

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President William B. Miller at 7:02 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President Ruth A. O'Leary, David J. Batdorf, Chip Bilger, and Sam Kalbach. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, and Manager Jeanne E. Johnston.

This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of meeting minutes. The audio file of the meeting will be destroyed after official meeting minutes for this meeting have been adopted.

Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

A) Belair Ave. parking – *not present*

TOWER DIRECT EMS

A) Monthly Report – January 2021

Chief Wurster reported 212 calls in January. The response times were below the contracted response times. He met twice with Chief Beane to discuss run cards. There were five response by other EMS services: 3 by WBAA, 1 by LifeLion, and 1 by City of Reading. Mrs. O'Leary asked what the pay arrangement was with LifeLion. Chief Wurster believed it was considered mutual aid.

TREASURER

A) Monthly Report – January 2021

TAX COLLECTOR

A) January 2021 Report

1) Year 2020 Real Estate

Balance collectable beginning of month – \$66,625.65

Cash collected - \$0

Balance collectable end of the month - \$0

2) Year 2020 Real Estate Interim

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$301.49

Cash collected - \$51.93

Balance collectable end of the month - \$104.00

3) Year 2020 SMP

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$1,430.00

Cash collected - \$0

Balance collectable end of the month - \$0

4) Year 2020 Refuse

Balance collectable beginning of month - \$18,420.00

Cash collected - \$0

Balance collectable end of the month - \$0

CONSENT AGENDA

672 Old Lancaster Pike – accessory structure

- 1) Request for waiver of land development, dated 12/24/2020
- 2) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: sketch plan review, dated 1/15/2021
- 3) Planning Commission recommended granting waiver of land development, dated 2/15/2021

ACTION:

GRANTED A WAIVER OF LAND DEVELOPMENT FOR 672 OLD LANCASTER PIKE, CONSTRUCTION MASTERS SERVICES, FOR REPLACEMENT OF AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE IN THE SAME FOOTPRINT AS THE EXISTING STRUCTURE.

Hummingbird Hill Annexation Plan – mostly in City of Reading

- 1) Request for deferral of review, 2/9/2021
- 2) Planning Commissioner recommended deferring review to the City of Reading

ACTION:

DEFERRED REVIEW OF THE HUMMINGBIRD HILL ANNEXATION PLAN TO THE CITY OF READING.

Seidel Hyundai – addition

- 1) Request for waiver of land development, dated 1/20/2021
- 2) Planning Commission recommended granting waiver of land development, dated 2/15/2021

ACTION:

GRANTED A WAIVER OF LAND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ADDITION OF AN AUTOMATED WASH BAY TO SEIDEL HYUNDAI.

Sewer Rate Ordinance

- 1) Ordinance advertised on 2/2/2021

ACTION:

ADOPTED THE SEWER RATE ORDINANCE AS ADVERTISED, EFFECTIVE WITH THE SECOND QUARTER 2021 BILLING.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

ON MOTION OF MR. BILGER, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA.

DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – January 2021

Chief Winchester stated that the investigation is still ongoing into the homicide at Stabon Plaza. Mr. Setley and Ms. Johnston recommended that the Board consider a BYOB ordinance. The Board asked Mr. Setley to draft an ordinance and circulate it among the Commissioners.

B) Police Civil Service

- 1) testing advertisement

C) School crossing signal SR 724

Chief Winchester informed the Board that the School District wanted the school zone to reflect the current hybrid schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as school delays. Inclement weather, which is the cause of delays, is also a high crash time for police. Mr. Bilger expressed safety concerns and proposed giving the School District the ability to adjust the signals in exchange for a hold harmless agreement. Chief Winchester expressed concern that the School District could turn the signals on or off without the CTPD being aware of it.

The Board asked for an estimate of updated technology for the signals, making it easier to change them. Mr. Kalbach said the School District should pay. He also expressed concern about traffic coming from New Castle Dr., in the middle of the zone, if the School District changes the signs. Mr. Kalbach stated his opinion that allowing the School District to change the lights at their discretion is a liability. Mr. Bilger suggested the signals be on all day. Mrs. O'Leary noted that there would be complaints.

The Board agreed that staff should investigate this problem and report back.

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – January 2021

Chief Beane reported a fire on Wyomissing Rd. that was a total loss.

B) Fire Station – phase 1 (infrastructure for Township campus)

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS FOR THE CUMRU CAMPUS UTILITY PROJECT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE FIRE STATION PHASE 1 PROJECT, SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE SOLICITOR.

Administration

A) Codes Department – January 2021

Building Permits Issued- 11

Use Permits Issued- 3

Zoning Permits Issued- 5

Notices of Violations-12

Citations issued- 0

Violations complied- 7

Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 186

Permit Inspections Done – 30

Inspections with the Fire Department – 1
Condemned 462 Wyomissing Rd. due to fire.

B) Schuylkill River Trail - improvements

Ms. Johnston announced a volunteer day on 3/27/2021 for the trail near West Reading.

Public Works

A) 2020-2021 Sewer Replacement Project – application for payment no. 2 \$98,599.50
ON MOTION OF MR. BILGER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS APPROVING APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 2 FOR THE HIGH BLVD SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,599.50.

B) Joint Angelica Interceptor Corrective Action Plan – short term improvements

1) applications for payment, change order no.1, and invoices from Kenhorst Borough in the amount of \$129,471.16

ON MOTION OF MR. BILGER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS APPROVING PAYMENT TO THE BOROUGH OF KENHORST FOR CUMRU TOWNSHIP'S SHARE OF THE JOING ANGELICA INTERCEPTOR CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$129,471.16.

C) South 9th St. – proposed “no winter maintenance”

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that, if the City does not plow snow in that area, Cumru Township staff cannot get to S. 9th St. Staff must go 6 miles through 2 other municipalities to get there. Mr. Setley stated that the Township is not obligated to plow. Ms. Johnston noted that City residents blocked the road twice in a recent storm. Mr. Kalbach noted that the time taken to get to one house detracts from attention to other Township roads.

Mr. Setley stated that the Township can vacate the road and Mr. Bilger advocated that.

Chief Beane stated that City of Reading FD is already the primary responder. He also noted that the driveway is as long as the road; the owner must plow out just to get to the road, making it likely that they have such equipment. Mr. Setley suggested starting with “no winter maintenance” which does not require an ordinance.

ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO POST SOUTH 9TH ST. “NO WINTER MAINTENANCE” BEGINNING 4/1/2021.

Mr. McNichols thanked the Board for keeping up with the appropriate equipment to enable winter weather response by public works.

Engineer

A) Traffic Signal SR 10 and Freemansville Rd.

1) condition statement – driveway transfer to Township when offered

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING A CONDITION STATEMENT FOR THE SR 10 AND FREEMANSVILLE RD. PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPLICATION.

Solicitor

PAYMENTS OF BILLS

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING PAYMENTS OF BILLS DATED 1/22/2021, 1/22/2021 – ACH, 1/29/2021 – ACH, 1/29/2021, 2/1/2021, 2/3/2021 - PLGIT, 2/5/2021, AND 2/12/2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

A) Letter from Kelly Learn re: 618 Mt. View Rd., dated 1/26/2021
The Board determined that the Township would not intervene in this issue, which is a neighbor problem.

B) ZHB notice for 2/2021

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BILGER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING: The Board authorized the Manager to testify on its behalf to relay safety concerns about parking the pulling out on to Cedar Top Rd.

C) Planning Commission and Park and Recreation Board rescheduled meetings advertised 2/7/2021

COMMISSIONERS

A) Vacancies

1) Zoning Hearing Board – accept resignation of Dona Starr

ON MOTION OF MR. BILGER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF DONA STARR AS A ZONING HEARING BOARD ALTERNATE.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 8:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Secretary/Manager