

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

The Workshop Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Tony J. Sacco at 7:00 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice President Edward L. Gottschall, Treasurer Ruth O’Leary, Sheri Hoover, and Lorri K. Swan. Also attending were Solicitor Michael A. Setley, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police Jed Habecker, Fire Chief Scott R. Brady, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Recreation Director Samson Gausch, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Joseph P. Rogosky of Great Valley Consultants.

Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC

A) Larry Solomon re: reduction of weight rating of Poplar Neck Bridge over Railroad to 5 Tons

Mr. Solomon asked what the Township was doing about the 5 ton bridge and if the Township was acquiring a road through the Titus Station. Mr. Sacco responded that, although the Township was under direction from PennDOT to make repairs, the repairs would not increase the weight rating of the bridge. He confirmed that the Township was exploring the possibility of bypassing the bridge through the Titus Station. Mr. Setley noted that a sale of the property was in progress and that process should play out before the Township proceeds. Mr. Rogosky confirmed that replacement of the bridge is cost prohibitive.

Mr. Solomon was concerned that the new owner of the Titus Station might not give access. Would the Township condemn an access? He stated that the 5 ton rating was too low for his business to operate. Mr. Setley stated that the Township’s preferred strategy is to bypass the bridge.

Mr. McNichols informed the Board that, when the bridge is bypassed, it would have to be removed.

B) Shannon Perez re: recreation building rental charge – *not present*.

Attendance: Jim Strunk; Gary Brady; James Williamson; Bob Snyder of CTFD; Larry Solomon; Diane Solomon; Merlyn Reed; Jeri Diesinger of Kenhorst Borough.

PRESENTATION

Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation re: SR 724 Bridge over Angelica Creek

Carl McLaughlin of Borton Lawson Engineers presented drawings about the replacement of the superstructure of the bridge on SR 724 over the Angelica Creek to restore a 40 ton weight rating. Traffic would be detoured eastbound and would be allowed through west bound. The existing truck detour at SR 10 and SR 724 would remain during construction and would be removed after construction. A temporary pedestrian bridge would be installed on the north side during construction, to be replaced by new sidewalk. Construction is scheduled over the summer of 2016.

Jeri Diesinger, Manager of Kenhorst Borough, asked who was responsible for notifying residents. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the contractor would be responsible to notify adjacent

property owners. A traffic study would be done to determine how to improve the intersection of SR 724 and Mt. View Rd. during construction. Mrs. Diesinger stated that it might be safer to make right turns only at SR 625 and High Blvd. Mr. McLaughlin said that this could be discussed at the presentation with Kenhorst Borough. Drawings and public comment forms would be available at the Cumru Township office for approximately 2 weeks.

DEPARTMENTS

Interdepartmental

A) Traffic Ordinance – proposed changes in speed limits and truck restrictions

1) Speed limit and truck studies by Great Valley Consultants, dated 09/16/2014

Mr. Rogosky informed the Board that a study was done to recommend permanent restrictions of trucks over 10,000 pounds. Recommendations for 25 mph speed limits were made to correspond with the truck restrictions. The recommendations were all for residential streets. Mr. McNichols expressed concern about the High Blvd. bridge, which already has a reduced weight rating. Mr. Setley noted that local deliveries were an exception to the restriction.

Mr. McNichols also recommended 25 mph speed limit on Jefferson Blvd. between Cambridge and Revere. It currently has no speed limit.

ON MOTION OF MRS. SWAN, SECOND OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITOR TO DRAFT AND ADVERTISE AN AMENDMENT TO THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE CONSISTENT WITH THE TRUCK RESTRICTIONS AND SPEED LIMITS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Fire Department

A) Fire Apparatus Sale

Administration

A) 2014 State Aid for Pensions – resolution for distribution

ON MOTION OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING A RESOLUTION FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF 2014 STATE PENSION AID AS PRESENTED BY THE MANAGER.

B) 2015 Minimum Municipal Obligations for Pension Plans – resolutions

ON MOTION OF MRS. O’LEARY, SECOND OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 2015 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS AS PRESENTED BY THE MANAGER, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$826,616.00.

Mr. Sacco noted that the 2008 MMO was \$341,921.00, an increase of almost \$500,000.00.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A) Letter from STV Engineering re: estimated amount for pre-bid work and specifications for rehabilitation of Poplar Neck Bridge over Schuylkill River, dated 9/26/14
- B) Letter from Cardno BCM Engineers to SSM Engineers re: City of Reading sewer flow meter inspection and evaluation – response to Woolpert report, dated 09/25/2014

COMMISSIONERS

A) 2015 Budget – Schedule of Meetings

The Board directed Ms. Johnston to propose 4 meeting dates and times for 2015 budget discussions.

B) Executive Session

7:43 p.m. – The Board of Commissioners went into executive session to discuss 2 personnel issues and labor negotiations.

8:33 p.m. – Mr. Sacco stated that the Board of Commissioners discussed labor negotiations.

He stated that the police union is asking for arbitration and the Board would like to continue open-minded discussion to try to reach a resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. GOTTSCHALL, SECOND OF MRS. O’LEARY, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary