Brecon Lane Stormwater facility

- 1) advertised on 10/7/2019 and 10/10/2019
2) pre-bid meeting 10/15/19

Mr. Rogosky stated they held the pre-bid meeting and two contractors attended to view the scope of the work. The contract was written differently, whereas substantial completion is assuming getting the storm sewer work and any utility work completed, weather permitting. Final restoration would not be until spring of 2020.

Mrs. O'Leary questioned Mr. McNichols if any of the road mark paintings would be done this year. Mr. McNichols informed Mrs. O'Leary that the window of opportunity has passed, usually ending around mid-August.

Solicitor

PAYMENTS OF BILLS

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE PAYMENTS OF BILLS FROM: 09/20/2019, 09/27/2019, 09/30/2019 – 2019 PENSION MMOS, 10/01/2019, 10/04/2019, 10/04/2019 – ACH, AND 10/11/2019.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A) NRG Titus – Act 2 Report submitted for Tract 5, dated 10/04/2019
- B) CDBG Summary Notice and Public Hearing PY2020 Action Plan for housing

Mrs. Schnader questioned what the Board plans to do with the current Fire Station Building once the new building is constructed. She feels that the building is historical and should be preserved. She stated the Township needs to take a couple thousand dollars to fix up the fire house. The Board of Commissioners informed Mrs. Schnader that the building will need to be evaluated to determine its potential use. Ms. Johnston stated the building was not on any historical lists. The Township will need to study the structure of the building and the architecture has been heavily altered, which is one of the qualifiers to be recognized as a historical building.


COMMISSIONERS

- A) Executive Session -*No executive session needed*
- B) Reminder: budget meeting 10/16/19 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jeanne E. Johnston
Assistant Secretary