

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with President Luker presiding.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners ZAPPONE, SPIEGELMAN, ROTHMAN, MYERS, SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, FARREN, GILLESPIE, HECKER, KALINOSKI, KLINE, LUKER  
Excused: SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, BOWMAN

Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Tax Collector BLUMENTHAL  
Finance Director BARRON  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Deputy Chief of Police LIVINGOOD  
Township Engineer POWERS  
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO  
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL  
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY  
Assistant Fire Marshal ROHRER  
Community Development Director STROTHER

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

President Luker announced that an Executive Session was held on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM on a personnel matter.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Presentation of Award to Rosemarie Timoney – Fiftieth Anniversary of Timoney Irish Dancers:

Commissioner Gillespie presented Rosemarie Timoney with Certificate of Commendation recognizing her fiftieth anniversary of Timoney Irish Dancers on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

Presentation of Class II Commendations to: Sergeant Ozzie Toledo and Officer Gary Martinez:

Deputy Chief Livingood said Class II Commendations for bravery will be awarded to Sergeant Ozzie Toledo and Officer Gary Martinez.

Lt. Patrick Molloy, Patrol Division Commander, said at approximately 8 p.m. on Sunday, September 25, 2016, Upper Dublin Police Department requested assistance in locating one of their residents, a 30-year old male who was emotionally distraught and threatening to commit suicide. Just before midnight, Officer Martinez observed the male fitting the description and stopped him in the area of Limekiln Pike and Elm Avenue.

During this encounter, Officer Martinez attempted to verify his identification while attempting to counsel him. At this point, Sergeant Toledo arrived on scene to provide backup and assist in taking this individual into protective custody.

When Sergeant Toledo and Officer Martinez were preparing to transport him, they advised him they needed to do a pat down search for weapons in order to transport him to the hospital.

As this was about to occur, the suspect pulled out a loaded .38 caliber revolver from his left pocket and Officer Martinez drew his weapon pointing it at the suspect and Sergeant Toledo immediately grabbed the suspect's left hand in an effort to disarm him.

Because the suspect was determined to take his own life, Sergeant Toledo was unable to remove the gun from his grip as the struggle continued and Officer Martinez re-holstered his weapon and grabbed the suspect's left forearm and both officers continued to struggle with this distraught man as he would not let go of the firearm and repeatedly said to shoot him.

Sergeant Toledo announced that he was going to fire the weapon to empty it making it safe and did so safely away from them into an unoccupied garage. The struggle continued and eventually the officers gained control taking the suspect into custody without any injuries.

This was an example of outstanding police work and their actions can be described as nothing less than heroic as they were able to resolve this potentially deadly encounter peacefully and save the man's life.

Commissioner Schreiber presented Class II Commendations for Bravery to Sergeant Ozzie Toledo and Officer Gary Martinez in recognition of their courage, professionalism and compassion in disarming a suicidal subject at great risk of their own personal safety to save the life of another on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

Congressman Brendan Boyle, 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, presented Sergeant Ozzie Toledo and Officer Gary Martinez with a Congressional Citation recognizing their heroic actions on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

State Representative Madeleine Dean, 153<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District, presented Sergeant Ozzie Toledo and Officer Gary Martinez with a Citation on behalf of the House of Representatives commending them for their bravery on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

Appointment of Deputy Chief John A. Livingood as Chief of Police:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint Deputy Chief John A. Livingood as Chief of Police effective April 1, 2017.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Lt. Pat Malloy, who was joined by Lt. Warner and Lt. Gallagher, and said that Chief Kelly asked him to speak on the Chief's behalf that this appointment is something that has been planned for, for a long time.

The Lieutenants, the entire Command Staff, Sergeants, Rank and File unanimously endorsed Deputy Chief Livingood to be our next Chief and lead us into the future as the integrity, commitment and leadership that Deputy Chief Livingood will provide, so on behalf of Chief Kelly and the Command Staff, we are very proud to serve Chief John Livingood.

President Luker asked for a roll call vote on the motion as follows:

Commissioner Zappone voted yes.

Commissioner Spiegelman voted yes.

Commissioner Sanchez was absent.

Commissioner Rothman voted yes.

Commissioner Myers voted yes.

Commissioner Markman was absent.

Commissioner Schreiber voted yes.

Commissioner Bowman was absent.

Commissioner DiPlacido voted yes.

Commissioner Farren voted yes.

Commissioner Gillespie voted yes.

Commissioner Hecker voted yes.

Commissioner Kalinoski voted yes.

Commissioner Kline voted yes.

Commissioner Luker voted yes.

Motion was unanimously adopted 12-0.

President Luker recessed the meeting at 7:55 p.m. until 7:59 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting of September 8, 2016.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)**

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the cost of the Army Corp of Engineers' project. Also, she was opposed to hiring an outside engineering service.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:**

Request for Proposals – Engineering Services

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to authorize Township Administration to solicit Request for Proposals for Engineering Services to be received by the close of business on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Zappone commented that he was not at the committee meeting, but he is very concerned and outraged by this, because by farming this out, would be a disservice to residents and taxpayers. He has called Mr. Powers' department numerous times over 16 years and his staff comes out within the hour working on a resolution to the problem.

He manages properties and deals with three other Townships and they all have that service farmed out and it is a disaster. This is a poor-judgment call, a mistake and it would dismantle the Township.

He recommended that the Board table it for more discussion or completely forget this idea. This would be a disservice to the taxpayers of this Township and they will be waiting in line like every other Township that farms this engineering service out.

Commissioner Myers said she spoke against this at the committee meeting and she still feels the same way. She has spoken with two contractors and there really is a difference between an in-house engineering department and a subcontracted engineering service. She would never suggest that anyone on this Board be giving these contracts to certain acquaintances, but the perception will always be there.

If this goes through and she hopes it doesn't, she would suggest and work to have a play-to-pay ordinance like so many other municipalities especially in New Jersey.

She hopes that is not the way of things because we do have directors of many departments that will be leaving in the next few years where the trend will be to contract work out.

A resolution was found with Mr. Powers having the wisdom to see that he is able to do the job part-time that saved the Township a tremendous amount of money and she believes he would like to do that for a few more years. It seems to be working quite well and it would be a disservice to our constituents, to our residents and this is really important and our services are what make Abington special.

Commissioner Schreiber commented that she was at the committee meeting as well and this is a request to just gather information to get all of the facts, so we can make an educated choice. To look at every single possibility, so we can make the best decision for the taxpayers. She also uses the engineering department quite a bit and they are very helpful and they are wonderful people in that office and this is not a slight against them in any way. It is just to gather information so that we do know what we have moving forward if we ever do decide to make a change.

Commissioner Hecker said as the director of this committee under which this proposal is coming forward, any rhetoric about this being a preordained outcome or any undercurrent that there are some political miss-dealings here is a personal affront to him as the director of this committee.

He said at the last committee meeting that he does not know which way this will go and we need dialog. What is a disservice is to foreclose any option without having any data in hand to analyze what is in the long-term best interest of the residents of this Township. He hears the concerns being raised and he shares them, but he does not want to shut off dialog because there is a perception that there is something political going on here and he is tired of it as it has happened too often in the last several months.

It is time to knock that stuff off and get back to the business of taking care of the residents in a bipartisan way with one goal, the improvement of the quality of life here in Abington.

Commissioner Zappone questioned why this came up and “gathering information for what reason?” He has been on the Board for 16 years and this has worked for 16 years. If it is not broke, why fix it?

Commissioner Gillespie commented that she works with other Townships and knows how hard it is to get through to someone. Here in Abington, she can always get someone from our department.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that with legitimate respect to comments made by Commissioners Zappone and Myers, we are just asking the question, and when we have this information everything will be taken into consideration and not just what the incoming RFP’s say, but also gathering information about experiences that Commissioners Zappone and Gillespie had in other Townships.

Many municipalities outsource their engineering services, so does that mean that is the right way to do it, no, but if we do not ask the question, we are not doing our due diligence. We are in a period where many department heads are about to retire, and if we don’t at least ask the question, he believes that is putting our heads in the sand and that would be a disservice.

Commissioner Myers said one of the concerns is that if this is done and a few contractors’ quotes come in very low, it looks appetizing and they will come in low in order to get the business. Then overtime, the prices increase and we lost services and we are dealing with contractors who may not be immediately responsive as having an in-house engineering office. She understands that other municipalities have it, but they are smaller and have not done the flood work that Abington Township has done over the last 20 years. Millions and millions of dollars in flood work in just about all of our wards was done that was essential to residents.

Commissioner Kline agreed with Commissioner Myers as he has concerns about the entire process as well, but at the same time, we cannot bury our heads in the sand. Those are precisely the questions for any contractor who provides a proposal for this engineering service such as what their fee is and how long would they hold that fee if this was ever to go that far.

Commissioner Spiegelman said once we receive incoming RFP's there is no way that we will not do our due diligence and take into account the experiences of all different sizes. He would not let any consideration move forward if we have done all of the homework.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented that he gets the feeling that this is already in motion and that is why he is concerned and why was it put out there without stronger discussion. Where did this come from originally?

Commissioner Hecker replied his understanding was that this was about making a decision about the reappointment in January, so he feels it is part of a due diligence exercise and that is all this is.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented that this discussion should have begun before budget time and now he feels we are "under the gun." This engineering request will get lost in the budget and blended together, but we need to have a strong discussion about it before making a decision.

Commissioner Zappone said since more discussion is needed we should table this for now.

Commissioner Myers said this would have been much more palpable if this matter was for "information only" when we could have really discussed it instead of an action item.

MOTION was ADOPTED 8-4. Commissioners Myers, Zappone, Gillespie and Kalinoski opposed.

#### 2016-2017 PennDOT – Snow and Ice Agreement

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to authorize the proper Township officials to enter into an agreement with PennDOT for snow and ice removal on PennDOT highways for the winter season 2016-2017.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Design/Construction Agreement – Sandy Run Environmental Project

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve the Design/Construction Agreement with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, including the project management plan, for the Abington Environmental Improvement Project to provide for an improved riparian buffer and stream corridor improvements along Sandy Run Creek.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Grant of Sanitary Sewer Easement from AQUA PA, Inc.

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to accept a Grant of Sanitary Sewer Easement from AQUA Pennsylvania, Inc. in and along the rear property line of Montgomery County Tax Parcel No. 300016440009 including Block/Unit No. 30195-010 and No. 30195-011.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE:**

Subdivision SD-16-07 – Robert Morris – 1511 Susquehanna Road and 1112 Rydal Road

Commissioner DiPlacido made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve the subdivision and land development application of Robert Morris, applicant and owner for the properties located 1511 Susquehanna Road and 1112 Rydal Road, Abington Township. The applicant proposes to relocate the existing property lines to create a third lot that will contain the existing carriage house. The carriage house is proposed to be demolished and a new single-family dwelling constructed. The plan submitted has the proposed new lot fronting on Susquehanna Road and having the minimum one acre in lot area. The properties are zoned in the (R-1) Residential District in Ward No. 1 of the Township of Abington.



This motion is subject to the following conditions:

1. Sanitary sewer service is available for this development. However, if approved, the applicant is required to obtain DEP approval for the additional EDU's prior to the recording of the final plan. To-date, that application has not been submitted.
2. The items listed within the Staff Review letter, dated August 10, 2016 are to be taken under consideration by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington.
3. The applicant must obtain stormwater management permits from the Engineering Department of the Township of Abington.

This motion is subject to the following waivers:

1. Waiver from Section 146-11.A – Property Identification Plan – Waiver from Section 146-11.A – Property Identification Plan – The plan is required to supply the tax parcel information, owners' name and lot area for all properties within 400 feet of the site involved in this application. .
2. Waiver from Section 146.11B – Existing Features Plan – The plan is required to plot the location of all utilities on the sites and within 400 feet of the properties involved in this application.
3. Waiver from Section 146-11.C – Proposed Layout Plan – The plan is required to plot the location of all existing utilities, to include the size, type and depth of all existing improvements proposed to remain and be removed.
4. Waiver from Section 146-11.F - Street Improvement Plan – The applicant is required to submit a profile plan of the streets involved in the this application.
5. Waiver from Section 146-11.1 – Phasing Plan – No phasing plan has been submitted. This is a single lot development, no phasing is proposed.
6. Waiver from Section 146-11.L – Architectural Plan – An architectural plan is required to be submitted with this subdivision plan. A rendering of the proposed single-family dwelling has been submitted. The applicant stated that the proposed single-family dwelling will be very similar to the home currently under construction.
7. Waiver from Section 146-27 – Curbing & Sidewalks – The applicant is required to install full street improvements along the frontages of Susquehanna Road and Rydal Road for the lots involved in this application. This request was approved on the prior application.
8. Waiver from Section 146-30 – Lot Shape – The ordinance states that irregular shape lots are to be avoided. Lot No. 1 and Lot No. 3 are considered to have an irregular shape. Irregular shape lots can be problematic when installing fences, accessory structures and with property maintenance related issues.

9. Waiver from Section 146-11.38 – Street Lighting – The applicant has requested a waiver from installation of additional street lighting.
10. Waiver from Section 146-39.1 – Shade Trees – The applicant will be planting the required shade trees. However, they seek approval to plant the trees within the front yard setback area and not within 5 feet of the front property line. The Planning Commission recommends the trees not be planted within 25 feet of the front property line.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

Commissioner Schreiber announced that Item PS1 was presented at the beginning of the agenda.

Ordinance No. 2126 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and Article III “Parking Regulations” Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing” Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No. 2126 amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and Article III “Parking Regulations” Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing” Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones.”

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

**TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2126**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 156 – “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,”  
ARTICLE II – “TRAFFIC REGULATIONS”  
SECTION 14 – “STOP INTERSECTIONS”  
ARTICLE III – “PARKING REGULATIONS”  
SECTION 25 – “PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES; NO PARKING BETWEEN  
SIGNS; NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER; PARKING PROHIBITED EXCEPT  
CERTAIN HOURS; NO STOPPING OR STANDING”  
SECTION 28 – “SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKING ZONES”**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Abington is a Township of the First Class, duly organized and existing pursuant to the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1502.44 of the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §56544, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to enact and amend provisions of the Abington Township Code (“Code”) at any time it deems necessary for the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the Township and the inhabitants thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1502.10 of the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §56510, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to take all needful means for securing the safety of persons or property within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1502.49 of the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §56549, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to regulate parking; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington has determined that Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II – “Traffic Regulations,” Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and Article III – “Parking Regulations,” and Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At

All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing,” and Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones” should be amended for the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the Township and the inhabitants thereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington does hereby **ENACT** and **ORDAIN** as follows:

- Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II – “Traffic Regulations,” Section 14 – “Stop Intersections,” shall be amended to **add** the following restrictions:

<b>Stop Sign On</b>	<b>Direction of Travel</b>	<b>At Intersection Of</b>
Heather Avenue	Eastbound	Elm Avenue
Heather Avenue	Westbound	Hamel Avenue
Herkness Drive	Eastbound	Valley Road

- Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article III, “Parking Regulations,” Section 25 – “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours,” shall be amended to **add** the following restrictions:

<b>Name of Highway</b>	<b>Side</b>	<b>Location</b>
Hamilton Avenue	South	30 feet west of Franklin Avenue

- Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article III, “Parking Regulations,” Section 28 – “Special Purpose Parking Zones” shall be amended to **repeal** the following restriction:

Name of Highway	Authorized Purpose of Vehicle	Location
Arnold Avenue [Added 9-11-2014 by Ord. No. 2080]	Handicapped Parking	in front of 1644 Arnold Avenue

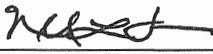
4. All other ordinances, portions of ordinances, or any section of the Code inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

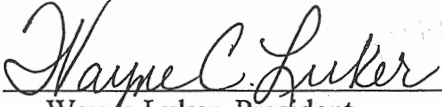
5. This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Attest:

  
Michael LeFevre, Secretary

By:   
Wayne Luker, President

Ordinance No. 2127 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2127 amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 – “Stop Intersections” for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on November 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Aggressive Driving/Buckle Up PA Grant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to authorize Township officials to accept a grant award from the North Central Highway Safety Network, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00 with the Township’s matching portion of \$1,000.00 The Township’s match will cover the Social Security cost of the officers working the grant as this expense is not covered by the grant. At the conclusion of the grant, the social security expense will be transferred to 01-04-044-5110.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

2017 Lieutenants’ Promotional Examination

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize Staff to proceed with implementation of the Lieutenants’ Promotional Examination, with the cost up to \$35,000.00 to be included in the 2017 Budget.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

2016 HUD Program – Architectural and Engineering Contract Crestmont Park Community Facility

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve and enter into a contract with Daley & Jalboot Architects, Inc. for the preparation of construction documents for a new community facility at Crestmont Park in the amount of \$66,800.00.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Grant Award Acceptance for TCDI Grant – ‘Walk Park Train Abington’

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to accept the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant from Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in the amount of \$75,000.00. The grant will support the ‘Walk, Park, Train Abington’ concept of the Master Bike Plan.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Consultant Acceptance for TCDI Grant “Walk Park Train Abington”

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to accept the proposal from the team of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture and Traffic Planning and Design Inc. to prepare the ‘Walk Park Train Abington’ Plan through the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant from Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC).

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Act 511 Tax Hearing Officer

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve for the remainder of 2016, Stephen P. Imms, Jr. Esquire as the Abington Township Hearing Officer for Act 511 Tax Appeals.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Commissioner Spiegelman announced that there is a team who has been working for quite some time on the Old York/Susquehanna Road project to fix one of the worst intersections of the Township. We will be having a public meeting on October 24, 2016 at 7 p.m. in this boardroom to discuss this plan and plan-related grant acceptance motions that will be coming before the Board in November.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Treasurer's Report:

Township Treasurer Jay w. Blumenthal reported that monies received from various departments deposited into Republic Bank for the month of September 2016 was in the amount of \$4,517,454 representing an increase over prior year in the amount of \$553,364; YTD \$55,978,813 representing an increase over prior year in the amount of \$3,060,089.

Real estate taxes collected as of September 2016 were in the amount of \$30,943; YTD \$25,762,828 leaving a balance to be collected in the amount of \$1,000,354.

Investments:

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve investments for the month of August as previously circulated to the Board. It was noted that investments for the month totaled \$554,000.00. Interest rate yields ranged from 0.950% to 1.207%.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.



Expenditures/Salaries and Wages:

Motion to:

- (A) Approve the August expenditures as previously circulated to the Board, in the amount of \$2,352,442.99 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$1,855,053.02.
- (B) Authorize the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of November 2016.

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

Roll call resulted in motion being passed – 12-0. Commissioners Sanchez, Markman and Bowman were absent during roll call.

Training and Conference Expenses

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Hecker to approve the Advance and Travel Expense activity for August 2016 as previously circulated to the Board. Advance and Travel Expense reports were \$0.00 and \$568.48, respectively.

Eight-month expenses totaled \$29,431.67.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Clearing Fund/Deferred Revenue and Expense/Petty Cash

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve the Clearing Fund, the Deferred Revenue/Expense activity and Petty Cash balances for the month of August as previously circulated to the Board.

Clearing fund receipts and disbursements for the month of August 2016 were \$20,130.81 and (\$18,461.05), respectively.

Deferred Revenue/Expense receipts and disbursements for the month of August 2016 were \$0.00 and (\$0.00), respectively.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Distribution of In-Lieu Fire Taxes for 2016

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to authorize expenditure from Miscellaneous Expense in the Permanent Improvement Fund (Account No. 07-00-000-5990) in the amount of \$77,341.00 to be distributed equally among the five volunteer fire companies serving Abington Township (\$15,468.20 each company).

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Zappone asked when was the last time this fee was increased?

Mr. Barron replied this was increased by the rate of the fire tax, but the agreement with Abington Hospital indicated the rate was flat until the five year agreement expired. The last time the fire tax was raised prior to this year was three years ago.

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Appointment of Township Independent Auditors for Years Ending 2016, 2017 and 2018 Audits

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to authorize Township officials to enter into an agreement with Bee, Bergvall & Company to act as Township's independent auditors for calendar year ending December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

Agreement with Tax Collector for the Collection of Business, Mercantile and Local Service Taxes for 2017

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to authorize proper Township officials to enter into agreement with Jay W. Blumenthal, Abington Township Treasurer/Tax Collector, for collection of Act 511 Taxes for the calendar year 2017.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline asked for further explanation on this item.

Mr. Barron explained that in 2010, Mr. Blumenthal lowered his commission to help balance the budget, and now the request is to increase it back to 2% for collection of LST effective January 1, 2017

MOTION was ADOPTED 12-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels the information of Tax Collector's compensation is not available to the public. Also, she recommended that the Township auditors should be "switched" up. She also expressed concern about the amount of speaking time on agenda items as well as the HUD project.

Commissioner Myers noted there was a misstatement by the speaker about the Township auditors and she asked Finance Director, Mr. Barron to correct it.

Mr. Barron replied previously proposals were sent out for audit firms and the Township changed audit firms from Bee, Bergvall & Co. to Barbacane, Thornton, and Barbacane, Thornton was the Township's auditors for the past three years. Due to changes in GASB laws, proposals were sent out again this year and Bee, Bergvall was the lowest responsible bidder.

**REMARKS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner DiPlacido thanked members of the McKinley Fire Company for hosting Fire Prevention week, which was well attended and he thanked them for their service.

Also, "drive like your kids live here."

Commissioner Farren thanked Mr. Powers for his assistance with issues in Ward 12.

He congratulated the Abington Township Fire Department for a great Fire Prevention week held by the various fire companies.

Tomorrow night will be St. Joseph The Protector's Annual Fund kickoff night.

Fall Festival for Keswick Village will be held on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 p.m.

Also, the Abington Monthly Meeting-Religious Society of Friends will have a dedication ceremony as they have found unmarked graves on their property and they want to honor their lives on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Festival will be held in Keswick Village on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m.

The Abington Educational Fund will be having a decade's party to support scholarships on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Glenside Civic Association will be having a trivia night to support community events on November 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's in Glenside from 6-9 p.m., which is kid-friendly.

Commissioner Gillespie commented that tonight Weldon Fire Company is celebrating Fire Prevention week and she is proud of our volunteer fire department as they do an excellent job.

Commissioner Hecker congratulated Deputy Chief John Livingood as he embodies everything that is good about this Township and it was compelling listening to his Command Staff speak on John's behalf.

Also, this coming week will be the bi-annual trash cleanout event in the Township.

Commissioner Kalinoski congratulated Deputy Chief Livingood and thanked him for being part of our community.

Edge Hill Fire House Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the North Penn VFW at 8-noon.

Abington E-Scholarship Fund will be having a tailgating party on November 6<sup>th</sup> at the North Penn VFW at noon.

Veterans' Day service will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at North Penn VFW.

Vice President Kline congratulated Deputy Chief John Livingood.

Commissioner Zappone thanked the Ardsley Family Day Committee who put on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ardsley Family Day that was well done and a great success.

Commissioner Spiegelman commended all of our Fire Companies for the fantastic work they do and for having open houses during Fire Prevention week.

He congratulated Deputy Chief John Livingood and working with him has been a pleasure.

Also, we have seen yet another example of how our Abington Township Police Department is peerless among law enforcement organizations anywhere. Sergeant Toledo and Officer Martinez did an unconditionally heroic job and deserve our admiration.

Paper Shredding event will be held on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 p.m.

Commissioner Rothman wished a "Happy New Year" to the Jewish members of our community.

Also, on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at Ethel Jordan Park will be the ribbon cutting for a project that has been ongoing with the stream and planting of trees, etc., and he gave a shout out to the TTF Watershed Partnership who has been doing wonderful work there.

The Annual McKinley Halloween Parade will begin at the McKinley Market on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

He welcomed "245 North" to the community, which is an art gallery business in Keswick.

Commissioner Myers wished Deputy Chief Livingood a sincere congratulations and she knows under his leadership that the Abington Township Police Department will continue the stellar police department that it is.

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> is the Abington PAL Food Festival, and by the time this airs the food festival will be over, so it was fabulous!

Commissioner Schreiber congratulated Deputy Chief John Livingood and also to the officers who were commended this evening as they did a stellar job.

On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Designer Bag Bingo event to support next year's Roslyn Community Day at 6 p.m.

President Luker said to Deputy Chief Livingood: the examples of heroism that were exhibited by Sergeant Toledo and Officer Martinez tonight were important, but just as important were restraint and good judgment in not only the incident that these two officers were involved in, but one last year that occurred in Ward 5, and it speak volumes to the leadership of the Police Department and the hours of extensive training of officers. We were fortunate and blessed there were no injuries during these incidents.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, he thanked Chief Kelly, Deputy Chief Livingood and the Command Staff for an excellent job well done.

Also, the NAACP Banquet will be held Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Williamson's Restaurant at 3:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 13, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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*Approved  
11-10-2016*