

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Monday, May 2, 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 W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Community Director STROTHER

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Farren made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2016 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

2014 Bond Issue/Phase III – Storm Sewer Projects

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve and enter into contract with Associated Paving Contractors, Inc., (APCON) for the 2014 Bond Issue/Phase III Storm Sewer Projects, in the amount of \$359,750.00; to be funded from 2014 Bond.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Highland Avenue – Storm Sewer Project

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve advertisement of bids for Highland Avenue Storm Sewer Projects in the amount of \$195,000; to be funded as follows: (1) 2014 Bond - \$95,000 and (2) Fund Balance - \$100,000.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there are any funds from the Bond Issue that can be used as opposed to using funds from Fund Balance.

Mr. Powers replied for now, we want to cover it with funds from Fund Balance; but if the two quotes come in less, we will readjust the number and not take funds from Fund Balance.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that this is near the back entrance to the Junior and the Senior High School's entrance as well as the Central Administration building, and this culvert is in need of repairs. He thanked Mr. Powers and Mr. Barron for their work in getting this project done, and he urged his fellow Board members to support it.

Commissioner Gillespie asked how much has been taken from Fund Balance to-date.

Manager LeFevre replied there is another motion listed on the agenda tonight for the Edge Hill/Tyson project; however, other than that he does not know of any allocations taken from Fund Balance to-date.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Old Welsh Road – Sanitary Sewer Project

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to reject the bids for the Old Welsh Road Sanitary Sewer Project.

Commissioner Hecker called on Township Engineer, Mr. Powers for further explanation.

Mr. Powers explained that we put this project out to bid that includes two different types of systems; directional drilling and the other is open cut; however, bids came in high so we need to reject them and go back to redesign to bring prices down.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline asked how will this affect BCM's consulting services?

Mr. Powers replied fortunately, we still have money leftover to cover redesign.

Commissioner Kline asked was BCM involved with preliminary estimating?

Mr. Powers replied yes. Directional drilling is expensive and only certain contractors understand it.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, questioned whether this will affect appraisals.

Mr. Powers replied appraisals were put on hold for now.

Ms. Lehmann asked about documents relating to appraisals.

Manager LeFevre replied that a "Right To Know" request was filed by the speaker for a copy of the bid specification for appraisal services and there were no bid specifications because it is a professional service, so that "Right To Know" request was closed.

Since then, a second "Right To Know" request was submitted asking for any documents associated with the process and the reply was that those documents are in the Solicitor's Office and that they would be submitted to the speaker earlier this week, which already occurred.

Commissioner Kline clarified that professional services do not have a limit. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied there is a policy for RFP's in which the Township Solicitor sent out proposals for professional services for appraisals.

Commissioner Kline noted that if the speaker does not like the answer provided by the "Right To Know" Officer (Township Manager), there is a process by which she can appeal to the "Right To Know" Office of the State of Pennsylvania. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied that is correct and the speaker were advised of that process.

George Green, 1543 Old Welsh Road, questioned whether there would be any consideration for doing the work on the southeast side first and then rethinking the north side where the issue is with the hill.

Commissioner Kline replied Township Engineer will look at phasing the project eventually with the south side of Old Welsh Road to be done separately from the north side, and Mr. Powers will review whether there can be access through the golf course for the sewer line.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Edge Hill/Tyson Avenue Funding – Flood Control/Street Reconstruction Project/Reimbursement Agreement No. 064132-B Supplement “C”

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to approve the funding for Edge Hill Road/Tyson Avenue Part 2 for Final Design/ Funding to be covered from Fund Balance. 80% of funding will be reimbursed from State \$593,082.43.

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

Commissioner Kline asked is this part of the lump sum in the restricted portion of the Fund Balance.

Manager LeFevre replied the professional services of Pennoni Associates, Inc. were approved by the Board back in February, but we did not restrict any funding to cover that cost, and there are funds available now that have been allocated.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked was the cost of appraisals similar to the Tyson Avenue project?

Solicitor Clarke replied there are about 212 appraisals, and this is a different type of appraisal, which is considerably more intensive than a benefit assessment appraisal.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

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

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the response she received from a “Right To Know” request.

Manager LeFevre replied the speaker’s initial “Right To Know” request was for bid specifications related to appraisals and she received a formal response as well as a series of email exchanges as he replies to all emails.

The second email from the speaker was about clarification and his response to her first "Right To Know" request also applied to the second one in which he referred her to the Solicitor's Office. The timing on the second "Right To Know" request is still open and the speaker will have a response some time early next week.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

sev