

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 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, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James A. Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia Wylezik-Pfeiffer, and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

A) Josh Snyder of Energy Transfer

Mr. Snyder thanked the Township and its residents for their cooperation and patience during pipeline construction.

B) Mifflin Community Library

Cynthia Thomasette requested that the Township include continued funding for the MCL in the 2022 and even consider an increase from \$2.40 per capita to \$2.50 per capita. She reviewed the many clubs and programs offered by the MCL.

C) Doug Shinn re: East Pointe Dr.

Mr. Shinn identified himself as an owner of lots 1 and 6 at East Pointe. He thanked the Board for working with the owners to dedicate the road a few months ago.

Mr. Shinn asked when the road would be paved to DOT standards. Mr. McNichols responded that the Township will discuss a 2 inch paving overlay at this meeting so that winter maintenance can be performed. Reconstruction to PennDOT standards would be 8 times the cost and there is not enough time to do that this year before the blacktop plants close.

Mr. Shinn stated that note 26 on the subdivision plan said that there would be no parking. He hoped that the Township would impose no parking.

D) Joseph D’Ascenzo re: Titus Station Redevelopment

Mr. D’Ascenzo stated that his company completed acquisition of the Titus Station. He thanked the police department for a phenomenal job in catching 7 people who burglarized the facility.

E) Rusty Hoover re: ambulance service

Mr. Hoover complained about a recall of a Western Berks ambulance on 8/25. He stated that it was the kind of thing that also happened before TowerDirect but doesn’t happen in other areas. He said that there were more units in the 1970s available to respond and questioned TowerDirect’s resources. Mr. Hoover claimed that the information from TowerDirect does not provide benchmarks. Mr. Kalbach pointed out that the Township has not received any complaints from other residents. Mr. Hoover stated concern about the ethics of Tower Direct.

Anthony Martin, Vice President of TowerDirect, stated that the core of TowerDirect's service is 911; the majority of their services is emergency response. Their policy is not to recall a closer ambulance and he would look into the incident cited by Mr. Hoover. Mr. Martin stated that TowerDirect has the resources and continues to hire staff.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A) Monthly Report – August 2021

Mr. Martin reported 181 responses in August, with an average response time of 6 min 1 sec.

TREASURER

A) Monthly Report – August 2021

TAX COLLECTOR

A) August 2021 Report

- 1) Year 2021 Real Estate
 - Balance collectable beginning of month – \$192,576.38
 - Cash collected – \$23,816.58
 - Balance collectable end of month - \$170,032.46
- 2) Year 2021 Refuse
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$42,328.00
 - Cash collected - \$3,366.00
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$39,248.00
- 3) Year 2021 SMP
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$2,665.00
 - Cash collected - \$286.00
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$2,405.00
- 4) Year 2021 Per Capita
 - Balance collectable beginning of month - \$33,780.00
 - Cash collected - \$15,038.10
 - Balance collectable end of the month - \$18,300.00

CONSENT AGENDA

PLANS

2021-03 1974 CEDAR TOP ROAD EXPIRATION DATE 10/24/2021
(preliminary/final) Owners: Lorraine V. Woerner Ehrgood, Sandra A. Ruzicka and Janice E. Wagner; Agent: OTM, LLC, Bradford Grauel; Location: approx. 600 ft southeast of the intersection of Cedar Top and Scenic Drive; plan no. 20-118; Proposal summary: subdivide into 2 lots, Lot 1 contains a residence and a driveway, Lot 2 becomes a driveway for 1982 Cedar Top Rd.

- a.) Letter from OTM, LLC re: waiver requests, 7/26/2021
- b.) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: plan review, dated 09/09/2021
- c.) Memorandum from Planning Secretary re: recommended waivers, dated 9/17/2021

ACTION:

GRANTED WAIVERS TO THE SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE 1974 CEDAR TOP RD SUBDIVISION PLAN, AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Relief from sections 403(D) and 404(D)(3) to permit a location map at a scale of 1"=300';
- b) Relief from section 405, preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment;
- c) Relief from section 406, preparation of a Community Facilities Impact Assessment;
- d) Relief from section 408, preparation of a Utilities Impact Assessment;
- e) Relief from section 507(A), the requirement of curb installation; and
- f) Relief from section 507(B), the requirement of sidewalk/walking path installation.

ACTION:

GRANTED PRELIMINARY/FINAL APPROVAL TO THE 1974 CEDAR TOP RD SUBDIVISION PLAN.

2021-04 MILLER SUBDIVISION EXPIRATION DATE 10/24/2021

(Final plan) Owners: Daniel P. Miller and Cindy L. Miller; Agent: John Hoffert Surveying; Location: 2184 Welsh Road, Mohnton, PA 19540; plan no. D-18-90-1; Proposal summary: subdivide into 3 residential lots (1 existing house, 2 new lots)

- a.) Letter from John Hoffert Surveying re: waiver requests, dated 09/13/2021
- b.) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: plan review, dated 09/09/2021
- c.) Memorandum from Planning Secretary re: recommended waivers, dated 9/17/2021

ACTION:

GRANTED WAIVERS TO THE SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE MILLER SUBDIVISION PLAN, AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Relief from section 405(A), preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment;
- b) Relief from section 406(A), preparation of a Community Facilities Impact Assessment;
- c) Relief from section 408(A), preparation of a Utilities Impact Assessment;
- d) Relief from section 507(A), the requirement of curb installation;
- e) Relief from section 507(B), the requirement of sidewalk/walking path installation;
- f) Relief from section 509(F)(2), the requirement for a 54 foot wide shared driveway easement for the proposed shared driveway between lots 1 and 2, provided the Fire Chief finds the proposal acceptable;
- g) Relief from section 509(F)(4), the requirement for a paved turnaround with the minimum radius of 40 feet, provided the Fire Chief finds the proposal acceptable;
- h) Relief from section 509(F)(5), the requirement for 2 inclement weather parking spaces within 100 feet of Welsh Rd, as 2 spaces are proposed for both lots within 120 feet.

2021-07 MORTLAND SUBDIVISION EXPIRATION DATE 12/11/2021

(Final Plan) Owner: Derek E. Mortland; Agent: John Hoffert Surveying
Location: 651-653 Mountain View Road, Reading, PA 19607; plan no. D-21-63;
Proposal summary: subdivide into 2 lots, Lot 1 has an existing 1 single family semi-detached dwelling and Lot 2 has an existing single family semi-detached dwelling containing 2 apartment units.

- a.) Final Plans from John Hoffert Surveying re: plan summary, 8/17/2021
- b.) Letter from Great Valley Consultants re: plan review, dated 9/10/2021

ACTION:

GRANTED WAIVERS TO THE SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE MORTLAND SUBDIVISION PLAN, AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Relief from section 405(A), preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment;
- b) Relief from section 406(A), preparation of a Community Facilities Impact Assessment;
- c) Relief from section 408(A), preparation of a Utilities Impact Assessment;
- d) Relief from section 502(A)(7), the requirement of an ultimate right of way line for Mt. View Rd., since the line would encroach on the front porches;
- e) Relief from section 507(A), the requirement of curb installation;
- f) Relief from section 507(B), the requirement of sidewalk/walking path installation;

ACTION:

GRANTED PRELIMINARY/FINAL APPROVAL TO THE MORTLAND SUBDIVISION PLAN, SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION OF ANY OUTSTANDING COMMENTS IN GREAT VALLEY CONSULTANTS' REVIEW LETTER DATED 9/10/2021.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – August 2021

Chief Winchester described an incident over the past 24 hours involving 2 juvenile runaways from Iowa. No other agencies were able to assist with housing. He commended the CTPD for finding a safe solution to this issue and transferring custody to an appropriate agency.

Mr. Kalbach presented a check from a grateful Township resident to pay for a police ballistic vest. The CTPD assisted with a relative having dementia.

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – August 2021

B) Utility Project – update

- 1) first project meeting and groundbreaking 9/21/2021

Chief Beane thanked the Board for all of its support for the fire station project, including the groundbreaking gathering today. The project has been a goal of the Township since 2008.

Administration

A) Codes Report – August 2021

- Building Permits Issued- 14
- Use Permits Issued- 2
- Zoning Permits Issued- 11
- Notices of Violations- 23
- Citations issued- 0
- Violations complied- 14
- Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 213
- Permit Inspections Done – 22
- Permit Inspections with Fire Dept. – 0

B) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Grant – update

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the current TASA grant deadline does not provide enough time to get a PaDEP permit. A future grant round may be considered.

C) American Rescue Plan Funds

Ms. Johnston stated that further information on the final rule has been received and the Township may select revenue replacement as the option for use of the funds. The Board concurred.

D) 2022 Budget – Pension Minimum Municipal Obligations

- 1) adopt resolution for police pension 2022 MMO in the amount of \$884,401
- 2) adopt resolution for non-uniformed 2022 MMO, as follows:
 - a) defined benefit portion of plan = \$0
 - b) defined contribution portion of plan = \$108,900

ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 2022 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLGATIONS FOR PENSION PLANS, AS STATED BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

Public Works

A) East Pointe Drive

- 1) Memorandum from Manager re: recommended traffic ordinance, dated 9/17/2021
- 2) Memorandum from Manager re: recommended overlay and special meeting, dated 9/20/2021

Mr. Kalbach stated concern for New Castle Landscaping if no parking at all is allowed on the street. Michael Wall, owner of Wall contracting at 4 East Pointe Dr., indicated that the New Castle Landscaping should provide more parking on their lot. Mr. Shinn stated that he was concerned that 2 trucks can't pass each other if one side of parking is allowed.

With respect to a paving overlay, Mr. Rogosky stated that he put together a very simple specification for a 2 inch overlay to be completed within 45 days. That would be past the PennDOT 10/31 deadline for liquid fuels paving, but the blacktop plants will likely still be producing material. Ms. Johnston noted that liquid fuels funds cannot be used for this project because the road does not and will not meet PennDOT specifications.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE DECLARING THE EAST POINTE DRIVE OVERLAY TO BE AN EMERGENCY PROJECT.

Ms. Johnston requested a Board meeting on 10/5 or 10/6 to award the emergency quote. The Board established a special meeting on 10/5/2021 at 12:00 p.m.

B) Salt Mixing Shed – rebid

1) bid tabulation

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that the engineer is still reviewing the bid documentation.

C) Emergency Project – Cedar Top Sewer Right of Way/ Repair

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that a section of sewer right of way behind 1228 Cedar Top Rd. washed away in the 9/1/2021 storm from T.S. Ida. The sewer main must be recovered and reinforced. The cost to repair will be included in a report to FEMA, in case reimbursement becomes available.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AWARDING THE CEDAR TOP SEWER RIGHT OF WAY REPAIR PROJECT TO BARWIS CONSTRUCTION AT AN AMOUNT OF \$21,930.00.

D) 2020-2021 Sewer Replacement Project - update

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that paving will begin in Pine Knoll next week.

Engineer

A) 2021 Road Work (friction course) – update

Mr. Rogosky reported that this project was partially completed.

B) Hampshire Culvert Replacement – update

Mr. Rogosky reported that restoration is in progress.

Solicitor

PAYMENTS OF BILLS

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MRS. O’LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS OF BILLS DATED 8/20/21, 8/27/21, 8/31/21 – SEWER, 9/1/21, 9/1/21 – ADDITIONAL, 9/2/21, 9/3/21, 9/3/21 – PLGIT, 9/10/21, 9/17/21, AND 9/17/21 – ACH.

COMMISSIONERS

A) Resignation of Commissioner Bilger

1) Memorandum from Chip Bilger re: resignation effective 10/1/2021, dated 09/09/2021

Mr. Miller read a letter of resignation from Mr. Bilger.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MR. BILGER AS TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER, EFFECTIVE 10/1/2021, WITH REGRETS.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A MAJORITY VOTE APPOINTING SCOTT R. BRADY AS TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2021.

Mr. Bilger abstained from the vote.

Mr. Bilger stated that tonight was a good example of how residents and staff interact and work together.

B) Executive Session

C) Reminders:

1) Board of Commissioners meetings for fall 2021:

- 10/19/2021 at 7:00 p.m. – regular meeting
- 10/21/2021 at 3:30-5:30 p.m. – budget meeting
- 10/28/2021 at 3:30 p.m. – budget meeting
- 11/16/2021 at 7:00 p.m. – regular meeting
- 11/30/2021 at 7:00 p.m. – 5th Tuesday meeting

Note: Deadline for 2022 budget advertisement is 12/1/2021, for adoption on 12/21/2021.

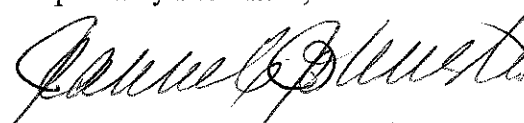
2) Municipal Authority 10/7/2021 at 8:30 a.m.

3) Zoning Hearing Board for September 2021 canceled

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. BILGER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Secretary/Manager