

July 6, 2021

Mr. Miller, President of the Board, convened the work session at 7:00 PM on the above date. Also, present were Commissioners Eckles, Milazzo, Pavone and Smock, as well as: Jason M. Bobst; Dan Grieser, Esquire; Michael Kelly; Stephen Morris; Donna Horn; Michael Valyo; and Jonathan Dzedzy. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting proceeded.

Discussion

- A. *Ms. Pavone stated that she and Mr. Smock met with Mr. Dzedzy and Mr. Bobst to discuss possible locations for a dog park. The VanLandeghem property was mentioned as a possible site where 2 of the 12 acres of land could be utilized for that purpose while leaving the vast majority of land as open space. Mr. Smock added that a review of old plans of the VanLandeghem property will be done regarding estimated costs of the proposed dog park. Ms. Pavone mentioned that, after a lengthy discussion with a dog trainer, it was suggested that “the bigger the better” for the proposed park, and Mr. Smock suggested incorporating a nature trail with botany and birding, but not mowing down the whole area. After discussion, it was concluded that more research of sites, cost, amenities, etc. will be performed and brought to the Board.*

- B. *Per Mr. Bobst, a report of the findings from the study by Urban Partners for the Jeffersonville Golf Club Improvement Projects was received on June 24th and will be presented to the Board at its regular meeting next week. Mr. Miller commented that he is looking forward to the presentation, and Mr. Smock requested that the study be posted on the website for residents to post questions/comments.*

- C. *Ms. Eckles announced that she, Mr. Bobst and Chief Kelly discussed the creation of a West Norriton Academy to introduce and educate residents on the workings of the Township. According to Ms. Eckles, the Academy would consist of monthly sessions, perhaps on the second Wednesday of the month when no other meetings are held, each devoted to a separate department, to gain a better understanding of how we work and what we do. Per Mr. Bobst, a total of 12 monthly sessions, each of a duration of ninety (90) minutes, was suggested, with participants attending as many or few of the sessions as they wish. A discussion of the proposed Academy ensued which included, among other things, possible dates, session parameters, presenters, location and incentives for completion. Ms. Eckles was appointed by Mr. Miller as chairperson of the Academy project.*

Manager

Mr. Bobst stated that the following items would be considered for adoption at the Board’s next regular meeting:

- A. *Authorizing the design of the Rittenhouse Force Main Upgrade, for which project we have \$1.5M set aside from the RETTEW litigation settlement;*
- B. *Authorizing execution of the Agreement of Sale for the Dual Auger for Rittenhouse Pump Station in the amount of \$113,700.00, which funds are available in the sewer capital account. Per Mr. Bobst, we presently have a comminator at the pump station, but due to the high level of flow and pressure, the force pushes things through that should be caught, and the comminator breaks down. Therefore, we are looking to replace it with new a dual auger which is new technology and a more efficient process. Mr. Grieser added that, if the dual auger doesn't work for our application, the Agreement allows for an "out" after six (6) months for \$18,000.00, and that no bids are required since its through Costars. It was also noted by Mr. Grieser that we are incurring additional costs from NMWA for the additional items getting through the comminator without being removed so there is an added benefit to replacing it. In response to inquiries by the Board, Mr. Bobst noted that the cost of the comminator is approximately \$35,000.00-\$40,000.00 and that the lifespan of the dual auger is double that of the comminator.*
- C. *Authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Norristown Municipal Waste Authority to memorialize our previous agreement with them as regards cost sharing. According to Mr. Bobst, this is before us since NMWA is undergoing capital upgrades at a cost of \$14M and we are responsible for one-third (1/3) of those capital improvement costs. Unfortunately, per Mr. Bobst, we don't have a say in capital improvements; however, our cost is minimal in the grand scheme of things and it would be much more expensive if they didn't go through Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA). Mr. Grieser gave a background on the GESA Act and explained that the savings expected over 20 years will pay for the project. Per Mr. Bobst, we probably have enough funds built into the budget to pay for these improvements already. After inquiries by the Board. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Milazzo, Mr. Grieser confirmed that the Agreement confirms the Township's 1/3 ownership interest in the treatment plant;*
- D. *Authorizing sale of golf carts on Municibid to the highest bidder(s). Per Mr. Bobst, 25 carts are being sold, some in lots of 5, and that the current return on each care is approx. \$3,100.00 on Municibid vs. \$500.00 each on a trade-in. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller, Mr. Bobst explained that the buyer on Municibid pays a 9% upcharge, while the seller pays nothing;*

- E. Awarding bid for the 2021 Sewer Budget Road Paving Program. No consideration of RCO necessary due to the cost of the project;*
- F. Awarding bid for the Intersection Improvements Project at Whitehall Road and W. Marshall Street, provided that the contractor meets the RCO. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller, it was stated by Mr. Bobst that the project will hopefully be completed by late fall; and*
- G. Awarding bid for the Padden and Centennial Parks Paving Program, provided that the contractor meets the RCO.*

**Liaison
Committee
Reports**

Mr. Miller stated that the EAC's educational program in recycling is in the works.

Ms. Eckles noted that the next Civil Service meeting will be held in October.

It was mentioned by Ms. Milazzo that the Recreation Committee is planning a Fall Fest program, and that the Silver Circle will soon resume its meetings looking at putting garden beds at the golf course.

Per Mr. Smock, there was no meeting of the Planning Commission.

Likewise, Ms. Pavone stated that there was no meeting of the Human Relations Commission.

**Public
Comment**

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

Mary Ellen Moran of 714 Port Indian Road asked why other our parks do not allow dogs and she requested that we allow dogs at Centennial Park. Mr. Dzedzy replied that pet waste is an issue. As regards West Norriton Township Academy, Ms. Moran suggested that we include the "interesting" things about and in the Township, not just the departments. Ms. Moran also commented on, among other things, looking at other options for the communitator, the amount of the return on the sale of the golf carts on Municibid and the capital improvement costs of the NMWA treatment plant. Ms. Moran concluded her comments by stating that she doesn't want the VanLandeghem tract to be used for a dog park because she doesn't want the wetlands disturbed.

There being no further public comments offered, upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Commissioners Comment *Ms. Pavone thanked Chief Kelly and the rest of the police department for their efforts patrolling the fireworks on July 4th weekend, and she stated that it was “nice and much calmer”. Ms. Eckles concurred; however, Mr. Smock commented that “It was the worst that I ever heard’. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Pavone, Chief Kelly mentioned that there was only one complaint and the complainant requested that the party setting off the fireworks not be cited.*

Upcoming Meeting Dates *According to Mr. Bobst, meetings as follows are scheduled: Environmental Advisory Council on July 7th @ 7:00 PM; Planning Commission on July 19th @ 7:00 PM; Zoning Hearing Board on July 28th @ 7:00 PM; and Human Relations Commission on July 22nd @ 7:00 PM.*

Adjournment *There being no further items on the agenda, upon motion of Ms. Eckles, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously approved, the work session was adjourned at 8:00 PM.*

*Kathy K. Frederick
Assistant Secretary*