

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING**

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth A. O'Leary at 5:00 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President David J. Batdorf, Sam Kalbach, William B. Miller and Lisha Rowe. Also attending were Solicitor Kelsey Frankowski, Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer. Fire Chief James Beane and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants were excused.

NOTICE:

Public comment will be accepted in person. Please include your first name, last name and address for all comments. Any comments without a name or address will not be considered. To accommodate as many people as possible, we request that each person's comments be limited to 3 minutes. The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 60 minutes. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Commissioners. While public comments will be given due consideration, immediate responses will be done at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

Attendance: Jenna Earley, Joe D'Ascenzo, Glenn Emory, and Andrew Donnell.

A.) Joe D'Ascenzo – Request for a letter of support for DCED grant applications for Refined Plastics.

Joe D'Ascenzo addressed the Board to request a letter of support and ask Cumru Township to function as a pass through agent for the DCED grants applications for Refined Plastics.

There was discussion about the grant guidelines and the information required to draft a resolution. Mr. D'Ascenzo explained that they are applying for two different grants; one for equipment in the amount of approximately \$903,000 and another for in the amount of approximately \$854,000 for engineering/planning for a building, new railroad tracks and a bridge over the railroad tracks.

Atty. Frankowski and Ms. Johnston both stated that the Township would need exact amounts and detailed scopes of the projects for the resolutions. Atty. Frankowski confirmed that a separate resolution would be needed for each grant application. Mr. D'Ascenzo stated that the resolutions were not required at the time of grant submission. He only needs the letter of support at this time.

Ms. Johnston reminded Mr. D'Ascenzo that the Township would not own or assume any responsibility for the proposed bridge. Mr. D'Ascenzo acknowledged that his company would own and maintain the bridge since it is on his property.

Mr. D'Ascenzo stated that the Township could receive 2 % in administrative fees from these grants.

Mr. Donnell, a newly elected Cumru Commissioner, stated that he thought that the Board should wait to decide on this request until the new Board takes office.

The Board informed him that the deadline to apply for the grants is November 30, 2023, so the Commissioners needed to decide at this meeting.

ON MOTION OF MR. MILLER, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE A LETTER OF GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE DCED GRANTS FOR REFINED PLASTICS.

B.) Andrew Donnell, a resident of Nassau Circle, had indicated on the sign-in sheet that he wished to speak. He planned to talk about the Titus Substation. Mr. Donnell said that he is not opposed to development but given the timing and the circumstances, he asked the Board to defer consequential decisions until the Board reconvenes in January.

APPROVE MINUTES

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 17, 2023, -REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 19, 2023, -BUDGET MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 2023, -BUDGET MEETING, OCTOBER 31, 2023, - 5TH TUESDAY MEETING, AND NOVEMBER 2, 2023, -BUDGET MEETING AS PRESENTED.

DEPARTMENTS

Administration

A.) Hawthorne – Approve Draft Settlement Agreement

Ms. Johnston explained that the settlement agreement was the culmination of a land development lawsuit. The developer had submitted a sketch plan in 2004, the original preliminary plan was submitted in 2008, and the rejection and appeal occurred in 2016.

ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MR. KALBACH, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT STIPULATION WITH KEVTIMRP, LP, FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE HAWTHORNE TRACT, PARCEL ID NUMBER 39-5315-00-46-4142, SUBJECT TO THE DEVELOPER'S EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED TO THEM.

Public Works

A.) 2023 Road Work – Cedar Top Rd. phase 1 – application for payment #1(final)

- 1) Letter from Atlas Engineering recommending approval of pay application #1 (final) in the amount of \$267,959.30 to Construction Masters Services, LLC (CMS) for Cedar Top Rd. phase 1, dated 11/22/2023.

ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE PAYMENT #1 (FINAL) TO CONSTRUCTION MASTERS SERVICES, LLC FOR CEDAR TOP RD. PHASE 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$267,959.30.

Solicitor

A.) Approve Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between Cumru Township and Teamsters Local 429.

ON MOTION OF MR. KALBACH, SECOND OF MR. BATDORF, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUMRU TOWNSHIP AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 429.

CONSENT AGENDA

A.) 2024 Real Estate Tax Levy Ordinance

- The Debt Service millage to remain the same at 0.85mil;
- The General Fund millage to remain the same at 5.045 mil;
- The Ambulance Fund millage to remain the same at 0.27 mil;
- An increase in the Fire Fund millage from 1.30 to 1.40 mil.

ACTION:

AUTHORIZED THE 2024 REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY ORDINANCE TO BE DRAFTED AND ADVERTISED WITH INTENT FOR ADOPTION.

B.) Non-Uniform Pension Ordinance

ACTION:

AUTHORIZED THE NON-UNIFORM PENSION ORDINANCE TO BE DRAFTED AS CONSISTENT WITH THE TENTATIVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUMRU TOWNSHIP AND THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL 429, AND ADVERTISED WITH INTENT FOR ADOPTION.

C.) Police Pension Ordinance

ACTION:

AUTHORIZED THE POLICE PENSION ORDINANCE TO BE DRAFTED AS CONSISTENT WITH THE APPROVED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUMRU TOWNSHIP AND CUMRU TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION TO INCLUDE A 36-MONTH MILITARY BUY BACK OPTION, AND ADVERTISED WITH INTENT FOR ADOPTION.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MR. MILLER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

CORRESPONDENCE

A.) Meeting advertised in the Reading Eagle on 11/28

COMMISSIONERS

A.) Reminders:

Zoning Hearing Board Regular Meetings

December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Application #810- Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood re: New Retreat Building with on-lot sewer and on-lot water.

Board of Commissioners meetings for December 2023 and January 2024

12/19/2023 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

1/02/2024 at 7:00 p.m. – Reorganization Meeting

Planning Commission – December 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

There was discussion about the upcoming Civil Service Commission(CSC) meetings. There will be a CSC meeting on 12/12/23 at 10:00 a.m. A CSC meeting is tentatively scheduled for 12/19/23 time TBD. The CSC will also have an Organization meeting on 1/02/24 time TBD.

Please note: The Cumru Township Office Building will be closed December 22, 25, & 29, and January 1, 2024, for the holidays.

B.) Executive Session

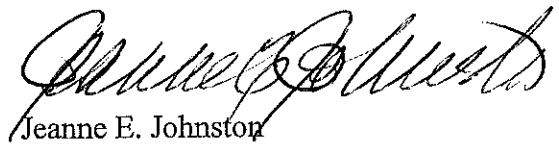
5:23 p.m. – The Board met in executive session to discuss 2 personnel issues.

5:42 p.m. - The Board discussed 2 personnel issues. No action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. BATDORF, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary