

August 10, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township was convened 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; T.J. Figaniak; and Ed Brown.

Presentation

A power point presentation by our traffic safety engineer, Christopher Fazio, of Remington Vernick was made regarding proposed improvements to the intersection of Egypt Road and W. Main Street. According to Mr. Fazio, there exists unsafe conditions at this intersection, including congestion, tight curves, stormwater, driveway access and lack of signaling on Jefferson, all of which can be addressed by re-signalizing the intersection, installing high viz signage to mitigate crashes, and making drainage improvements. Mr. Fazio suggests that an evaluation of the intersection be made, preparation of constructions plans, documents and obtaining PennDOT approvals. It was also mentioned by Mr. Fazio that grant funds are available through ARLE, Green Light Go and others. It was added by Mr. Bobst that this intersection is important to us as it is a town center and that he believes that now is the time to start this project. In addition, Mr. Bobst the signal on Egypt Road and Main Street gest hit at least once a month and over 1.4M cars pass through that intersection monthly. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock, it was mentioned by Mr. Kilkenny that an acquisition of real estate will be necessary for this project, but that acquisition by eminent domain is a last resort as it is costly, lengthy and sometimes hostile. After discussion, and in response to an inquiry by Mr. Miller as to the next steps, the Board added the possible proceeding with the Proposal of this project to the agenda.

**Minutes
Approval**

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Pavone and unanimously passed by the Board were the minutes of its work session of July 6, 2021 and its regular meeting of July 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 \$52,563.67; payroll vouchers in the amount of \$439,542.84; and the Payment Approval Report of \$730,224.61. Upon motion of Mr. Smock seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously approved was the aforementioned finance report.

**Committee
Reports: Admin.
& Finance**

Mr. Bobst highlighted the agenda items under New Business and noted that the budget process has begun with a target date of October for presentation of the initial budget. It was added by Mr. Bobst the following:

To update the Board on the issue with the tax collector, Michael Murray, which was originally presented a couple of months ago surrounding discrepancies with his 2020 tax collection and bookkeeping, Mr. Bobst noted that the County, NASD and Township put Mr. Murray's bond company on notice of the deficiencies in his record keeping process. According to Mr. Bobst, the biggest issue is that NASD feels that additional tax revenue is due them in the approximately amount of \$270,000.00 and the Township is owed approximately \$34,000.00. Also, per Mr. Bobst, no lien list has yet been generated so our liens from 2020 have not been filed, but that are reaching out to the forensic auditing firm to generate that list. If the bond is called, those amounts owed may be covered by the Bond, per Mr. Bobst. They are working through this diligently and it is our hope that the forensic company can sort through this. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Eckles, Mr. Kilkenny mentioned that only the state senate can remove the tax collector from office, but that no Board of other organization can do so. If the bond is called and not able to be renewed, then Mr. Murray could not run or hold office after his term is expired. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Milazzo regarding real estate closings if lien information is not up to date, Mr. Kilkenny advised that real estate sales may go through, but our interests may not be protected. Mr. Miller reiterated that, between the school district and the township, over \$300,000.00, or \$.3 M dollars, is unaccounted for. Per Mr. Bobst, staff is doing the best we can to recover the funds ASAP.

Also, regarding the \$817,100.00 received from funding via the American Rescue Act, Mr. Bobst mentioned that sewer credits will be given to residents totaling approximately \$300,000.00 and that with the remaining \$500,000.00 he would like to give grants to local restaurants/businesses that suffered losses due to COVID. Per Mr. Bobst, programs are in place for this so we would not have to recreate the wheel. Mr. Bobst suggested that an ad hoc committee or a liaison be appointed to work with he and staff on the grants. Ms. Milazzo volunteered to be the liaison. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Pavone, Mr. Bobst stated that residents, not just homeowners, would be the beneficiaries of the sewer credits.

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>June 30th</u>	<u>July 31st</u>
General Fund	13,494,535.98	13,507,468.06
PLGIT 10105000	34,420.18	29,664.53
PLGIT CD - SEWER	1,497,609.45	1,497,624.27
Golf Fund	111,773.83	265,761.81
Escrow Fund	474,863.77	474,920.20
Sinking Fund	4,186.92	4,187.03

Liquid Fuels	597,613.73	597,152.90
Capital Reserve PLGIT	21,420.86	21,421.25
Capital Reserve PLIGIT PLUS	19,520.50	19,520.50
Sewer Capital Acct	3,575,903.17	3,576,323.36
WN 2020 Project Fund	799,724.14	739,612.12
Vehicle Replacement Fund	694,226.75	685,859.08
Police Pension Citizens	156,334.99	168,369.22
Non-Uniform Pension Citizens	5,568.31	6,461.44
Grants, DUI	0.00	0.00
Grants, Misc.	218,751.39	218,769.62
Traffic Impact Fee	408,992.67	406,941.13

Public Safety Chief Kelly highlighted the monthly public safety report and noted that the department responds to approximately 1,000 calls per month.

Public Works & Planning The highlights of the Public Works and Building-Plumbing reports were presented by Mr. Valyo.

Recreation The Recreation report was prepared and highlighted by Mr. Dzedzy who provided an update on the parks' projects and the upcoming movie night and fireworks immediately thereafter on September 5th at NAHS.

Per Mr. Dzedzy, our summer camp just concluded and it was "one of the best summers we ever had, and the staff did a great job keeping the kids happy and safe." Also, it was noted by Mr. Dzedzy that a very successful basketball clinic run by the Moore brothers was recently held in the Township with 40-50 participants. Also, per Mr. Dzedzy, the outdoor movie night will be moved to Labor Day to coincide with fireworks at the conclusion of the movie. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock, Mr. Dzedzy stated that the Township uses International Fireworks Co. for its fireworks display and pays approximately \$8,000.00 for same.

Finally, Mr. Dzedzy mentioned the upcoming Fall Fest scheduled for October 16th from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM at Centennial Park which will include food vendors, a pumpkin patch, bands, a biergarten, zoo animals, etc.

Jeffersonville Golf Club Mr. Bobst presented the monthly golf report and announced that if the club's revenue meets its budget next month, August, it will exceed its revenue budget for 2021. It was also noted by Mr. Bobst that we are "blowing every record that we can find out of the water."

Also, it was mentioned by Mr. Bobst that the Club Championship was recently won by Johnathan Ortiz in 41 holes, and that we are expecting a "busy next few months."

Sanitary Sewer The highlights of his monthly Sanitary Report were presented by Mr. Figaniak who also announced that the Forrest Avenue Pump Station is back online and working smoothly in a much cleaner and safer environment.

Engineer The Engineer's Report of Gilmore & Associates was prepared

and highlighted by Mr. Brown who mentioned that the road paving program was recently completed and it turned out well, with improvement needed on notifications to residents. Ms. Pavone commented that the paving projects in her development and others turned out great.

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

Public Comment

Per Mr. Bobst, one written public comment was received prior to the meeting from Sean Macilvain of 589 Port Indian Road as follows:

“Speed Humps on Port Indian Road. There are alot of people that use the road to make thier way down to the trail and people speed down the road uncontrollably. There is zero police presence and no sidewalks so the speeding makes walking on this quiet road quite dangerous.”

Mr. Bobst commented that Port Indian Road was recently paved so that may be contributing to the speeding. It was added by Mr. Valyo that speed humps are not a favorite of public works department and public safety as they slow down police and fire response vehicles.

James Watters, III of w E. Indian Lane commented that the Port Indian Road paving and trimming looks great, and that it is good to see the pole removed on Forest Ave. & Main Street. However, according to Mr. Watters, the bad is the stinky water which it has to do with the flow and temperature. Also, Mr. Watters handed out a pictorial study of Indian Creek and asserted that what has happening with pollution and debris in Indian Creek is similar to what has happened to Stony Creek and the effect on our drinking water.

Anthony Uhrich of Alexander Drive voiced his concerns over the distance between speed limit signs, and he suggests more signage, including a sign and painting for the crosswalk at Forest Avenue and reduced speed sign.

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

Commissioners' Comments

Mr. Miller recognized the tremendous work of Mitzvah Circle, a non-denominational organization located in the Township which helps people who have fallen on hard times and which organization serves them with dignity and pride. According to Mr. Miller, Mitzvah Circle is having a fundraising 5K and 10K fun run/walk in September and details can be found on its website at mitzvahcircle.org.

A comment was made by Ms. Milazzo that the Silver Circle will resume its meetings in September with its first meeting being on September 15th. Also, Ms. Milazzo stated that she attended a brain-storming meeting with members of the County and local municipalities on possible dredging of the Schuylkill River, which she stated is a long, expensive and arduous process, but that the group will continue to explore the pros and cons of this issue.

Ms. Pavone expressed her desire to have more detailed information provided about police activity. Mr. Bobst suggested that there are public websites, including Crimemapping.com, where municipalities sign on and report information on crimes, including the type, date, location which then gives residents more information. The information provided is not detailed as to name or identifiers, just the report number, type of crime and location. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smock, Chief Kelly noted that the County program can handle the reporting so no more work is involved from the police department's standpoint.

Mr. Smock commented that the recent meeting of the Planning Commission was a short one with the real focus on the new members and what it means to be on the Planning Commission. Also, Mr. Smock noted that the revised Sign Ordinance is robust and thorough, but that he completely recommends it.

Discussion

A communication was received by Ms. Milazzo from residents complaining of speeding on Main Street between Forrest Avenue and she would like to discuss what we can do about it, including signage. According to Chief Kelly, 249 car stops and 34 accidents have occurred on this stretch of roadway to date since January 1, 2021, 13 of which accidents were reportable (vehicle towed or personal injury). Chief Kelly noted that speeding is a problem, that his department is running a 4-man detail tomorrow, and that police presence is usually a deterrent to speeding. After discussion, options to investigate are painting, reduction of speed limit, traffic control devices, etc., but Main Street is a state road so whatever remedies need to come from them.

Per Mr. Bobst, as regards the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission, it is in draft format for your review with discussion in September and possible moving forward with advertising and public hearing thereafter.

New Business

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #21-1674 Authorizing Disposition of Unnecessary Personal Property. In response to an inquiry by Ms. Eckles, Mr. Bobst explained that this is due to a change in state code which allows flexibility to dispose of items under \$2,000.00 (copy attached).

Upon motion of Ms. Milazzo, seconded by Ms. Eckles and unanimously agreed, the Board adopted Resolution #21-1676 Approving the Memorandum of Understanding with the West Norriton Township Police Department for School Resource Officer (SRO) for MCIU (copy attached).

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Milazzo and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized the execution of Settlement Agreement with Verizon for a damage claim @ 13-15 Egypt Road. According to Mr. Bobst, this is for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Township for repairs after Verizon put a telephone pole through our sanitary sewer line.

At the request of Mr. Bobst, the motion to accept the consortium bid for sodium chloride for the 2021-2022 winter season was tabled until September.

Upon motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Smock and unanimously agreed, the Board authorized the execution of Proposal by Remington, Vernick for the study of intersection of Egypt Road and Main Street.

Schedule of Meetings

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

- Environmental Advisory Council - September 1st @ 7:00 PM;
- Planning Commission - None;
- Zoning Hearing Board - None;
- Human Relations Commission - August 26th @ 7:00 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:35 PM, on motion of Mr. Smock and seconded by Ms. Eckles, the public meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Frederick
Assistant Secretary