

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with President Luker presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners MYERS, BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DiPLACIDO, SANCHEZ, THOMPSON, CARSWELL, SPIEGELMAN, VAHEY, GILLESPIE, ZAPPONE, BOWMAN, KLINE, LUKER  
Excused: SCHREIBER

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Township Treasurer BLUMENTHAL

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Luker read into the record the adoption of Resolution No. 19-001 honoring Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and hereby proclaiming that January 21, 2019 as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service Day.

Also, since there were no committee meetings held in January, public comment will be permitted after each agenda item including consent agenda items as listed on the agenda.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Eagle Scout Commendation to Jason Lieberman:

Commissioner Rothman presented Certificate of Commendation to Eagle Scout Jason Lieberman from a proud community saluting Jason for obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America in recognition of his contribution to our community by working with the Sisters of Holy Redeemer to create plots for vegetable gardens to help provide fresh, healthy food to local residents in need that was inspired by his passion that was developed in his environmental science studies at Abington Senior High School, and to recognize Jason's awareness of food-sensitivity issues; desire to increase awareness of sustainable agriculture and continuing mission while in Troop 72 to help local residents.

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington hereby awards this Certificate of Commendation to Jason Lieberman as they appreciate all of his hard work and join his family, friends and fellow members of Boy Scout Troop 72 in extending their congratulations on this 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

State Representative-elect Ben Sanchez presented a Citation on behalf of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Eagle Scout Jason Lieberman in taking great pride in recognizing Jason Lieberman who has displayed steadfast commitment to the ideals and time-honored traditions of the Boy Scouts of America by obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout., an accomplishment of the highest magnitude. In achieving this great worthy distinction, Jason completed all portions of the Eagle Award Program, which help the scouts to develop in areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To fulfill the community service requirement, Jason worked with the Sisters of Holy Redeemer to design and build vegetable gardens to provide fresh produce to residents of the community. Through initiative and personal example, Jason is a living testament to the virtues of duty and citizenship that he so generally and readily displayed.

On behalf of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who applauded Jason Lieberman on earning the rank of Eagle Scout as he truly exemplifies the admirable spirit and essence of the Boy Scouts of America and best wishes for continued leadership and service to others sponsored by State Representative-elect Ben Sanchez on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

Ms. Meghan Janoson, on behalf of Congresswoman Madeleine Dean of the U.S. Congress, presented a Citation to Eagle Scout Jason Lieberman and congratulated Jason and his parents on this very notable achievement of obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout and thanked him for his community service and stewardship to Abington Township and to our community on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### Minutes:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the Board of Commissioners Special Meeting FY 2019 Budget of December 13, 2018 and the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of December 13, 2018.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item FC-04-011019:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to approve the Advance and Travel Expense activity for November 2018 as previously circulated to the Board. Advance and Travel Expense reports were \$0.00 and \$536.82, respectively. Eleven-month expenses totaled \$34,263.52.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item FC-05-011019:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to adopt Resolution No. 19-002 authorizing the Finance Director and his/her designate to invest Township funds in any and all such financial institutions as permitted by First Class Township Code.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item FC-06-011019:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt Resolution No. 19-003 authorizing the disposition of certain Finance Office records as set forth in Exhibit "A."

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the records to not be disposed of until her "Right To Know" request is satisfied.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Administrative Code and Land Use Committee –**

Item ACL-01-110818:

Commissioner Sanchez made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to advertise Ordinance No. 2162, an ordinance of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, amending the Abington Township Zoning Ordinance of 2017, as amended, by amending Article VII A/O-Apartment-Office District, adding H-12 Senior Apartment Units as a use permitted by Conditional Use in A/O-Apartment-Office District, by amending Article XXI use regulations, adding H-12 Senior Apartment Units as a use; and by amending Article XXIII parking and transportation to include use H-12 Senior Apartment Units, and an ordinance of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and pursuant to the First Class Township Code and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code amending the Abington Township Code and the official Zoning Map of Abington Township to rezone a certain tract of real property from CS-Community Service District and R-3 Medium-Density Residential District to A/O-Apartment-Office District – to be considered at a Special Meeting beginning at 6:30 PM on January 31, 2019.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Vice President Kline clarified that the applicant will appear before the Planning Commission on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Is that correct?

Solicitor Clarke replied that is correct and the ordinance with revisions from the hearing will be sent to the MCPC and will be re-advertised.

Vice President Kline clarified that the purpose of the hearing on the 31<sup>st</sup> will be to present changes made to the ordinance and continue on with the public comment process. Is that correct?

Solicitor Clarke replied that is correct.

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Cakky Evans, Lindsay Lane, commented that the EAC has spent a considerable amount of time on this and has concerns expressed in a letter to the Planning Commission. Also, the EAC would like to advocate for a design-charrette for stakeholders and the community.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels “this will set precedent for altering the code.”

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Public Works Committee –**

PW-01-011019:

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez to adopt Resolution No. 19-004 requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for the sidewalk connections – Meetinghouse Road and Fox Chase Road and authorizing Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager, to execute all documents and agreements between the Board of Commissioners and PennDOT to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Sanchez said this is a very important final piece of the puzzle of the grant that will bring sidewalks for pedestrians along with intersection improvements to the entire corridor, and he asked for the Board's support.

Commissioner Rothman thanked Commissioner Sanchez for the work that he has done on this matter as it will be wonderful for those who live on that side of town.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

**Public Affairs Committee –**

PA-01-011019:

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Kline to award the construction contract for the street reconstruction at the 2200 block of Parkview Avenue to Associated Paving Contractors, Inc. as the apparent low bidder in the amount of \$139,750.00; and to approve and authorize additional consultant work to complete the survey and stakeout at the 2200 block of Parkview Avenue in the amount of \$1,235.00.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Thompson clarified that HUD funds will be used for this project. Is that correct?

Mr. Van Strother, Community Director, replied yes.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

**Finance Committee –**

Township Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jay W. Blumenthal reported monies received from various departments deposited into Republic Bank for December 2018 was in the amount of \$1,528,220 representing a decrease over prior year of (\$258,199); YTD \$63,809,560 representing an increase over prior year of \$1,049,797. Real estate taxes collected in December 2018 was in the amount of \$208,707; YTD \$25,531,198 and balance to be collected of \$1,558,827.

Item FC-01-011019:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve investments for the month of November as previously circulated to the Board. It was noted that investments for the month totaled \$685,000.00. Interest rate yield ranged from 2.700% to 2.850%.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Item FC-02-011019:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Vahey to approve the November expenditures as previously circulated to the Board in the amount of \$2,751,004.53 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$1,883,440.80, and authorizing proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of February 2019.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 14-0. Commissioner Schreiber was absent during roll call.

Item FC-03-011019:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the Clearing Fund, the Deferred Revenue/Expense activity and Petty Cash balances for the month of November as previously circulated to the Board. Clearing fund receipts and disbursements for the month of November 2018 were \$961.83 and (\$20,650.20), respectively. Deferred Revenue/Expense receipts and disbursements for the month of November 2018 were \$240.00 and (\$11,256.00), respectively.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about “waivers for the School District.”

**REMARKS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Sanchez said he sent a letter to President Luker that he read into the record of formal notice announcing his resignation as Ward 7 Commissioner during tonight’s January 10, 2019 Board meeting of the Abington Township Board of Commissioners. His resignation will be effective February 14, 2019, which is the date of our next regular Board meeting at which time he would expect the Board will be in position to appoint his successor and this will allow him to continue his duties as Ward 7 Commissioner until February 14, 2019 and to minimize the time of any vacancy for Ward 7.

Serving the people of his hometown of Abington has been an incredibly fulfilling awarding experience, a truly distinct honor and high privilege entrusted to him by our voters. He looks forward to continuing that public service as State Representative for all of Abington, and while his duties may expand and differ somewhat from those as Commissioner, please know that he will continue to work with the Township to forever maintain and improve our beloved community.

Also, a few people have stepped forward expressing interest in the vacancy and he thanked them for it. If anyone else is interested, please send a resume to Manager Manfredi.



He thanked Manager Manfredi and all of the Township staff including the volunteers that he had the pleasure of working with these past five years. When people are dedicated and love their community it truly shows in their proud work and makes all the difference to the residents we serve. He also thanked Solicitor Mike Clarke and his entire team for their guidance and Rudolph Clarke has been stellar since day one.

He personally thanked his colleagues on the Board for their service to the community, and while we often engage in healthy and vigorous debate, we always seem to come to what is best for the community and he knows everyone on this Board takes their roll seriously as a labor of love and not personal gain.

We often hear that this is a thankless role, but that is not entirely true as people by and large appreciate our service and sometimes express that to us in the nicest of notes or comments. He truly appreciates everyone on the Board and their hard work and he has all the faith they will continue it and move our community in the right direction. He is so proud of our many accomplishments together in the past five years from all of the balanced budgets and fiscally-sound strategy, to the responsible award-winning projects, to pedestrian and recreational improvements, to solving problems large and small, to coming together in the unfortunate difficult and trying times in our community and to so many more positive great things on the near horizon that will add to these accomplishments, and he hopes to remain with all of them every step of the way. "You know where to find me and you will always have my friendship. Thank you all for this opportunity and peace and love to all of you and yours."

Commissioner Zappone wished Commissioner Sanchez "Good Luck" and it was nice working with him and wished his friend a lot of luck in the future.

Commissioner Gillespie wished Commissioner Sanchez "Good Luck," her Glenside neighbor, and she wished everyone a wonderful 2019.

Commissioner Vahey wished Commissioner Sanchez "Good Luck." Also, he recognized Fire Marshal John Rohrer as there was a fire on his street last week and the firefighters were at the house within 30 seconds of when the fire started. The dedication and professionalism of the entire fire department especially Mr. Rohrer was remarkable, and he thanked Mr. Rohrer and all of them.



Commission Spiegelman echoed sentiments made by Commissioner Vahey as there was a very significant house fire in Ward 11 the day after New Years and the all-volunteer Abington Fire Department especially the Abington Fire Company Station 100 were on it and took down the blaze. People of Ward 11 and throughout the entire Township were so generous by donating to help that family.

He said to State Representative Ben Sanchez that he is one of the true good guys in this community and this Commonwealth, and he became a better Commissioner by having Ben as a colleague and a better person by having Ben as his friend. This isn't goodbye, it is "see you across the street," and congratulations!

Commissioner Carswell congratulated State Representative Ben Sanchez as he will be missed. Also, she thanked the staff of Public Works Department for the new drainage system on her street.

Commissioner Myers wished State Representative Ben Sanchez "Best of Luck" and we are expecting big things from him and she knows that he will be a stellar State Representative, and we will miss him as Commissioner. Also, Abington PAL will be holding its Annual Keswick Concert in April as well as a raffle for two seats for every single show at the Keswick for one year. There will be a limited number of tickets for this concert and she hopes everyone will participate.

Commissioner Brodsky wished everyone a "Happy New Year!" To State Representative Ben Sanchez, over time, we have become very good friends and he appreciates Ben's guidance and counsel and he wished Ben "Good Luck" as he has been a stellar individual to work with and he thanked him for it. He wished Ben well as he steps onto the next stage and he will be great.

Commissioner Rothman congratulated State Representative Ben Sanchez and it has been awesome working with Ben and he will be great at the next level. He appreciates that Ben never made it a problem if he did not always agree with him, which is the way we should all handle our positions. He thanked Ben for all he will do for Abington as State Representative.

Also, we have Boy Scouts Troop 1 here this evening and it was honor speaking with those who have bright futures. And, if anyone who would like to participate in the East Abington Little League, in-house sign-ups will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12-3 at McKinley Fire Company and also sign-ups can be done online.

Commissioner DiPlacido congratulated his friend State Representative Ben Sanchez. Also, "when driving through Abington Township, please drive like your kids live here."

Commissioner Thompson said to State Representative Ben Sanchez that it has been a pleasure serving with him for the past year as Ben has been nothing but a mentor and great friend and he truly appreciates it and wishes Ben nothing but the best. Also, for Ward 6 residents there will be a town hall on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Edge Hill Fire Company to discuss Aqua’s new infiltration system and a few other items.

Vice President Kline said to State Representative Ben Sanchez that they have done a lot of “heavy lifting” together during many battles and he will miss Ben and appreciates all of his hard work as with neighboring wards it has been important to have this relationship and he valued it. He looks forward to having Ben as a State Rep as he is someone who understands the Township and who is active and helpful. Thank you.

President Luker announced that at the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service event there will be tributes by Overlook and Rydal Elementary Schools as well as Abington Junior High School and one of the recipients this year is the Honorable Kelley B. Hodge, Esquire, who is a lifelong resident of Abington Township and the first African American female appointed to the head of the District Attorneys Office in Philadelphia County. Also a recipient of the Special Recognition Award will be Mr. Bernard Griggs, Jr., who also was raised in Abington and graduated from Abington High School and he is the business representative of the Building Trades Council. The service will be held on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 12-noon at the high school.

Also, to State Representative Ben Sanchez, it has been a pleasure and honor to know him for the past five years. He wished Ben the best as he will do a fine job moving up and he hopes his replacement will be as fine as a person as Ben has been for the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township. God Bless, take care and best wishes to Ben and his family.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

**APPROVED**

12.14.19

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Resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners on January 10, 2019 were as follows:

- Resolution No. 19-001
- Resolution No. 19-002
- Resolution No. 19-003
- Resolution No. 19-004

**RESOLUTION No. 19-001**

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man committed to peaceful coexistence, where all men would be free from racism, bigotry and discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, many people look to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. as a source of inspiration for promoting harmony, cooperation and understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, the third Monday in January has been declared a national holiday and on that day, January 21, 2019, Abington Township will conduct a Memorial Service at 12:00 PM which will be attended by civic, religious, school, and government leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, Abington Township is herewithin honoring Reverend Charles W. Quann and Ms. Romaine L. Crawford as the 2018 recipients of the **Martin Luther King Memorial Award**;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township does hereby proclaim January 21, 2019 as Martin Luther King Day and encourages all interested citizens to participate in the Township Memorial Service.

**RESOLVED**, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne C. Luker, President

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Manfredi,  
Township Manager & Secretary

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-002**

**INVESTMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, Abington Township invests its funds in various financial institutions utilizing financial instruments permitted by state law; and

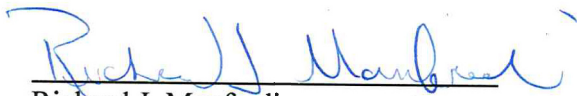
**WHEREAS**, the finance director on a daily basis monitors these investments and acts on behalf of the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington does hereby authorize the finance director and his/her designate to invest Township funds in any and all instruments and with any and all institutions as so listed and in accordance with Section 1705.1 of the First Class Township Code.

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne C. Luker, President  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Manfredi,  
Township Manager & Secretary

**TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-003**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
ABINGTON, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE  
DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN FINANCE OFFICE RECORDS**

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of Resolution No.11-009, adopted March 10, 2011, the Township of Abington declared its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved December 16, 2008, and,

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968 each individual act of disposition shall be approved by resolution of the governing body of the municipality;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in accordance with the above-cited Municipal Records Manual, hereby authorizes the disposition of the public records as set forth in Exhibit "A" hereto.

Attest:



Richard J. Manfredi,  
Township Manager & Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

By:



Wayne C. Luker, President  
Board of Commissioners



Abington Township  
Board of Commissioners

Montgomery County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Resolution No. 19-004

Resolution Requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be Used for the Sidewalk Connections - Meetinghouse Road and Fox Chase Road Project.


BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township hereby requests a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant of \$985,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for the Sidewalk Connections - Meetinghouse Road and Fox Chase Road Project in Abington Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager, as the official to execute all documents and agreements between the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested Grant.

I, Richard J. Manfredi, duly qualified Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held January 10, 2019 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Abington Township Board of Commissioners this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

By:   
Wayne C. Luker, President  
Board of Commissioners

Attest:   
Richard J. Manfredi  
Township Manager & Secretary