

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 19, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at by President Ruth O’Leary at 7:04 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Sheri Hoover, William B Miller and David J. Batdorf. Vice President Edward L. Gottschall was absent with prior notification to the Board. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James A. Beane, 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, Secretary Latoya Procopio, and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

Attendance: Dan Kelly of the Reading Eagle, Madelyn Johnston, Robert Moyer
Mrs. O’Leary invited public comment. No one indicated a desire to speak.

SOUTHERN BERKS REGIONAL EMS

A) Monthly Report – February 2019

Mr. Malcolm Cole was present for discussion. Mr. Cole stated Southern Berks had 179 EMS calls during the month of February. Mr. Cole reported to the Board that an agreement had been reached with Lifeline in regards to Cumru residents not being charged for their EMS services, should Lifeline cover the call instead of Southern Berks Regional EMS. The resident would not incur any out of pocket cost and this agreement has been made retroactive to January 1, 2019.

Mr. Cole stated Southern Berks is at a \$10,000.00 loss for the month, but they are \$4,200.00 ahead of budget. He stated Herbein+Co. conducted the annual CPA audit last week and they are awaiting a report. Southern Berks and the Township have a finalized agreement for the rest of 2019. Mr. Cole informed the Board that Southern Berks worked with Girl Scout Troop 287, teaching the troop to make first aid kits and giving them a tour of the ambulance facilities.

TREASURER

A) Monthly Report – February 2019

Mrs. Carpenter presented the monthly financial report. The Township paid for the new tanker out of the fire fund and paid almost \$900,000 for sewer treatment. Mrs. Carpenter stated Herbein+Co. conducted the annual audit and it went very well. The State Pension Auditor is due to come in on Thursday, March 21, 2019 to audit the last 4 years of the pension information.

TAX COLLECTOR

A) Monthly Report – February 2019

- 1) Year 2019 Real Estate Interim

- Balance collectable beginning of month - \$2,574.75
- Cash collected - \$0
- Balance collectable end of month - \$2,574.75
- 2) Year 2019 SMP
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$1725.00
 - Cash collected - \$0
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$0
- 3) Year 2019 Refuse
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$17,200.00
 - Cash collected - \$0
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$17,200.00
- 4) Year 2019 Per Capita
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$7,490.00
 - Cash collected - \$0
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$0

APPROVE MINUTES

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE MINUTES OF 2/29/19 – PUBLIC HEARING AND 2/19/19 – REGULAR MEETING.

DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – February 2019

B) Animal Control Services

- 1) Memorandum from the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council
- 2) Dog microchipping event 03/16/2019

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that a survey was sent out by the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council, of which Cumru Township is a member, to all of the member municipalities about desired animal control services. The purpose of the survey was to serve as a potential guideline for future bid specifications.

Based on one of the questions, Ms. Johnston asked the preference of the Board regarding who was responsible for paying the fee for microchipping. Ms. Johnston explained that the Township hosted a dog microchipping event the weekend prior. The event went very well and the cost for the residents to have their dog microchipped was \$10. During the event, a volunteer handed out MS4 literature and dog waste bags to educate the public that picking up their dog's waste helps to reduce pollution and keep the streams clean.

Mrs. Hoover stated, for the sake of the survey, the Township would cover the cost of the microchip, should it be a Township held event. Ms. Johnston explained to the Board that the Township could purchase two chip readers at minimal cost to add in the return of a lost pet.

C) Retirements

Chief Winchester informed the Board that the Township received two letters of retirement.

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING THE TWO LETTERS OF RETIREMENT OR SGT. LAURENCE S. GAUSCH AND OFFICER GREGORY A. KERR, WITH SGT. GAUSCH'S LAST DAY BEING JUNE 2, 2019 AND OFF. KERR'S LAST DAY BEING MARCH 31, 2019.

Mr. Batdorf questioned if there was a succession plan in place. Chief Winchester responded that the Police liaisons have given approval to move forward with testing for a new civil service list since the old list has expired. Civil service testing was budgeted for 2019.

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – February 2019

Chief Beane explained to the Board that he noticed a trend with smoking or improper discard of smoking materials being the cause of fires.

B) Resolution – Sale of 2000 Tanker

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR THE SALE OF THE 2000 TANKER, INCLUDING ADVERTISEMENT IN THE READING EAGLE FOR SEALED BIDS AND SALE THROUGH FIRELINE IF THE ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT RESULT IN A SALE FOR FAIR MARKET VALUE.

Administration

A) Monthly Codes Report- February 2019

Building Permits Issued- 6

Use Permits Issued- 5

Zoning Permits Issued- 2

Notices of Violations- 10

Citations issued- 0

Violations complied in February- 8

Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 184

Permit Inspections Done – 12

Inspections with the Fire Department – 1

B) Legislation on Codes

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that proposed legislation requiring the use of multiple 3rd party codes officials would not affect the Township at this time. However, if the Township ever reduced the codes department, complying with such legislation could be problematic and could end up costing applicants more. The Board of Commissioners agreed that the Township Manager should write an email to the State Representative against the legislation.

C) Refuse Fund

1) Charges for leaf waste

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the Township collects approximately 500 tons of leaves during the leaf picking session. The Township has been taking the leaves to Ridgewood Soils as they have the appropriate permits from DEP for the Township to dispose of the leaves. Ridgewood Soils has informed the Township that they will start to charge the Township \$25.00 per load to dispose of the leaves. Ms. Johnston stated that, based on prior years, the Township would be paying just under \$10,000.00 to dispose of the leaves. Local farms do not have the appropriate permit.

D) Recycling Equipment Grants – update

- 1) 2015 grant closed with reimbursement of \$40,499
- 2) 2018 grant agreement fully executed

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that reimbursement of the 2015 grant was expected in December 2018. For that reason, the 2018 refuse budget revenue will be low and the 2019 refuse budget revenue will be high.

E) Recreation

- 1) Breakfast with the Easter bunny 4/6/19, 9:00 a.m.

F) Records Management

- 1) draft resolution to dispose of commercial recycling records 2000-2009 (audited)

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION TO DISPOSE OF COMMERCIAL RECYCLING RECORDS 2000-2009 (AUDITED).

G) Insurance Proposal 2019-2020

- 1) memorandum from Manager re: renewal premium quote, dated 3/18/19

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the Township's overall premium for auto, inland marine liability, and workers compensation has remained stable for the past several years. She recommended accepting the quote and binding coverage for 2019-2020.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING COVERAGE TO BE BOUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSURANCE PROPSAL FOR 2019-2020.

H) West Shore Bypass Reconstruction

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the Township has a concern about access to the Met Ed sub-station in the Poplar Neck area. The Township has been requesting emergency access off of 422 into the Poplar Neck area for several years. She was concerned that PennDOT may not consider this request in the design phase of the West Shore Bypass reconstruction project.

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO SEND LETTERS TO THE APPROPRIATE PARTIES, INCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS, ADVOCATING A BREAK IN THE LIMITED ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES BE DESIGNED FROM THE WEST SHORE BYPASS TO THE POPLAR NECK AREA.

Public Works

A) Monthly Report – February 2019

B) Truck 70 Winter Storm Damage

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that a Public Works employee had a near miss, when a tree fell on top the plow truck during the March 3, 2019 snow storm. The employee did not sustain injury, but the truck was severely damaged. The Township was still waiting to hear from the insurance adjustor regarding the truck.

C) Winter Maintenance of PennDOT Roads

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the Township does not get sufficient compensation for its services to PennDOT roads during most winters. There is also a concern for a lack of attention by PennDOT to those roads covered by the winter maintenance contract. Several nearby municipalities do not contract with PennDOT for such services for these reasons.

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE NOT TO RENEW FOR 2019-2020 THE CONTRACT WITH PENNDOT FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE OF PENNDOT ROADS.

D) Loader Purchase – update

1) total savings of \$38,807

Mr. Miller commended Mr. McNichols on a job well done by saving the Township over \$38,000.00 from what was budgeted for the loader purchase.

E) Mowing of Township-owned Properties

Ms. Johnston complemented Mr. Yost on a very accurate Request for Quotes document. Mr. Yost informed the Board that only one quote was received, from the previous contractor.

ON MOTION MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING THE QUOTE FROM EXPRESS LAWN CARE FROM 2019 TO 2021 FOR MOWING OF TOWNSHIP-OWNED PROPERTIES.

Engineer

Mr. Rogosky explained to the Board that Great Valley Consultants is anticipating advertising for bids in April for the 2019 road work project.

Solicitor

CORRESPONDENCE

- A) Zoning Hearing Board Application for 6525 Shillington Plaza, dated 3/9/2019
- B) Annual Downstream Notification of Material Inventory for Materion, dated 2/19/2019
- C) Act 14 notice for UGI aerial crossing of the Wyomissing Creek, dated 03/12/2019

PAYMENTS OF BILLS

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
APPROVING THE PAYMENTS OF BILLS FROM: 02/21/2019, 02/27/2019, 02/28/2019,
03/01/2019, 03/01/2019-PLGIT, 03/06/2019, 03/08/2019, AND 03/14/2019.**

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
ADJOURNING THE MEETING AT 7:53 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,



Latoya Procopio
Secretary