

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with President Luker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:32 p.m.

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

Township Manager/Secretary MANFREDI
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Chief of Police LIVINGOOD
Finance Director BARRON
Assistant Director of Engineering CLARK
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO
Community Development Director STROTHER
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of July 13, 2017.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Green Light Go Grant, Fitzwatertown Road, Woodland Road and North Hills Avenue

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to accept the Green Light Go Grant in the amount of \$373,100.00 and enter into a contract with PennDOT to upgrade the intersection of Fitzwatertown Road, Woodland Road and North Hills Avenue.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers commented that Abington shares this intersection with Upper Dublin Township and it is not clear whether Upper Dublin has any part in it. Also, will any curbs be moved?

Mr. Micciolo replied it is a shared intersection; however, 90% is located in Abington Township. This intersection is in dire need of an upgrade with new poles, wiring, lights, controller, etc. This grant will allow us to accomplish this with minimum costs to the Township. This grant has a \$74,620.00 match and a large portion of the match will be through in-kind services using our manpower. This is a reimbursable grant where we pay for the work and PennDOT reimburses us. We will be putting the funding in our highway aid budget next year and the reimbursement will be put back into that fund. Also, no curbs will be moved, it is just for upgrading signals and controllers.

Commissioner Kline asked will in-kind services be accounted for in any grant auditing?

Mr. Micciolo replied yes.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Resolution No. 17-023 - Grant Signature Authorization

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez to approve Resolution No. 17-023, authorizing the Township Manager to sign an agreement with PennDOT for a Grant Submission for Jenkintown Road, Greenwood Avenue, and Washington Lane.

Ed Micciolo, Director of Public Works, gave a power point presentation on a Grant Submission for Jenkintown Road, Greenwood Avenue and Washington Lane project to the Board. We have met with officials from Jenkintown Borough and officials from Abington Township to discuss the possibility of improving the above area for drainage, walkability and safety. This is somewhat the same project in which we had been working on with our Board as well as Jenkintown's Board. Due to a conflict between the Boards, the project was scrapped. We spoke to the current Manager of Jenkintown and found that they would be interested in pursuing this again, so he proceeded to put together a project that he felt would work as well as potential funding.

The grant we would be applying for is the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. The match is 30% - 20% for Abington Township and 10% for Jenkintown Borough and the grant application will be for \$2.3 million dollars. This grant allows us to do in-house work on the project as part of our match. We will also be applying for other grants to help offset costs. He also presented an aerial view of the project area to the Board.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline said regarding the work being done on Greenwood Avenue and Washington Lane located near the Galman property; could that be assessed in the future as Galman is looking to develop a piece of property in front of the plaza?

Mr. Micciolo replied he will look into it.

Commissioner Kline said in regards to work being done at Greenwood Avenue and Meetinghouse Road; will that effect signage at the Art Center?

Mr. Micciolo replied no.

Commissioner Schreiber asked will work near Fairy Hill Road affect the paving of the street?

Mr. Micciolo replied no.

Commissioner Kalinoski asked for the timeframe of the project.

Mr. Micciolo replied completion by 2019.

Commissioner Sanchez clarified that the intension is to install sidewalks on the Galman property side where they do not exist now. Is that correct?

Mr. Micciolo replied yes.

Commissioner Hecker asked what is Jenkintown Borough's involvement with this project?

Mr. Micciolo replied they will also do in-kind work to cut down on costs.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for a page of maps, links, minutes, bid specs and other documents for this project.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

Abington Township
Board of Commissioners

Montgomery County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Resolution No. 17-023

Resolution Requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be Used for the Connecting Abington & Jenkintown: A Complete Streets Plan

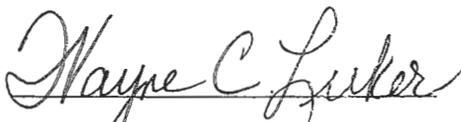
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Abington hereby requests a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant of \$1,626,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Jenkintown Road and Greenwood Road Project in Abington Township and Jenkintown Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Richard Manfredi, Township Manager, as the official to execute all documents and agreements between the Abington Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested Grant.

I, Wayne Luker, duly qualified President of the Abington Township Board of Commissioners, 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 August 10, 2017 and said Resolution has been recorded in Minutes of the Board of Commissioners 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 10th day of August 2017.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

By: 

Wayne C Luker, President
Board of Commissioners

Attest: 

2016/2017 HUD Program

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve and enter into contract with Associated Paving Contractors for the 2016/2017 HUD Program 1000 block Edge Hill Road Curb and Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$187,750.00. Project funding as follows: 1) 2016/2017 HUD Program \$125,000; 2) AQUA Funds \$40,000; 3) General Obligation Note - \$50,000, totaling \$215,000.00.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Hecker noted there is \$215,000.00 available funding and bid came in at 187,750,000, so how exactly will this project be funded?

Tim Clark, Assistant Director of Engineering, replied the first two funding groups will be used first and then the General Obligation Note will make up the difference.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

CONSIDER FILLING WARD 2 VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

President Luker asked each applicant who submitted resumes to introduce themselves to the Board.

Kenneth Brodsky, 354 Van Roden Circle, thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before them for consideration of filling vacancy of Ward 2 Commissioner and he gave a brief introduction about himself.

Arthur Kousombos, 1841 Nicholas Drive, thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before them for consideration of filling vacancy of Ward 2 Commissioner and he gave a brief introduction about himself.

President Luker opened the floor for nominations.

Vice President Kline nominated Kenneth Brodsky to the position of Ward 2 Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman.

President Luker asked for any other nominations.

Commissioner Zappone nominated Arthur Kousombos to the position of Ward 2 Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie.

President Luker asked for any other nominations. There were none. Nominations were closed.

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Tim Newman, 1428 Edge Hill Road, asked to provide a handout to the Board.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, questioned whether residents of Ward 2 received individual notices about the vacancy.

Vice President Kline replied the position was advertised meeting all legal Township requirements.

Dan Mellon, 228 Church Road, expressed concern that he feels there was “unethical behavior by another resident.”

Vice President Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt Resolution No. 17-024 appointing Kenneth Brodsky to fill the vacancy of Commissioner for Ward 2 of the Township of Abington, created by the resignation of Commissioner Michael P. Markman, which resignation was effective July 14, 2017.

MOTION was ADOPTED 9-5.

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 17-024

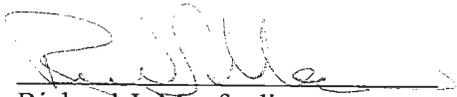
**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
ABINGTON TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR WARD 2**

AND NOW, this 10th day of August, 2017, pursuant to Section 530 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 55530, the Board of Commissioners does hereby Resolve as follows:

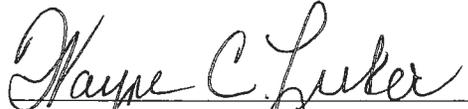
Kenneth N. Brodsky, having been a resident of Ward 2 of the Township of Abington for a period in excess of one (1) year, is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners created by the resignation of Commissioner Michael P. Markman, whose resignation was effective July 14, 2017.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Resolution was adopted by the Township of Abington at its public meeting held on the 10th day of August, 2017.

ATTEST:


Richard J. Manfredi
Township Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON


Wayne C. Luker, President
Board of Commissioners

Honorable Gail A. Weilheimer, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Montgomery County administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Kenneth Brodsky as Commissioner of Ward 2, Abington Township before the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 10th day of August, 2017.

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Sanchez announced that the Committee had no business at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Schreiber announced that the Committee had no business at this time.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for the following letter to be put into the record as follows:

“Dear Sir,

I wish to commend your Firemen, Policemen, and EMT Personnel for all of the care and compassion shown to me on the morning of July 27th. I live on Garfield Ave. (scene of house fire). Their kindness and concern was unbelievable. They certainly are a credit to the excellent training and to the Township for such high standards.”

Commissioner Schreiber congratulated the Township’s Fire Department as we are pleased to receive that letter.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Ordinance No. 2141, Amending Chapter 8, “Economic Development Committee,” at Section 2, “Membership”

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Sanchez to advertise Ordinance No. 2141 amending Chapter 8, “Economic Development Committee,” at Section 2, “Membership.”

Commissioner Luker clarified that this does not expand the EDC, but creates an opening on the EDC. Is that correct?

Solicitor Clarke replied current ordinance provides for a designated seat for Chamber of Commerce, which no longer exists, so this changes the designated seat into an at-large seat.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers noted that the motion does not list a date for the vote, so she assumes it will be at next month's full Board meeting. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied that is correct.

Commissioner Farren said that the seat for the Chamber of Commerce is being written out of the ordinance, but if they were to reactivate would they need to apply for the at-large seat.

Solicitor Clarke replied the seat of Chamber of Commerce is vacant, and instead of increasing the size of the members, we just changed their seat to an at-large seat. If the Chamber of Commerce reorganized and the Board felt that it would be advantageous to have them as part of the EDC, then it would simply be a matter of amending this ordinance again to create a seat for the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, was opposed to the motion.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Approve Supplemental Appropriation for Temporary Chillers at Abington Library

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to ratify the Township Manager's approval of expending un-appropriated funds for Temporary Chillers from quotes solicited and received by the Abington Township Library, and herewith approving the supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$16,973.46 from the Permanent Improvement Capital Fund.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline asked for further explanation on this item.

Manager Manfredi replied the library received approval by the Board for a condensing unit and it failed prior to installation. So the temperature in the library became very hot, and in order to protect the collection and for the public, he along with the Executive Director of the Library and her team worked quickly to get something running that was in compliance with regulations, laws and bidding laws. This price reflects quotes received by the library to get chillers onsite to get the temperature back down.

Commissioner Kline said he would like to reserve the idea of looking at the library's funding to see if there are other options instead of paying for something that could have been avoided.

Manager Manfredi replied he will meet with Executive Director of the Library during budget process about 2018 funding. This was a quick action taken to get the library running, and since there are funds in the Permanent Improvement Fund, that is the recommendation.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for the Board's support on the very appropriate and timely action taken by Manager Manfredi.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Approve Hirschberg Mechanical Change Order No. 1 for the quick ship the Abington Library condensing unit in the amount of \$4,000.00

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to ratify the Township Manager's approval and further granting Board approval for Change Order No. 1 for Hirschberg Mechanical to expedite and quick ship the Abington Library condensing unit in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether this is coming from Permanent Improvement Fund as well.

Manager Manfredi replied yes, it is.

Commissioner Myers said after visiting the library for only about 10-15 minutes, it was unbearably hot and the library staff stayed in there and Executive Director Nancy Hammeke-Marshall did a stellar job during this difficult time. When there is an emergency, you do what you have to do to make it work. She commended everyone involved include Township's Public Works Department.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

2018 Tree Vitalize “Community Forestry Management Grant”

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to approve a grant submitted by and for the Shade Tree Commission for a 2018 Tree Vitalize “Community Forestry Management Grant” and \$5,250.00 cash to be appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget as a match from the Township.

Commissioner Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that Rita Stevens, Chairperson of the Shade Tree Commission could not be here this evening, so she put together a brief comprehensive explanation in which he read into the record.

Commissioner Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels “the forest is dying and being ignored.”

Commissioner Luker said Ms. Stevens should be made aware of the comments made by the speaker so they can be addressed accordingly.

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Kline announced that Township Treasurer Blumenthal is excused this evening; however, the Treasurer’s report can be viewed through a “Right To Know” request.

Investments

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Hecker to approve investments for the month of June as previously circulated to the Board. It was noted that investments for the month totaled \$265,000.00. Interest rate yields ranged from 1.25% to 1.40%.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Expenditures/Salaries and Wages

Motion to:

- (A) Approve the June expenditures as previously circulated to the Board, in the amount of \$2,982,813.50 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$2,982,813.50 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$1,813,174.14.
- (B) Authorize the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of September 2017.

Roll Call resulted in motion being passed 15-0.

Training and Conference Expenses

Commissioner Kline made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Hecker to approve the Advance and Travel Expense activity for June 2017 as previously circulated to the Board. Advance and Travel Expense reports were \$0.00 and \$2,980.69, respectively.

Six-month expenses totaled \$15,604.88.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

Clearing Fund/Deferred Revenue and Expense/Petty Cash

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

Clearing fund receipts and disbursements for the month of June 2017 were \$1,089.62 and (\$269.52), respectively.

Deferred Revenue/Expense receipts and disbursements for the month of June 2017 were \$0.00 and (\$0.00), respectively.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 15-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels “developers are the ones deciding what our community looks like and residents should be on those committees and inviting the experts and their comments.” Also, she feels “the code is not being enforced.”

REMARKS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Zappone announced that the Ardsley Community Association is in the process of planning our 7th Annual Ardsley Family Day event that is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2017 from noon-5 p.m., rain date is Sunday, October 22nd. This event is open to all residents of Abington Township and to please contact him for further information or if you wish to volunteer on the committee.

Commissioner Spiegelman said this past Tuesday night was the Night Out Community Block Party event and he thanked members of Ward 11, who staffed the food drive table and they did a great job.

Commissioner Sanchez thanked the residents who expressed an interest in filling vacancy of Ward 2 Commissioner, and he welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board.

Commissioner Rothman mentioned that one of his residents passed away this week, Claire, who was the type of individual that embodies what is great about communities, and one of the great things about being a Commissioner is meeting people like Claire.

Commissioner Myers thanked those who were involved in the fabulous Night Out event. It was well attended and she gave a special thanks to Dave Rondinelli and his team for having the wisdom to change the date from Monday to Tuesday night. She welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board.

Commissioner Brodsky said he appreciates the Board's support and he looks forward to working with everyone.

Commissioner Schreiber congratulated Commissioner Brodsky.

Commissioner Bowman thanked staff of the Code Enforcement Department for their assistance in his ward. He welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board.

Commissioner DiPlacido congratulated Commissioner Brodsky. And, "As always, when driving through Abington, please drive like your kids live here."

Commissioner Farren thanked Mr. Kousombos and Mr. Brodsky for willing to serve and he congratulated Commissioner Brodsky. Also, the Blood Drive sponsored by the Just Fight Foundation will be held on August 25th from 3-8 p.m. at the North Penn VFW. He congratulated 245 North, which is the Art Gallery located in Keswick as they are celebrating their anniversary on September 9th from 6-9 p.m. O'Neill's Annual Watermelon Eating Contest will be held on August 26th at 10 a.m. The Third Annual Mike Hensley Memorial Golf Outing will take place on October 2nd and GYAC's signups are taking place now for fall sports.

Commissioner Gillespie welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board. Also, she is researching the installation of parking at War Memorial Park.

Commissioner Hecker welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board. He thanked Abington Police Department in particular Deputy Chief Molloy and Sergeants Scott and Gillespie for their assistance in his ward as their outstanding work is an example of community policing at its finest and he is grateful.

Board of Commissioners Meeting

August 10, 2017

Commissioner Kalinoski welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board. He asked everyone to condemn criticizing candidates publicly as what happened tonight made our Township look a little less important.

Vice President Kline added that should be for sitting Commissioners as well. Also, he is aware the Police Department has been working hard doing the best they can in regards to the situation in Commissioner Hecker's ward. He welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board.

President Luker welcomed Commissioner Brodsky to the Board. He thanked Mr. Kousombos for being here this evening and he apologized to Mr. Kousombos' family.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 9/14/17

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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