

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 18, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Ruth O’Leary at 7:01 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Sheri Hoover, Tony J. Sacco, and Lorri K. Swan. Vice President Edward L. Gottschall was absent with prior notification to the Board. Also attending were Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James A. Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, and Secretary Latoya Procopio.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

Attendance: William Miller of 40 Muirfield Drive, Joe and Nicole Schaeffer of 17 Mohnton Lawn Court; James Williamson.

Mr. William Miller of Muirfield Drive introduced himself to the Board of Commissioners as well as to the audience. He stated that he will be a write-in candidate for Cumru Township Commissioner.

Joe and Nicole Schaeffer explained to the Board that they are concerned about the noise level in their neighborhood, which started back in February 2017. They stated that their neighbor is riding a dirt bike during the week and weekend afternoon hours. Mr. Schaeffer stated that they called the police and spoke with Officer Griffith, who stated the Township did not have a noise ordinance. Mr. Schaeffer stated that the noise is so loud that he is unable to hear the TV. Ms. Schaeffer stated that the person rides the dirt bike every day after 3:00 pm until dark and all day on the weekends. The other neighbors have expressed their annoyance, but refuse to complain.

Ms. Johnston informed Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer that the Township does have a noise ordinance, but it is difficult to enforce the noise levels in a situation like this. Mr. Setley stated that the nuisance ordinance may be more enforceable.

TREASURER

A) Monthly Report

B) Insurance Renewal 2017-2018

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the premiums for workers compensation, liability, auto, and related insurances will go down slightly. Through the work of the safety committee, the Township enjoys a favorable workers compensation rating, resulting in the avoidance of a \$60,000 surcharge.

**ON MOTION OF MRS. SWAN, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
ACCEPTING THE INSURANCE RENEWAL OF 2017-2018 WITH EH&D INSURANCE.**

TAX COLLECTOR

A) March 2017 Report

1) Year 2017 Real Estate

- Balance collectable beginning of month – \$5,479,607.30.10
Cash collected - \$735,259.60
Balance collectable end of month - \$4,728,055.90
- 2) Year 2017 Real Estate Interim
Balance collectable beginning of month - \$105.70
Cash collected - \$105.95
Balance collectable end of month - \$4.33
- 3) Year 2017 Real Refuse
Balance collectable beginning of month - \$849,640.00
Cash collected - \$124,185.60
Balance collectable end of the month - \$722,755.00
- 4) Year 2017 Per Capita
Balance collectable beginning of month - \$1,670.00
Cash collected - \$226.00
Balance collectable end of the month - \$1,435.00
- 5) Year 2017 SMP
Balance collectable beginning of month - \$76,275.00
Cash collected - \$9,261.00
Balance collectable end of the month - \$66,825.00

APPROVE MINUTES

March 21, 2017

A quorum was not present to approve the minutes of 3/21/17.

DEPARTMENTS

Police Department

A) Monthly Report – March 2017

Chief Winchester informed the Board that the past weekend was very busy for the police department. He stated that there has been recent activity on Misty Lane involving domestic violence and theft. In addition, Officer Wertz investigated a parked car at the Gateway building and discovered the driver, unconscious with drug paraphernalia and a stolen gun. Chief Winchester also told the Board that at 3:30 pm today a deceased man was found in a body of water by the owner of the property. The deceased man is believed to be from out of state, but identification is being withheld pending notification of relatives.

B) Civil Service Commission- Police

1) Memo from Chief of Police re: certified list, dated 4/12/17

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MR. SACCO, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ACCEPTING THE CERTIFIED LIST, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

C) Police Department – Recommendation to hire

Chief Winchester requested to Board consider hiring three probationary police officers from the Civil Service Commission List; the Civil Service Commission recommended hiring three. Background checks will be performed on the top 6 names on the list. Chief Winchester stated that two hires with Act 120 certification would replace two recently retired officers and a third hire would be the beginning of succession planning, since two officers are currently in the deferred retirement program and one officer has announced he will be retiring at the end of 2017. The Board questioned if the money to pay for these new hires was in the budget. Chief Winchester stated that two officers were budgeted and the Township would be reimbursed by MPOETC 75% for the police academy training of the third officer. The police academy starts in July and is 6 months long. Mrs. O’Leary noted that a third hire would not be a full year of cost.

On motion of Mrs. Hoover, second of Mrs. O’Leary a motion to hire three officers, condition on successful completion of all the background checks, was made. Roll Call: Mrs. Hoover – Yes; Mrs. Swan – No; Mr. Sacco – No; Mrs. O’Leary – Yes. The motion did not carry. Mr. Sacco stated he was concerned with the third hire not being budgeted for this year.

ON MOTION OF MR. SACCO, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A MAJORITY VOTE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF 2 PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICERS, CONDITIONED UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ALL BACKGROUND CHECKS. ROLL CALL: MRS. SWAN – YES; MRS. HOOVER – NO; MR. SACCO – YES, MRS. O’LEARY – YES.

Mrs. Hoover stated that she is concerned that if the Township waits to hire the third officer, the best candidates will get hired by other municipalities hiring police officers currently.

Fire Department

A) Monthly Report – March 2017

The Board had no questions on the monthly report. Chief Beane explained to the Board that the roof at Station 3 was repaired and Tower 42 was back in service.

B) Grill Fire Co. (Social Quarters) 100th Anniversary

1) Letter from Grill Fire Co. re: dinner 5/6/2017, dated 3/29/2017

Chief Beane informed the Board that apparatus will be on display for the 100th Anniversary of Grill Fire Company.

Administration

A) Codes Report- March 2017

Building Permits Issued- 11

Use Permits Issued- 13

Zoning Permits Issued- 4

Notices of Violations- 19

Citations issued- 4

Violations complied in January- 8

Phone calls from contractors, realtors & public approximately- 207

Permit Inspections Done – 8

Inspections with the Fire Department – 2

B) Route 10 Self-Storage Annexation

1) Memorandum from the Township Secretary re: Waiver Request, dated 3/10/17
ON MOTION OF MRS. SWAN, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A MAJORITY VOTE GRANTING WAIVERS TO THE SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE ROUTE 10 SELF-STORAGE ANNEXATION PLAN, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION. ROLL CALL: MRS. HOOVER – YES; MRS. SWAN – YES; MR. SACCO – NO; MRS. O’LEARY – YES

C) Open Records Policy Update

1) draft policy
ON MOTION OF MR. SACCO, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, UNANIMOUS VOTE APPROVING AN UPDATED OPEN RECORDS POLICY.

Public Works

A) Monthly Report – March 2017

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that the public works crew, including himself, completed flagger training, with an emphasis on safety while working on the roads.

B) Surplus Property 2017

1) Resolution for declaring mower as surplus property
Mr. McNichols informed the Board that the new tractor-mower had been received and the old one could be sold.

ON MOTION OF MR. SACCO, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE 1995 JOHN DEERE TRACTOR MOWER AS SURPLUS PROPERTY.

C) Poplar Neck Bridge over Schuylkill River Remediation – advertise bids

1) draft bid specs
Mr. Sacco stated that he would like the Township to reach out to the Berks County Commissioners about bearing some of the cost to remediate the bridge. The Board asked Mr. Setley to draft a letter.

ON MOTION OF MR. SACCO, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADVERTISE THE BID SPECS FOR REMEDIATION OF THE POPLAR NECK BRIDGE OVER THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER.

Engineer

A) 2017 Road Work – award bid

- 1) bids advertised 3/24/17 and 3/30/17
- 2) bid tabulation

BIDDER	AMOUNT
H&K Group	\$971,877.60
Construction Masters	\$1,051,344.25
Barwis Construction	\$1,084,117.00

Mr. Sacco expressed concern about issues with H&K from the 2016 road work. Mr. Rogosky clarified that the workmanship was good, but the concern was a materials issue. Bonds are in place and a meeting will take place in April to look at the 2016 roads. It is not a strong enough reason to reject the bid. Mr. Setley agreed.

ON MOTION OF MR. SACCO, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AWARDING THE 2017 ROAD WORK BID TO H&K GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$971,877.60, CONDITIONED UPON SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF ANY ISSUES ON THE 2016 ROAD WORK.

B) Montrose Blvd. Culvert Replacement – award bid

- 1) bids advertised 3/24/17 and 3/30/17
- 2) bid tabulation

BIDDER	AMOUNT
Construction Masters	\$504,214.75
Barwis Construction	\$549,744.00
Grace Industries	\$556,820,88

ON MOTION OF MRS. SWAN, SECOND OF MR. SACCO, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AWARDING THE MONTROSE BLVD. CULVERT REPLACEMENT BID TO CONSTRUCTION MASTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$504,214.75.

Solicitor

CORRESPONDENCE

- A) Letter from Southern Berks Emergency Medical Services re: annual report, dated 03/17/2017

PAYMENTS OF BILLS

ON MOTION OF MRS. SWAN, SECOND OF MR. SACCO, A MAJORITY VOTE APPROVING THE PAYMENTS OF BILLS FOR: 03/23/2017, 03/27/2017-FC42, 03/30/2017, 03/30/2017, 04/03/2017, 04/06/2017, 04/12/2017, 04/18/2017-POLICE CAR. ROLL CALL: MR. SACCO – YES; MRS. SWAN – YES; MRS. HOOVER – YES; MRS. O’LEARY – ABSTAIN.

ON MOTION OF MRS. O’LEARY, SECOND OF MR. SACCO, A MAJORITY VOTE APPROVING THE PAYMENTS OF BILLS FOR: 03/23/2017-IT, 03/30/2017-IT, 04/12/2017-IT. ROLL CALL: MR. SACCO – YES; MRS. SWAN – YES; MRS. HOOVER – ABSTAIN; MRS. O’LEARY – YES.

COMMISSIONERS

- A) Executive Session

8:08 p.m. – The Board of Commissioners went into executive session to discuss 4 personnel matters.

9:25 p.m. – The meeting reconvened. Mr. Setley stated that the Board of Commissioners had discussed 4 personnel matters in executive session which will have action.

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MR. SACCO, UNANIMOUS VOTE ADMENDING THE RESOLUTION REGARDING POLICE HIRING FROM 2 OFFICERS TO 3 OFFICERS.

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL TO POST AND ADVERTISE THE FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CLASS 3 POSITION.

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL TO CREATE AND ADVERTISE A FULL TIME POLICE DEPARTMENT SYSTEMS ANALYST POSITION.

ON MOTION OF MR. SACCO, SECOND OF MRS. HOOVER, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ELIMINATING THE PART TIME FIREFIGHTER POSITION, EFFECTIVE 04/28/2017.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MRS. HOOVER, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Latoya Procopio
Secretary