

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING                      JANUARY 21, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President William B. Miller at 7:00 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President Ruth A. O’Leary, David J. Batdorf, Sam Kalbach, and Chip Bilger. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Michael L. Yost, Business Personnel/Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, and Joe Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants.

Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC**

Attendance: Alyssa and Levi Oxenreider of 136 Chestnut Street, Lenny and Ruth Schlegel of 449 Brecon Lane, Brent M. Erb of Nolde Forest, Erica Jared of W. Elm Street, Susan Peña of 2007 Quail Hollow, Jessica Hopkins 112 Reading Avenue, Chad Harman 1616 Gregg Street, Josh Reaser of 312 Holland Street, Dan Gruber of 412 Wheatland, Jeff Brady of 1960 Welsh Road, Janemarie McKay of 5 Steever’s Court with the Governor Mifflin Cumru Elementary School Gifted Class- The Monarch Whisperers.

A) Lenny Schlegel re: Brecon Lane Utility Replacement Project

Mr. Schlegel expressed to the Board his frustration with the project. His main concern was with his driveway being repaired. He claimed no notification was given to the public. Mr. Rogosky informed Mr. Schlegel that the contractor would be responsible for repairing his driveway and any pins removed would be replaced. The swale will also be reinforced. Ms. Johnston stated that she met with Mr. Schlegel personally and Mr. McNichols also explained the project to Mr. Schlegel.

Mrs. Schlegel stated they have lost water, their phone line, and mail due to this project. She questioned why a [head]wall was installed. Mr. Rogosky stated the wall is required to protect the pipe. Mr. McNichols informed them that the phone company did not mark the line correctly, which was out of the Township’s control.

Mr. Schlegel asked why the project was performed in winter. Mr. Rogosky explained that the pipe was failing and needed immediate attention. The stormwater would be completed within the next week and they may be finished by the end of next week to finish the bypass pumping.

Mr. Schlegel complained that one of the operators told him to “go in your house”. Mr. Rogosky informed Mr. Schlegel that he would speak with the contractor on the matter. Mrs. Schlegel stated she was concerned with the location of the catch basin. Mr. Rogosky stated he would check with the contractor regarding their concerns.

B) Brent Erb of Nolde Forest

Mr. Brent Erb of Nolde Forest informed the Board of Commissioners and the public that the park closes at sunset. All dogs should be on a leash while in the park, this is due to the recent dog attack. Mr. Erb stated Nolde Forest recently acquired 60 acres of land. They are currently reviewing how to best utilize the land. He stated he intended to protect the watershed. He requested that no one parks on Oregon Road.

C) Jane Marie McKay, Teacher of the Governor Mifflin Cumru Elementary School

Ms. McKay presented information on the Monarch Whisperers, a group of students at Cumru Elementary. The group requested one of the Commissioners to visit their school. They informed the Commissioners about a school project, supervised by Jane Marie McKay. The project was intended to restore the health of Rabbit Run Stream and increase the monarch butterfly population in the area. They stated they surveyed the area and found trash and grass clippings in the Stream. When residents dump grass clippings into the water it depletes the oxygen in the stream and damages the riparian environment, which hurts the monarch butterflies.

D) Kelly Learn of 618 Mountain View Road

Ms. Learn was present to discuss her concerns regarding Stormwater runoff onto her property. She stated the water runoff has created a freezing condition. She asked for a pipe to be installed going to the sewer. Ms. Johnston stated the water cannot be diverted into the sanitary sewer. The ponding effect that has been occurring on Mountain View Road is also occurring in other areas within the Township, including Calyn Drive. Ms. Learn stated the water goes onto and down the road. Mr. McNichols stated that there is a storm sewer near that area, but the water cannot be piped into the sanitary sewer. The Board asked the liaisons to discuss the matter.

**SOUTHERN BERKS REGIONAL EMS**

A) Monthly Report – December 2019

Mr. Malcom Cole presented the monthly report for Southern Berks Regional EMS. Mr. Cole stated they had 2036 Calls for the month of December. He thanked Chief Musser for managing the overtime with the staff. Mr. Cole informed the Board that Southern Berks revenue has increased by 5% since 2018. Their net income for 2019 was \$146,000 Mrs. O’Leary complimented Southern Berks’ increase in revenue.

**TREASURER**

A) Monthly Report – December 2019

**TAX COLLECTOR**

A) 2019 Refuse – Delinquent

- 1) Memorandum from Tax Collector re: flat amount of \$18,290.00 uncollected, dated 1/15/2020

B) 2019 Per Capita – Delinquent

- 1) Memorandum from Tax Collector re: flat amount of \$8,565.00 uncollected for 1,713 bills, dated 1/15/2020

C) 2019 Sewage Management Program (SMP) – Delinquent

- 1) Memorandum from Tax Collector re: flat amount of \$1,200.00 uncollected for 16 bills, dated 1/15/2020

D) 2019 Township Real Estate – Delinquent

- 1) Certification from Tax Collector re: flat amount of \$68,427.33 sent to tax claim for 108 bills, dated 1/13/2020

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**2018-02 KANTNER LANE TWINS SUBDIVISION PLAN**

- a.) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: recommendation for escrow release, dated 01/17/2020

**ACTION:**

**AUTHORIZED ESCROW RELEASE NO. 1 FOR THE KANTNER LANE TWINS SUBDIVISION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,202.40.**

**2019 Sewer Replacement Project**

- 1) Letter from BCM Engineers re: recommendation for payment, dated 1/10/2020

**ACTION:**

**APPROVED APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 2 TO WEXCON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$232,916.82 FOR THE 2019 SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT.**

**Brecon Lane Utility Replacement Project**

- 1) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: recommendation for payment, dated 01/17/2020

**ACTION:**

**APPROVED APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 1 TO CONSTRUCTION MASTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,838.75 FOR SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT FOR THE BRECON LANE UTILITY REPLACEMENT PROJECT.**

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**ON MOTION MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

**DEPARTMENTS**

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – December 2019

Chief Winchester informed the Board of a robbery that occurred in January at Speedway on Lancaster Pike. He also stated there was a self-inflicted gunshot that occurred at Diamonds Hookah Lounge.

B) Civil Service - Police

- 1) Promotion of Officer Bezner to Sergeant

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE PROMOTING MICHAEL BEZNER TO SERGEANT, EFFECTIVE 1/20/2020.**

**C) Police Cars**

**ON MOTION MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE BUDGETED POLICE VEHICLE AND ONE REPLACEMENT VEHICLE THAT WAS TOTALED RECENTLY, NOT TO EXCEED \$99,100.00.**

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – December 2019

Chief Beane informed the Board of the gas main breach by the contractor at Stabon Pond, resulting in the evacuation of the County Inn Motel. Chief Beane stated there was a natural gas leak on Thomas Drive in Thomas Gardens and six properties were evacuated. He also reported on a structure fire that occurred on North Church Street. The fire was electrical in nature.

B) Civil Service – Fire

1) conditional offers of employment

Chief Beane advised the Board that both candidates accepted the conditional offers of employment. He did not have a current start date for either candidate due to the pre-employment testing timeline.

C) SCBA Purchase through Fire Relief

Chief Beane stated the total amount for the SCBA purchase was \$191,000.00, some of which was provided through the PEMA grant. The goal was to have a standardized SCBA pack throughout the department.

D) Volunteer Banquet 2020

Administration

A) Codes Report- December 2019

Building Permits Issued- 18

Use Permits Issued- 0

Zoning Permits Issued- 11

Notices of Violations- 8

Citations issued- 0

Violations complied- 7

Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 118

Permit Inspections Done – 18

Inspections with the Fire Department – 0

**B) Animal Rescue League**

1) animal control services agreement 2020

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2020 WITH THE \$1 PER CAPITA OPTION.**

Public Works

A) Monthly Report – December 2019

B) Snow Management

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that the snow plow routes have been revised per the Township no longer plowing State roads.

C) Class 2 Position

1) advertisement

Engineer

A) Brecon Lane Storm Sewer Project – update

Mr. Rogosky gave an update to the Board of Commissioners. He stated the sanitary sewer work has been completed and sewer testing was performed and there has been an issue with ground water.

B) Remediation of Slope Failures Project – update

Mr. Rogosky informed the Board that cost estimates have been received for the soil nails. He stated the storm pipe would need to be done by the contractor. In the meantime they have been monitoring the roads and no settlement has occurred. Mr. Miller questioned the cost of the wall. Mr. Rogosky stated that it would be over \$100,000.00 with the soil nails costing roughly \$70,000.00. Mr. Rogosky advised that the geotechnical engineer report confirmed that the soil nails will work to fix the issue.

Solicitor

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE REGARDING TERMINATION OF AN OFFICER DUE TO A DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND AUTHORIZE A LETTER TO BE SENT STATING THE ABOVE TO THE APPROPRIATE PARTIES AND TO BE SIGNED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE.**

**PAYMENTS OF BILLS**

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE PAYMENTS OF BILLS FROM 12/20/2019, 12/27/2019, 12/27/2019-PLGIT, 01/02/2020, 01/10/2020, 01/17/2020.**

**COMMISSIONERS**

A) Reminders:

1) Offices closed for holiday – 2/17/2020

B) Executive session

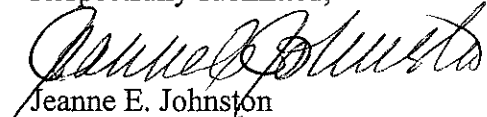
8:08 p.m. – The Board of Commissioners went into executive session to discuss 1 personnel issue.

8:31 p.m. – The meeting reconvened. Mr. Setley stated that the Board of Commissioners had discussed 1 personnel issue, the item remains pending to be resolved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE  
ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 8:32 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeanne E. Johnston  
Township Manager/ Asst. Secretary