

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MAY 20, 2021**

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, Chip Bilger, and Sam Kalbach. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Lt. George Kurger, Lt. James Griffith, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants.

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.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

Mr. Miller invited public comment. No one indicated the desire to speak.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A) Monthly Report – April 2021

Anthony Martin of TowerDirect reported that there were 194 EMS calls in Cumru Twp in April, with a year to date total of 788. Calls were within contracted times. Five calls were covered by Western Berks Ambulance Assoc. Narcan was administered once.

APPROVE MINUTES

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING THE MINUTES OF 4/20/2021.

TREASURER

A) Monthly Report – April 2021

B) Equipment Leases – authorize interfund loan

1) Memorandum from Manager re: self-funding equipment, dated 5/4/2021

ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING CHANGES TO THE 2021 BUDGET TO ALLOW FOR INTERFUND LOANS FROM THE FRITZ ISLAND ESCROW IN ORDER TO PURCHASE A BACKHOE (50% GENERAL FUND, 50% SEWER FUND) AND A TRACTOR/MOWER (85% GENERAL FUND, 15% SEWER FUND) RATHER THAN LEASES FROM BANKS, AS STATED IN A MEMORANDUM FROM THE MANAGER DATED 5/4/2021.

TAX COLLECTOR

- A) April 2021 Report
- 1) Year 2021 Real Estate
 - Balance collectable beginning of month – \$4,581,458.62
 - Cash collected - \$4,086,430.14
 - Balance collectable end of month - \$411,630.57
 - 2) Year 2020 Real Estate Interim
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$104.00
 - Cash collected - \$0
 - Balance collectable end of month - \$104.00
 - 3) Year 2021 Refuse
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$909,216.00
 - Cash collected - \$800,113.16
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$92,774.00
 - 4) Year 2021 SMP
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$55,575.00
 - Cash collected - \$49,075.00
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$6,500.00

DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – April 2021

Lt. Kuriger reported a rash of thefts from vehicles in the Mifflin Park area. He reminded residents to lock their vehicles. He also reported that Sgt. Bezner disarmed a person who had a firearm.

B) Towing – add vendor

ON MOTION OF MRS. O’LEARY, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING “BILL’S EMERGENCY TOWING” TO BE AN APPROVED STORAGE GARAGE ACCORDING TO ORDINANCE 592.

C) Retirement – Det. Rob Wanner

Lt. Kuriger announced that Det. Wanner would retire on July 1 after over 25 years of service.

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – April 2021

B) Apparatus – engine replacement

1) proposal to lease/turnback from Pierce

Jeremy Brubaker informed the Board that parts for the 1995 engine were no longer available. Engines take 80% of the calls in Cumru Township and it is recommended to replace the 1995 engine. The dimensions and features of two manufacturers, Pierce and E-1, were compared. It is recommended to purchase the Pierce unit at this time since a cost increase was expected in June. Pierce is also offering an \$18,000 trade in for the 1995 unit.

Chief Beane stated the budget was \$675,000. The final specs for the lease are estimated to cost \$660,000, with about \$10,000 in accessory/tool mounting work.

Ms. Johnston reported that the various purchase options were reviewed with the Commissioner liaisons. In order to conserve funds close to construction of the fire station, it is recommended to lease. Pierce offers a lease-turnback option for 10 years through PNC Bank. In year 9, a unit is ordered for delivery at the end of year 10, at which time the unit is traded in for an up to date unit. Down payment does not reduce the lease rate.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS WITH PIERCE AND PNC BANK FOR A 10 YEAR TURN-IN LEASE FOR A FIRE ENGINE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$675,000, AND AUTHORIZING A SEPARATE TRADE-IN AGREEMENT FOR THE 1995 ENGINE FOR \$18,000.

C) Civil Service

1) draft advertisement

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that, after testing for a new fire department civil service list is commenced, the issue of promotional ranks should be considered. For example, the police department civil service rules have a rank of sergeant for shift supervision. The fire department has no equivalent position at the present time. The Board directed the Civil Service Commission to meet and create rules and regulations for promotions for firefighters. Mrs. O'Leary advocated more than one level for promotions. The Board established a fee of \$35.00 for the fire department civil service testing. This is a reduction from \$50.00 in 2019.

D) Volunteer Staffing – resignation

Chief Beane informed the Board that George Turner resigned as a volunteer Deputy Chief. He has been covering many officer shifts throughout the COVID-19 emergency. The Board acknowledged Mr. Turner's service to the Township. His resignation will result in increased coverage by career staff.

Administration

A) Codes Report – April 2021

Building Permits Issued- 24
Use Permits Issued- 4
Zoning Permits Issued- 8
Notices of Violations- 14
Citations issued- 1
Violations complied- 10
Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 211
Permit Inspections Done – 29

B) American Rescue Plan Funds – update

1) draft final rule - ARP funds can also be used for storm sewer.

C) Growing Greener Grant 2021 – authorize application \$82,541.10

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. BILGER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING STAFF TO APPLY FOR A GROWING GREENER GRANT FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,541.10, AS APPROVED BY THE PaDEP.

D) Matz Tract OLP

- 1) escrow release 2 for phase 2 - \$2,298.00
- 2) escrow release 3 for phase 3 - \$13,876.47
- 3) bill of sale (dedication in existing ROW) – accept

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS. O'LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) **APPROVING ESCROW RELEASE 2 FOR PHASE 2 OF THE MATZ TRACT SUBDIVISION;**
- 2) **APPROVING ESCROW RELEASE 3 FOR PHASE 3 OF THE MATZ TRACT SUBDIVISION; AND**
- 3) **ACCEPTING A BILL OF SALE FOR THE SANITARY SEWER LINE CONSTRUCTED IN THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY OF HAMPSHIRE RD. FOR MATZ TRACT PHASE 3.**

E) Zoning Ordinance Amendment – timeline for receiving comments

F) Berks County Board of Appeals – adopt ordinance

- 1) advertised 5/10/2021

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS.

Public Works

A) 2020-2021 Sewer Replacement Project – update

- 1) Letter to property owners in Pine Knoll area re: construction, dated 4/27/2021

B) Staffing

- 1) Highway Department – advertisement for driver/operator class 2
- 2) Sewer Department – advertisement for utility tech class 2

C) Kantner Lane signs

- 1) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: analysis, dated 5/19/2021

Mr. McNichols reported on a request for additional signage at the intersection of Kantner Lane, Kantner Lane South and Kantner Lane North. Such signage was added in 2007, but was stolen shortly thereafter. According to correspondence, the homeowners' association does not want to get involved.

Mr. Rogosky reported that the intersection signage as it exists is compliant with regulations. The request for a black and white sign, such as that at a local shopping plaza, is not compliant. One option is to stack two compliant street signs, held by a bracket. It is likely that such a sign would have to be held up by two posts, because of the weight.

D) 2021 Road Repair by Staff

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that over 1,500 lineal feet of Fawn Dr. would be addressed by township forces.

Engineer

A) 2021 Road Work – friction course

- 1) bid advertisement
- 2) bid opening 5/26/2021

Mr. Rogosky informed the Board that notices were sent to 3 contractors to solicit bids.

Solicitor

A) East Pointe Dr. Dedication – update

Mr. Setley informed the Board that Robeson Municipal Authority accepted dedication of the sewer main in East Pointe.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITOR TO DRAFT AND ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT A DEED OF DEDICATOIN FOR EAST POINTE DR.

PAYMENTS OF BILLS

ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MRS. O’LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING PAYMENTS OF BILLS DATED 4/23/2021, 4/23/2021 – REPLACEMENT CHECK, 4/30/2021, 5/3/2021, 5/6/2021 – ACH, 5/7/2021, AND 5/14/2021.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A) Notice of PennDOT telephone town hall meeting for draft funding study 5/25/2021 at 6 p.m.
- B) Notice of PennDOT draft funding study available until 6/1/2021 at www.penndot.gov/funding
- C) Zoning Hearing Board notice for May 2021

COMMISSIONERS

A) Executive Session

8:35 P.M. – The Board went into executive session to discuss 3 personnel issues and 1 matter of potential litigation.

8:58 P.M. – The meeting reconvened. Mr. Setley announced the Board had discussed 3 personnel issues and a matter of potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT
ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS
VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Secretary/Manager