

May 11, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township was convened via ZOOM at 7:00 PM on the above date by President Miller. Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Smock were also in attendance, as were: Jason Bobst; Sean Kilkenny, Esquire; Kathy Frederick; Michael Kelly; Stephen Morris; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; Jon Dzedzy; and Erik Garton. There were fourteen (14) additional attendees on the ZOOM meeting.

Presentation

A presentation of the Villanova RISE study findings and sustainability audit of the Township was made by Professor Karl Schmidt, Brandon Simons and the RISE team. This study was conducted in conjunction with the Township's Ready for 100 commitments.

After a reintroduction of the team by Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Simons showed a power point presentation recapping the methodology behind the study and its findings in these major categories: HVAC; Lighting; Solar Rooftop; Battery Backup; Equipment; Lawn Care; and Vehicles. The main takeaway points from each category were as follows:

- HVAC - a capital plan should be implemented for replacement of the old HVAC systems;
- Lighting - suggested changing to LED bulbs and dimmer switches. Also, it was noted that PECO has rebates for this change over through its Smart Ideas program;
- Solar Rooftop - it was mentioned that there are "lots of obstacles on the roof" and that the cost of installing solar panels on the roof would not be advantageous as the cost would not be able to be recouped;
- Battery Backup - no real recommendation could be given on this subject as information on consumption was not known;
- Equipment - suggested replacing gas powered golf carts with lithium battery operated ones since there is 0 maintenance and 0 emissions; however, the cost of battery-operated carts is significantly higher.
- Lawn Care - it was noted that there is no immediate need to transition lawn care equipment to green electric items since the run time is not sufficient, but perhaps new technology down the road will increase run time; and
- Vehicles - suggested replacing fleet with hybrid or electric vehicles.

Mr. Simons wrapped up the presentation by reviewing final recommendations broken down by completion term: short being 1-2 years; medium being 3-5 years; and long at 6-10 years. Several questions and comments were made by the Board, including, but not limited to cost of battery powered golf carts, clarification of solar panel study, follow up on implementing suggested remedies, lighting certifications and window replacement.

Mr. Schmidt thanked the Township for its cooperation and stated that he looked forward to working together in the future on this project, and Mr. Simons added that an in-depth review of the team's findings would be forthcoming to Mr. Bobst. Gratitude to the RISE team was expressed by Mr. Miller who added that "we will do our best to be 100% compliant with our Ready for 100 commitments". Mr. Bobst announced that the entire presentation of the team will be available on the Township's website.

**Minutes
Approval**

Upon motion of Mr. Smock, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously passed by the Board were the minutes of its work session of April 6, 2021 and its regular meeting of April 13, 2021.

**Report of Bills
Approval of
checks**

Ms. Horn read the Finance Committee Report and requested approval of: General Fund and Golf Club payroll checks in the amount of \$22,447.51; payroll vouchers in the amount of \$279,529.80; and the Payment Approval Report of \$1,013,148.10.

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously approved was the aforementioned finance report.

**Committee
Reports:
Administration
& Finance**

Mr. Bobst highlighted the agenda items under New Business and mentioned the following:

That the Township submitted our funding request for the Rittenhouse pump station force main project to PA Representative Dean's office, but our project was not included in the ten (10) projects that she recommended.

Also, in conjunction with the issue of businesses in residential areas previously discussed, Mr. Bobst noted that we are looking into three (3) areas and reviewing Chapter 15, Section 405 as regards parking of trucks and buses. Mr. Bobst read the definition of trucks and buses as they relate to this and suggested steps to take to address the issue, including adding certain streets and roads to the restricted parking list and looking into home-based businesses. Ms. Milazzo added that she believes that the issue is more of a home-based business one with equipment and things on the property.

Mr. Bobst added that the noise ordinance is being reviewed in response to noise complaint issue from the industrial park, but that the audible back-up warning system of trucks is a federal mandate. Ms. Pavone commented that the truck beeping "would be intolerable to me" and inquired if the beeping is a new event and suggested that a noise barrier or trees would help. Mr. Garton stated that he believes that all trees are in place at this point, but that he will look into it and perhaps contact Benchmark to have plantings added to buffer the noise.

Treasurer Horn did not present her report at the meeting; however, she has submitted her summary which shows cash balances in the various funds as follows:

	<u>March 31st</u>	<u>April 30th</u>
General Fund	10,164,279.86	10,572,336.83
PLGIT 10105000	36,524.10	59,998.90
PLGIT CD - SEWER	1,497,569.99	1,497,583.83
Golf Fund	(42,718.73)	2,103.92
Escrow Fund	499,285.21	484,545.08
Sinking Fund	11,685.76	11,686.05
Liquid Fuels	233,808.96	615,816.36
Capital Reserve PLGIT	21,419.77	21,420.14
Capital Reserve PLIGIT PLUS	19,520.50	19,520.50
Sewer Capital Acct	3,579,968.48	3,580,375.59
WN 2020 Project Fund	1,135,657.16	933,490.65
Vehicle Replacement Fund	627,402.83	592,477.05
Police Pension Citizens	131,512.06	140,028.07
Non-Uniform Pension Citizens	3,712.88	4,331.38
Grants, DUI	0.00	0.00
Grants, Misc.	165,547.65	218,715.53
Traffic Impact Fee	408,849.99	408,897.02

Public Safety Chief Kelly highlighted the monthly public safety report. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock regarding the number of traffic stops vs. number of citations issued, Chief Kelly stated that the police use discretion for violations such as vehicles out of registration, lights out, close calls with traffic signals, etc., but that the percentage of citations issued is on par for that over the years.

Public Works & Planning The highlights of the Public Works and Building-Plumbing reports were presented by Mr. Valyo who mentioned that vines and thorns will not be handled with branch pickup. Ms. Pavone inquired why and Mr. Valyo responded that the vines jam up the chipper and that the dump will not take them. It was reiterated by Mr. Valyo that branch pickup begins on the third Tuesday of each month and that it takes 2-3 days to complete the process. Mr. Bobst added that the street sweeper has GIS tracking on it so we can tell where it is and where it has been in the Township.

Also, it was mentioned by Mr. Valyo that numerous violation notices have been issued to properties for high grass and yards in need of cleanup. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller as to how we handle these violations, it was stated by Mr. Valyo that door hanger notices are placed on the property and that 99% of the property owners cure the violation upon receipt of the notice, but that no citations are issued.

Recreation The Recreation report was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Dzedzy who updated that Board on the ongoing park projects,

including the Firehouse, Padden Park Playground and Padden and Centennial Parks parking lots.

Also, a reminder was given by Mr. Dzedzy of the upcoming drive-in movie night on 5/15, and he announced that approval was received by the NASD for our summer camp to be held at Marshall Street School.

**Jeffersonville
Golf Club**

Mr. Bobst presented the monthly golf report and announced that April's revenue of \$211,000.00+ was the highest grossing month ever. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock, Mr. Bobst stated that the golf funds and the township funds are separate and the goal is to have the golf course sustain itself.

It was also mentioned by Mr. Bobst that the capital projects on the 5th hole have been completed.

Sanitary Sewer

In Mr. Figaniak's absence, the highlights of his monthly Sanitary Report were presented by Mr. Garton who reiterated that the funding request made to Representative Dean would not be considered as she recommended other projects for the funding.

Engineer

The Engineer's Report of Gilmore & Associates was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Garton who mentioned that he will reach out to bidders for the short course project at JGC to get feedback on why the bids are up.

Mr. Garton stated the bids on the ARLE Grant Program Project at the intersection of Whitehall & Marshall will be open on 5/30, and that the 2021 Road Paving Program bids came in good so maybe additional roads will be paved.

The Committee reports were approved by motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed by the Board.

Public Comment

Per Mr. Bobst, no written public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Mary Ellen Moran of Port Indian Road inquired if the number of criminal arrests has recently increased. In response thereto, Chief Kelly responded "no". Also, in response to Ms. Moran's question about timing on the improvements to the bend on Port Indian Road, Mr. Bobst replied "hopefully within the next month or two". Also, Ms. Moran mentioned the decibel noise coming from the industrial park. Per Mr. Kilkenny, the Township has a subjective standard rather than a decibel standard, and that decibel standards do not, in general, work as well. Finally, Ms. Moran inquired about energy sources, specifically wind energy, and inquired about sensors on windmills to detect birds. Per Mr. Bobst, our wind energy comes from Iowa and Texas and sources are compliant with EPA regulations as to wildlife.

There being no additional public comment offered, upon motion of Mr. Smock, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

**Commissioners'
Comments**

Mr. Miller commented that the golf course report was nothing short of glowing, we got good weather, and the course is still fine even though we raised employees' wages to \$15.00 per hour...staff is satisfied and we retain good help. Mr. Miller added that what matters is that we care about our community. Mr. Miller implored all to pay attention to who sits here on the Board and remember that 4 years ago the folks at the golf course would not have gotten a raise. In conclusion, Mr. Miller stated that we have five caring, intelligent people who care about our community and with whom he is proud to serve.

Ms. Milazzo commented that she ran into a neighbor that asked her to thank the Public Works crew for the great job they did with branch pickup.

New Business

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized the execution of Stipulation and Order of Settlement for Tax Assessment Appeal for 1650 Christopher Lane (copy attached).

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board awarded the 2021 Road Paving Project, plus alternates, to the lowest bidder, DelVal Paving in the amount of \$209,284.03. It was added by Mr. Bobst that since the bids are under estimates, we will look into paving additional roads.

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board rejected the rebids for the Short Course at Jeffersonville Golf Club due to their excessive amount. According to Mr. Bobst, we will come back in winter when contractors are less busy and rebid the project for a possible 4/1/22 start date.

Upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #21-1669 Supporting Bills Allowing Local use of Radar (copy attached). Mr. Smock reiterated his request to "have a say" as to the use of radar, and Ms. Eckles confirmed with Chief Kelly that use of radar will not impede discretion on the part of the police department

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board granted the request for a handicapped parking space at 36 Centre Avenue.

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Smock and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #21-1670 Requesting a Watershed Restoration and Protection Grant. (copy attached). According to Mr. Bobst, the deadline for

this Grant application is May 31st, and it is a 50/50 match with a cash reserve allocation of \$78,000.00. Also, Mr. Bobst added that we are working with Cedarville Engineering on this project and work done will satisfy requirement of our MS4 5-year goal. In response to inquiries by Ms. Pavone and Mr. Smock, Mr. Bobst stated that the project is necessary, the matching funds will come from the Township's cash reserves and completion of the project could reduce sediment going into the river by 20,000 lbs.

Schedule of Meetings

It was announced by Mr. Bobst that the following meetings are scheduled this month:

- Environmental Advisory Council, June 2nd @ 7:00 PM
- Planning Commission, May 17th @ 7:00 PM;
- Human Relations Commission, May 27th @ 7:00 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:00 PM, on motion of Mr. Smock and seconded by Ms. Eckles, the public meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Frederick
Assistant Secretary