

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Monday, February 1, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners HECKER, FARREN, KLINE, MYERS, ROTHMAN

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Community Director STROTHER
Planning & Zoning Official PENECALE

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, SCHREIBER, KALINOSKI, SPIEGELMAN, SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE

MINUTES: Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2015 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Hecker said recently, the Township was hit with a big storm, and he thanked Mr. Micciolo and Mr. Pontelandolfo and all of the members of the Public Works Department for a job well-done working under difficult conditions bringing the Township back to life very quickly.

Presentation - Final Township Master Bicycle Plan

Peter Simone of Simone-Collins Landscape Architects provided a copy of the Executive Summary of the Master Bicycle Plan to the Board. We are at the end of a year-long process working with a diligent committee on this plan. The plan has been in draft review for the last few months while incorporating comments and enhanced details to some of the maps as well as additional design solutions to some of the systems in the bike trail.

Final tweaks still need to be made to the executive summary, which is an overview of the system, and we will then bring the plan to the full Board for consideration of adoption.

Slides were shown of the areas of the bicycle route that are highlighted in the TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) application, and the TAP application will be reviewed by PennDOT. This was submitted to DVRPC on behalf of the Township on January 8, 2016 and cost of that section of trail is \$929,131.00, which is the application to TAP.

Also, TAP funds all construction including construction observation fees and costs for design and engineering area estimated at \$207,000.00 and that will be the basis of an application that we will make on behalf of the Township to DCNR on April 13, 2016.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline thanked Peter Simone of Simone-Collins and reps of TPD, who were very thorough in putting together this master plan as well as Township staff as they did a great job.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Grant Program and Simone-Collins Landscape Architects

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to approve Final Township Master Bicycle Plan. The plan has been prepared by Simone-Collins Landscape Architecture (in association with Traffic, Planning & Design).

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Edge Hill Road/Tyson Avenue Flood Control/Street Reconstruction Project Reimbursement Agreement No. 064132-B Supplement "C"

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve Pennoni Associates' proposal for Reimbursement Agreement No. 064132-B, Supplement "C" for Edge Hill Road/Tyson Avenue Flood Control/Street Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$593,082.43, which includes services for Part 2 Final Design.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline asked for a breakdown of the approximate amount of \$593,000 and also about additional charges.

Mr. Powers replied there were additional charges for relocating the pipe inside the cemetery property and there were upgrading traffic light charges for Tyson Avenue. There were charges for DEP's environmental concerns about the downstream and survey work. The breakdown is a 20-30-page document and he will send a copy to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline asked what is the Township's financial obligation?

Mr. Powers replied 20%, which is about \$120,000 of the \$593,000 and PennDOT will pay for the remainder of the costs.

Commissioner Kline clarified that the \$120,000 will be taken from Fund Balance. Is that correct?

Mr. Powers replied that is correct.

Commissioner Myers commented that at a previous meeting, residents and members of the EAC expressed concerns about Hillside Cemetery. Do these changes take some of those comments into consideration?

Mr. Powers replied we took all of their comments in consideration.

Commissioner Spiegelman clarified that these changes will not add any significant time to the project. Is that correct?

Mr. Powers replied there are several timelines for the project. The most important is the right-of-way in which Township Solicitor's Office is handing and that will move along at the same time as final design. However, right-of-way acquisition has to be in place prior to final design, but if there are any changes, it could affect design and that will affect the timeline.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

2016 HUD Program

Motion to approve _____ to perform engineering serviced and surveying for four (4) projects listed in the 2016 HUD Program in the amount of \$ _____; to be funded from the HUD Program.

Commissioner Hecker noted that this agenda item is a place holder for Board action at next week's Board of Commissioners meeting once bids are received.

Mr. Powers added that we have four HUD projects; two are State highways and we need detailed plans to go to PennDOT for permits. Also, only three projects will be moved forward, not four.

Commissioner Kline clarified that all bidders will be given the same information in terms of what the Township already has in survey information, etc. Is that correct?

Mr. Powers replied these are all new projects and everyone will be on the same playing field.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for the project that will not be moved forward.

Mr. Powers replied it was determined today that the project of 2300 block of Nylsor Avenue – curbs and sidewalks will not be moved forward.

Sidewalks on East Side of Rockwell Road

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to authorize Township staff to take bids to construct sidewalks on the eastern side of Rockwell Road from Roy Avenue to Old Welsh Road and to encumber up to \$125,000 from the General Fund Balance.

Commissioner Hecker said the issue of pedestrian safety has been paramount for him since his time on this Board. It is something he learned about as he was running to represent the community, and in late 2014, there was a tragic accident causing a loss of life of a nine-year old girl living on Rockwell. So for the better part of last year, he has been working with all Township departments to come up with mechanisms to make Rockwell Road safer.

The lighting has been increased where the accident took place; the lanes were narrowed on Rockwell Road; and he worked with the Police Department to lower the speed limit from 35 MPH to 30 MPH, yet there is still more work to be done.

Residents remain concerned about children walking safely down Rockwell and the situation is further compounded because the Crestmont Train Station at the intersection of Rubicam and Rockwell Roads is a heavily traversed area of people walking to the train or driving to/from the train station.

In the last few weeks, he also learned that the Edge Hill Road Bridge reconstruction project is set to begin this coming September and, although the official detour route will not be on Rockwell Road, we can all assume that a number of vehicles traveling on Edge Hill will detour onto Rockwell, which would be the natural passage.

He views it as a fundamental obligation on our part to improve the safety conditions on Rockwell and he has been working with Township staff on a plan that would get us to the point where we can install sidewalks from the portion on Rockwell from Roy Avenue up to Old Welsh Road on the eastern side. It will provide a contiguous safe passage from Old Welsh all the way to Edge Hill Road.

Coupled with that, the Police have agreed that, with the installation of the sidewalks, they will be able to make Rubicam and Rockwell a four-way "Stop" sign regulated intersection.

In addition, it would enable the Township to install crosswalks to allow for a safe passage from the eastern side of Rockwell to the western side where the Crestmont Train Station is located.

He feels this is an imperative public safety measure and he would greatly appreciate the support of this committee as well as the full Board at its meeting next week.

He asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Myers agreed that this is a wise expenditure, but she does not know how it will be done with this amount of money as it seems like a low amount for such a long stretch of sidewalk. This is really necessary and not only will it affect the residents, but pedestrians who come from outside of the area to go to the train station.

Mr. Powers commented that we will go out for bid on this project and the cost may be higher due to bid bonds. In addition, sidewalks on Rockwell Road are required to meet ADA requirements for access to the Crestmont Train Station.

Commissioner Kline asked could these funds come from property owners if the Township decided to go in that direction?

Mr. Powers replied yes, the Township could go through the assessment process. However, to meet ADA requirements, we would not assess property owners for that reason. If in the future sidewalks become cracked or need replacing, it will be the responsibility of the property owner to replace sidewalks and also to shovel the snow from them.

Commissioner Hecker said if this gets Board approval, he intends to hold a community meeting to discuss that the homeowners are responsible for maintenance of the sidewalks.

Commissioner Rothman asked for the timing of when this will be put out for bid.

Mr. Powers replied it will take two to three months to put together plan specs and send it out for bid.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented these safety improvements will also be important for the residents who live in the Ward 11 section of Rockwell Road, and he thanked Commissioner Hecker for his tireless work on this matter.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Brian Keister, 1761 Rockwell Road, thanked everyone for making this area safer for all of the residents. He was in favor of the sidewalks as well as the four-way "Stop" sign, which would make the area feel more like a neighborhood and increase the quality of life for residents.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0

Bid Award – Ready Mix Concrete

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to accept the lowest responsible bidder and enter in a contract with Delaware Valley Concrete in the amount of \$19,923.00 for the purchase of Ready Mix Concrete as per bid specifications.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline clarified that this is the budgeted amount for this purchase. Is that correct?

Mr. Micciolo replied that is correct.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Bid Award – Super Pave Asphalt Paving Material

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to accept the lowest responsible bidder and enter into a contract with Eureka Stone Quarry for Part I of the bid in the amount of \$690,000.00; also Eureka Stone Quarry for Part II in the amount of \$43,200.00 for the purchase of Super Pave Materials as per bid specifications.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there were any cost-savings with these bid quotes.

Mr. Micciolo replied yes. The cost for super pave materials came in much lower than last year, which will allow for more streets to be paved than anticipated.

Commissioner Kline clarified that is attributable to lower fuel costs. Is that correct?

Mr. Micciolo replied that is correct.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any general comments relating to Public Works.

Commissioner Kline said we had a meeting last week regarding Old Welsh Road sewer project, and he thanked Mr. Powers, Mr. Wrigley, Mr. Barron, and Mike Filmyer for their assistance.

Commissioner Gillespie commented that her late husband, Mike Gillespie worked for years trying to get a bicycle path, and when she opened the flyer she saw a picture of him riding a bike.

Commissioner Farren commented that as we are moving towards a more bicycle-friendly community; has Township staff explored any bike-sharing options?

Manager LeFevre replied just on a superficial basis, but we will pursue it further as we progress with the bicycle plan.

Commissioner Kline added that the staff from the County is working with their bike-share provider who installed three separate bike-share areas. Also, the County is looking to expand their bike-share program and open it to municipalities to buy into the same pricing from their provider using that platform to expand.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she hopes there is opposition to advertising in the parks along the trails. Also, she has an example for the website such as there should be links for all items related to a particular Township meeting, and she requested that it be changed.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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