

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATION MEETING JANUARY 2, 2024**

The Organization Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by Solicitor Kelsey Frankowski at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were William B. Miller, Lisha Rowe, David J. Batdorf, Greg Miller and Andy Donnell. Also attending were Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Michael L. Yost, Jr., Business /Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Asst. Secretary/Projects Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer.

Pledge to the Flag.

SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS

Andrew S. Donnell and Gregory A. Miller were sworn in as Township Commissioners by Judge Justin Bodor.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSIONERS

A) Officers for Board of Commissioners

1) President

Mr. Donnell nominated Ms. Rowe for President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Greg Miller seconded the nomination.

A majority ballot was recorded for Ms. Rowe as President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. William Miller - No, Mr. Batdorf - No, Ms. Rowe - Yes, Mr. Greg Miller - Yes, and Mr. Donnell- Yes.

2) Vice President

Ms. Rowe nominated Mr. Greg Miller as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Donnell seconded the nomination.

A majority ballot was recorded for Mr. Greg Miller as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. William Miller - No, Mr. Batdorf – Yes, Ms. Rowe - Yes, Mr. Greg Miller - Yes, and Mr. Donnell - Yes.

Atty. Frankowski turned the meeting over to Ms. Rowe at 7:08 p.m..

PUBLIC

Attendance: Roxann Miller, Barbara Nagle, Claude P. Mervine, Timothy Dewalt, Bev Leonti, Glenn Emery, Joe Roland, Kathy Roland, Sue Haas, and Perry Haas.

No members of the public indicated the desire to speak.

Ms. Johnston explained that items on the consent agenda are expected to be unanimously approved, according to the resolution that established the use of a consent agenda. If the vote is not anticipated to be unanimous, the item(s) should be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

ON MOTION OF MR. DONNELL, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE REMOVING THE VACANCY BOARD APPOINTMENT FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.

CONSENT AGENDA

A) Township Solicitor

ACTION:

APPOINTED GEORGEADIS//SETLEY, PRINCIPALLY REPRESENTED BY KELSEY FRANKOWSKI, ESQ., AS TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR, PLANNING SOLICITOR, AND SOLICITOR TO THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF CUMRU.

B) Consulting Solicitors

ACTION:

APPOINTED CONSULTING SOLICITORS, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) **Atty. Stephen H. Price of Mogel, Speidel, Bobb & Kershner – Civil Service Commission**
- 2) **Atty. Daniel Becker of Kozloff Stoudt – select planning issues**

C) Manager

ACTION:

APPOINTED JEANNE E. JOHNSTON AS MANAGER.

D) Secretary

ACTION:

APPOINTED JEANNE E. JOHNSTON AS SECRETARY.

E) Assistant Secretary

ACTION:

APPOINTED PATRICIA A. WYLEZIK-PFEIFFER AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY.

F) Engineer

ACTION:

APPOINTED GREAT VALLEY CONSULTANTS AS THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATE SCHEDULE, DATED 12/14/2023.

ACTION:

APPOINTED JOHNSON ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AS A CONSULTANT STORMWATER ENGINEER.

**ACTION:
APPOINTED STV, INCORPORATED AS A CONSULTANT FOR BRIDGE
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

G) Utility Engineer

**ACTION:
APPOINTED ATLAS TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS AS THE TOWNSHIP SEWER
AND UTILITY ENGINEER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2024 RATE SCHEDULE
FOR SERVICES.**

H) Sewage Enforcement Officer

**ACTION:
APPOINTED WARMKESSEL GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. AS THE SEWAGE
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR ON-LOT SEWAGE SYSTEMS.**

J) Monthly Meeting Schedule

**ACTION:
ADOPTED A MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024 AS FOLLOWS:
- 3RD TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.
- 5TH TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS AMENDED.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- A) Board of Commissioners Organization meeting advertised on 12/21/2023.
- B) Civil Service Commission Organization meeting advertised on 12/29/2023
- C) Cedar Top Rd. Sewer Replacement – Bid Notice advertised on 1/2/2024
- D) Flying Hills Dr. Sewer Replacement – Bid Notice advertised on 1/2/2024
- E) PaDEP press release re: drought watches and warnings in South Central PA, dated 12/26/2023

COMMISSIONERS

A) Vacancy Board

Mr. William Miller made a motion to appoint Gary Yost to the Vacancy Board. Mr. Batdorf seconded the motion. Mr. William Miller and Mr. Batdorf voted “yes.” Mr. Gregory Miller, Mr. Donnell, and Ms. Rowe voted “no.”

B) Discuss Potential Special Meeting

There was discussion about whether there was a need for a special meeting to discuss Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant funding for the construction of the fire station. Mr. Greg Miller had a conversation with Tom Gombar from Senator Schwank's office about this issue. Ms. Johnston confirmed that the first step for the RACP grant is to get a line item included in the potential list. Cumru Township has a line item marked for a fire station. However, the Township's project does not fulfill the requirements of the program.

Ms. Johnston noted that sometimes grant opportunities have poison pills that may not be apparent at first. She gave an example of the TASA grant that requires the Township to own the entire parcel in question. Ms. Johnston had contacted the architect for the new fire station and confirmed that some of the RACP grant requirements would increase the costs for metals such as steel and aluminum and would necessitate the need to alter the bid specifications that are already advertised. Atty. Frankowski said that this would increase the cost of the project without any assurances of getting any grant money. Mr. William Miller was concerned that this will cost more money and time only to find out that we do not qualify for the grant money.

Ms. Johnston stated that this grant program is at the Governor's discretion. The grant window closes on January 12, 2024, which is before the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting on January 16, 2024. The window for bid amendments for the Fire Station ends January 15, 2024. A special meeting would need to be held before January 12, 2024, in order to authorize a grant application. Ms. Johnston recommended asking Tom Gombar to attend the meeting to answer questions. The special meeting must be advertised for the notice to appear at least 24 hours ahead. This means that the request must be sent to the Reading Eagle two days ahead.

Mr. Greg Miller responded that he will talk to Tom Gombar directly.

C) Agendas in General and Commissioner Liaisons

There was discussion about agenda items and the liaison system currently being used. Ms. Johnston stated that the meeting agenda must be posted 24 hours before the meeting. She explained that a consent agenda is used to approve routine items and save time. It was decided that the commissioners would contact the President with possible agenda items at least one week before a scheduled meeting.

The current liaison system consists of committees that make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The liaisons, usually 2 Commissioners, meet with the different department heads to discuss current issues. The liaison meetings usually last 2-3 hours and during this time the liaisons recommend what to put on the agenda. These items still have to be voted on by the entire Board. The liaisons can also help facilitate the discussion during the regular meetings for their respective departments. Especially since COVID, many of the quotes received are only good for a limited time; the liaison system can help by recommending motions to not exceed a certain dollar amount based on the quotes. Ms. Johnston stated that, before the liaison system, meetings lasted longer and were more frequent.

Mr. Donnell stated that he does not like the liaison system and wants more detail in the public meetings. Mr. Greg Miller asked if there is a specific list of items to be discussed at a liaison meeting. The response was 'yes.' Mr. Batdorf suggested that any Commissioner can always contact any department at any time if there are questions. Mr. William Miller stated his belief that the liaison system works; he recommended continuing it. He said that the Board of Commissioners does not hide anything from the public.

Ms. Johnston suggested that this discussion can evolve over time.

B) Reminders:

- 1) Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Monday, 1/08/2024 at 6:00p.m.
- 2) Municipal Authority Meeting on Thursday, 1/25/2024, at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:46 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary