

May 5, 2020

Due to COVID-19 social contact restrictions, Mr. Miller, President of the Board, convened the work session via ZOOM video meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the above date. Present were Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Smock. Also, present were: Jason M. Bobst; Dan Grieser, Esquire; Kathy K. Frederick; A. Dale Mabry; Michael Kelly; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Jonathan Dzedzy; Michael Housley; Richard Shilling; and Erik Garton.

**Discussion/
Update**

A COVID-19 update was presented by Mr. Bobst who noted that currently there are 52 cases in West Norriton Township, an increase of 30 cases since April, and 0 deaths related thereto. According to Mr. Bobst, tree branch pick-up will resume the week of May 18th and will continue as regularly scheduled (3rd Tuesday of every month). Also, it was stated by Mr. Bobst that the Jeffersonville Golf Club reopened on May 2nd with 15-minute tee times (normally 8 minutes), walking only until next week when carts will begin with 1 player occupancy only. During the quarantined closure of the course, several projects have been completed, including, but not limited to, aeration of the greens and the installation of a new computer system in the pro shop. The impact of COVID on finances will be more evident forthcoming, but EIT was down \$37,000.00 with tax collection up \$225,000.00. According to Chief Mabry, not much impact on police department with COVID. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock about the use of the Commissioners' contribution money, a discussion was had as to using the funds to reimburse makers of facemasks for the Township staff, seniors and others or to feeding students during this COVID crisis. It was unanimously agreed to split the funds between both causes.

According to Mr. Bobst, since the towing contract with DiLeo's expires in June, an RFP should be prepared and issued in June for awarding in July. Chief Mabry commended DiLeo's on its towing services to date.

Staff has been working with Tyler Rae on the design of a "short course" @ Jeffersonville Golf Club, which will be a wedge and putt only course of 9 holes designed to be an enhancement to the JGC and an attraction to the region since there are none others like it in the area. Mr. Shilling commented that the maintenance costs of the short course would be low as staff is already in place for the course. Additionally, it was noted by Mr. Housley that it would be tremendous for growth of the game of golf, a unique opportunity for the area, and a real positive for the Township. Mr. Bobst added that a short course would be a boom for local businesses as 98% of the rounds of golf are by non-residents so people already travel into the area to play golf. Given the revenue projections shown by Mr. Bobst, the short course would be self-sustaining. According to Mr. Bobst, the next steps would be to get financing options and to proceed with bids. As an ideal timeline, it was suggested by Mr. Bobst that seeding in mid - late August (thus not requiring more costly sod) with opening in 2021. Mr. Miller offered "props" to Mr. Shilling and

his crew and commented that it is exciting to see this and he hopes that we can move forward with this project. Ms. Milazzo expressed her concern over the economy, but noted that she hears lots of interest in the project, especially from seniors. According to Mr. Bobst, he is not looking for a commitment, but looking for authorization to investigate funding.

In an effort to standardize zoning for townhouses in the Township, three ordinances have been prepared and are currently before the Montco Planning Commission, which Ordinances will be before the Township's Planning Commission next month. The Ordinances will rezone four (4) parcels on Riverview Boulevard from I – Industrial to BP – Business Professional; standardize townhouse specs across the Township; and add townhouse standards to that BP zoning requiring conditional use hearing. According to Mr. Bobst, the adoption of these Ordinances will achieve one common language across all mediums. In response to inquiries by Mr. Smock and Ms. Eckles as to the effect, if any, on Barbadoes Island, Mr. Grieser noted that Barbadoes Island is I – Industrial district so these regulations will not apply, and he believes that the owners of Barbadoes Island have other ideas for use of that property.

With regard to the request of PA American Water Company to the PUC for a rate increase, Ms. Milazzo opined, and other members of the Board concurred, that the requested rate increase is really bad timing when 1 out of every 5 people are out of work as a result of COVID. According to Mr. Grieser, the Township has the following options: filing a formal Complaint in Court; sending a letter opposing the increase, which increase calculates to approximately \$10 - \$12 per month per household; or both. Mr. Bobst mentioned that a few years ago, a similar rate increase was request by PECO and we joined the litigation by filing a formal Complaint and sent an opposition letter. It was agreed by the Commissioners to instruct staff to draft a letter opposing the rate increase by PA American Water.

Manager

The items on the Agenda for the upcoming Board meeting were enumerated and addressed by Mr. Bobst as follows:

A. Five companies submitted bids for the Alexander Drive Basin Retrofit Project, with Bencardino being the low bidder @ \$226,000.00. Cedarville Engineering reviewed the bids and is comfortable with Bencardino for this 75% grant/25% match project.

B. Consider adopting via Resolution the extension of the real estate discount and face periods on municipal taxes due to COVID, which would only result in the loss of approximately \$15,000.00 in revenue.

C. Consider adopting via Resolution the sale of the following items of Township personal property:

- 2005 Ford F350 to Antonio Aspate for \$5,301.00; and
- JB 200 Gallon Sprayer to Mark Kasiorek for \$1,300.00.

Public Comment

James Riehman of 217 Colonial Avenue inquired about branch chipping in the month of May, and also the status and location of the proposed banquet facility at the Jeffersonville Golf Club. Mr. Bobst responded that tree branch chipping will resume in May and we are in a holding pattern awaiting reopening of grant funding for the banquet facility.

Mary Ellen Moran of 714 Port Indian Road presented her comment electronically prior to the meeting as follows: inquiring about the status of the refurbishment of the sewer plant; requested that no acronyms be used in agenda items; inquiring about the waste water on Port Indian Lane and the possible replacement of the 5-7 trees that were cut down for the project, as well as the vines choking the trees; and inquiring if Lot 22 was built in floodway or floodplain. Ms. Eckles suggested that we ask Drew Shaw, Environmental Section Planning Chief for Montco, to take care of the vines on the dogwood trees. According to Mr. Grieser, there is no need to respond to public comment, merely its entry into the record is sufficient; however, Mr. Bobst stated that he will prepare and submit a response to Ms. Moran's inquiries

There being no further public comment, upon motion of Mr. Smock, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously agreed, that portion of the meeting was closed.

Items for Future Meetings

The presentation by John Larson of the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority regarding the proposed capital improvement to the NMWA plant has been postponed until the Board's July meeting. In that regard, Mr. Bobst mentioned that 12-18 months is the timeline for the sale of the plant, but that more information should be available after Norristown's meeting of this evening. It was stated by Ms. Eckles that our position is how much are we getting...Mr. Miller concurred. According to Mr. Bobst, we would have to sign off on the Agreement, and he would not advocate that we sell our system.

Mr. Valyo noted that the bids for paving are opening on Thursday.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

There is a ZOOM meeting of the Township's Planning Commission on May 18th at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the Agenda, upon motion of Ms. Milazzo seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

*Kathy K. Frederick
Assistant Secretary*

