

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2015**

The Special Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Tony J. Sacco at 6:04 p.m. Other Commissioners in attendance were Sheri Hoover, Lorri K. Swan, and Ruth O'Leary. Vice President Edward L. Gottschall was absent with prior notification to the Board of Commissioners. Also attending were Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Public Works James A. Beane, Business/Personnel Administrator Peggy A. Carpenter, Recreation Director Samson Gausch, Manager Jeanne E. Johnston, and Secretary Latoya Procopio.

PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

POPLAR NECK BRIDGE OVER NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Ms. Johnston informed the Commissioners that a public meeting with the P.U.C occurred on 11/3/2015 at the site of the Poplar Neck Bridge over Norfolk Southern. During the meeting, each concerned party sent representatives, except for NRG and Met Ed. A representative of Met Ed informed the Township that Med Ed has a preexisting agreement with NRG that allows them to use the private driveway through NRG.

During the P.U.C. meeting, its representatives emphasized to the affected property owners and resident that they could be landlocked, if a solution, temporary or otherwise, is not developed with NRG after the bridge is demolished. The property owners and residents agreed with the bridge demolition. The P.U.C mandated that the abutments be removed as well. The abutments will be a separate cost because the area needs to be graded back.

Ms. Johnston stated that PennDOT claimed to possibly have a document about who built the bridge. If it can be proven that the railroad built the bridge, then the Township could possibly pursue a portion of the demolition cost to be paid for by the railroad. At this time, it was uncertain if PennDOT actually has such a document.

Now that the temporary access agreement has been signed, fencing will be installed to allow public access through the private driveway until January 31, 2016. The Township is currently working on a permanent agreement with NRG. Ms. Johnston stated that Descco Construction will be securing the bridge's beam within the next 4 days.

CORRESPONDENCE

A) Meeting Advertised in the Reading Eagle 10/25/2015

2016 BUDGET

1) Sewer

The Board reviewed the sewer department budget. Several line items were increased for 2016. A new line item was added for contracted services. The Board concurred with the Municipal Authority's plan to continue gradually increasing the sewer rates to save funds for the Fritz Island debt service obligation. Ms. Johnston stated that the City of Reading has not updated the 2012 cost spreadsheet that is the basis of the Township's long term strategy with sewer rates. When an update is finally done, an increase in the costs is anticipated.

Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the Municipal Authority recommends as much of the unallocated sewer fund balance as possible be transferred into the 809 sewer capital infrastructure fund by the end of 2015. This has been estimated at \$500,000 in the 4th quarter

2015 expenses. Mr. Sacco asked if the money could be moved back if there is an overflow of funds. Ms. Johnston stated that this could occur as long as the funds have not already been allocated for a project.

Mr. McNichols stated that the Township had to replace vehicle 92, the former TV truck, since the body of the vehicle is severely rusted. The vehicle is currently being used as the custodian's vehicle because it no longer has the ability to be in service as part of the sewer fleet. The Board indicated the 2016 line item for vehicle maintenance be lowered by \$10,000.

Mrs. Carpenter informed the Board that approximately \$450,000.00 of delinquencies have been sent to ARB. Mr. Sacco stated that the Township's penalty of 2.5% was too low; he suggested an increase in 2016. The Board indicated that the staff should make inquiries at other municipalities about their penalty rates.

2) General Fund – Building and Grounds

The Board evaluated the building and grounds department budget. Mr. Beane proposed a chlorine tank system be installed for the water at the Recreation building, this was also proposed in the 2015 budget at a cost of \$14,000, but the project had been cut. Mr. Beane informed the Board that the estimate to install the system in 2016 had increased to \$17,000.00.

Ms. Johnston presented a 5 year plan for building and grounds, in order to address capital project needs. The macadam area on the east side of the municipal main complex was discussed as part of the 5 year plan. This area needs to be reconstructed, considering the current condition of the lot and the importance of that piece of infrastructure to all departments. It serves as a driveway through the complex, access to the fueling station, salt building, and anitskid building, and parking for the DJ office and evidence building. Mrs. Swan noted the extremely poor condition of the area. Mr. Sacco suggested reconstruction costs should be shared with funds other than the general fund.

3) General Fund – Highway

The Board reviewed the highway department budget. The Board stated that the line item for highway overtime should be increased by \$7,500.00. The Board discussed the 5 year road work and storm sewer plan. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that the projected storm water construction line item was increased to accommodate the storm water repairs in year 1 of the 5 year plan. The road work portion of the plan would be discussed later in the budget process. The line item for highway GPS was increased for several pieces of equipment. Mr. McNichols expressed concern for knowing the location of the staff, when inclement weather occurs, for safety reasons. Mr. McNichols informed the Board that the bed for truck 67 needs to be replaced; the bed is starting to rust and the truck will not pass inspection. Mr. McNichols advised the Board that the welder needs to be replaced as a safety issue. The line item for long line painting was increased by 10% because the 2015 amount did not cover all of the lines.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MRS. O'LEARY, SECOND OF MRS. SWAN, A UNANIMOUS VOTE
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:03 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,


Latoya Procopio

Secretary