

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Spiegelman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, ROTHMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, HECKER, FARREN, MYERS, SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, DiPLACIDO, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE

MINUTES: Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Doug Wendell announced that pools will open on June 25, 2016, and there will be free day at the pools on Monday, June 27th.

Also, notice was received for a feasibility study for Penbryn and Crestmont pools and an RFP was sent out for advertisement. Bids will be open at the end of July and they will be brought before the Board for approval in August.

2016 Capital Appropriation – Library’s Outdoor LED Sign

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to reclassify \$40,000 of the 2016 Capital Appropriation in order to repair Library’s outdoor LED sign.

Nancy Hammeke-Marshall, Executive Director of the Abington Free Library, explained that the sign is old and has served the library well since 1997, but now it has misinformation on it that we cannot change. So the circuit board will be replaced; the LED display will be enhanced and the system will be changed from a modem to WiFi.

Commissioner Spiegelman noted that funds for the sign were saved from another project and it is not a new allocation. He asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented that it would be a good birthday present for the library.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the project the money was saved from.

Ms. Marshal replied a flood mitigation project.

Also, she invited everyone to visit the Library's Discovery Garden and the ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on June 25, 2016 at 9:15 a.m.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Penn State Permit Fee and Impact Fee Agreements

For Discussion Only -

Commissioner Spiegelman called on Legal Counsel, Lauren Gallagher.

Ms. Gallagher said the permit fee and impact fee agreements are still in draft form and we are working with Counsel from Penn State to finalize the terms. When finalized they will be brought before the full Board for approval.

Professional Service Agreement – Verizon Franchise Renewal

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve participation in the Montgomery County Consortium Inter-Governmental Cooperative Effort in retaining the services of the Cohen's Law Group to assist with Franchise Renewal negotiations with Verizon Pennsylvania, Inc. with our initial payment from 2016 Contingency Funds.

Commissioner Spiegelman called on Manager LeFevre.

Manager LeFevre explained that this agenda item is contingent upon Verizon allowing the Township to participate in this group effort.

In 2006, the consortium worked together through the same law firm of Cohen's Law Group and worked out an initial agreement with Verizon. It was a 12-year term and for most communities that term expires in 2018. Abington rejected initial terms because the grant awarded through Verizon provided for approximately \$52,000 to Abington and the Commissioners at that time were not satisfied, so they did not sign in 2006. Instead, the Township worked for another year until reaching an agreement with Verizon and then they increased allocation to approximately \$85,000, but for that additional funding, Verizon wanted an additional year in the agreement.

So Abington's agreement is a 13-year term that does not expire until 2020. We will still try to participate in this consortium, but if not, we will have to defer this action until another year or two mostly likely at a higher cost since we will be on our own.

Commissioner Spiegelman questioned whether Abington was the only municipality who chose not to participate in the consortium back in 2006.

Manager LeFevre replied we did participate, but Abington was the only one who rejected the offer and waited another year before finalizing the agreement.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether this will effect the build-out date of 2017.

Manager LeFevre replied as part of the initial agreement, there was a 10-year period to complete the build-out and provide FIOS service to every home in the community. It is not 100% completed; however, after contacting a Verizon rep, it was indicated they intend to complete that service by May, 2017.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any general comments relating to Public Affairs. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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