

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
FAIRVIEW VILLAGE, WORCESTER, PA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair DeLello at 6:32 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: RICK DELELLO [X]
 STEVE QUIGLEY [X]
ABSENT: SUSAN CAUGHLAN []

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Tommy Ryan, Township Manager, announced this evening’s Work Session was being video-recorded for rebroadcast.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kim David, Worcester, commented on site landscaping at the Pennsylvania American Water booster station property at Skippack Pike.

PRESENTATIONS

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) – Joe Nolan, Township Engineer, provided an update of Skippack Creek Alliance efforts in recent months. Mr. Nolan commented on the enhanced opportunity to secure grant funding with this multi-municipal approach.

Mr. Nolan commented on the individual NPDES permit the Township submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in 2017, and the status of this submission.

Mr. Nolan commented on Alliance efforts to reduce the waste load allocations for its Members through DEP-approved modeling and other techniques.

Mr. Nolan commented on efforts to develop equitable funding allocations for each Member, through various approaches. Mr. Nolan noted Lower Salford Township withdrew from the Alliance after calculating its “go alone” cost to be lower than its cost as an Alliance Member. Mr. Nolan noted the proposed cost to Worcester Township had increased following Lower Salford Township’s exit from the Alliance.

Mr. Nolan noted estimated costs for Worcester Township as a Member to the Alliance, as a partner with Skippack Township alone, and as a solo NPDES permittee.

There was general discussion regarding the value in working with another municipality insofar as preferential positioning for grant funds.

Consensus was for the Township to work with Skippack Township to prepare and submit a joint NPDES permit for the two municipalities.

2021 Budget – Mr. Ryan provided an update on the 2021 Budget. Mr. Ryan noted the draft budget does not include an increase in taxes and does not include new taxes.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget does not propose the hire of additional employees.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview of primary receipts. Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes stable Earned Income Tax receipts. Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes a modest increase to Real Estate Transfer Taxes and to building permit receipts, due to increased construction activities at the Whitehall Estates and Reserve at Center Square developments.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes no increase to health care expenses, thanks to the Township's positive claim experience with the Delaware Valley Health Trust.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget provides a 5% increase in operating contributions to the Norristown Public Library and Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, and an additional \$100,000 capital contribution for the Fire Department. Mr. Ryan noted the budget continues to provide a monthly stipend to Township employees who volunteer with the Fire Department during the work week, the time of the week that volunteer firefighters are in most need.

Mr. Ryan commented on proposed capital improvements, including the replacement of Public Works vehicles and equipment that have reached the end of their useful life – which includes a 1994 loader, a 2008 mower, and a 2009 dump truck.

Mr. Ryan noted the Capital Fund also provides for a storm sewer system extension in the Adair neighborhood, and various bridge and roadside safety improvements.

Mr. Ryan noted the Capital Fund provides \$876,000 for the Township's annual Road Program, which is in addition to dollars budgeted for program design, bidding and inspection, and which is likewise in addition to funding for smaller roadway fixes to be made throughout the year.

Mr. Ryan commented on Sewer Fund operations, and efforts made by Township staff and the contracted sewer operator to lower system expenses. Mr. Ryan noted the draft budget includes a 1% increase to sewer service fees, which equates to an approximate \$0.44 increase per month for each home connected to the Township's sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Ryan commented on the State Fund, and on the 2021 estimated Liquid Fuels allocation, which is projected to decrease by 10%, due to decreased fuel sales attributable to the pandemic.

Mr. Ryan noted he would provide an update on the proposed 2021 Budget at the October 21 Business Meeting. He noted the Budget would also be presented at the November 18 Business Meeting, and then made available for a 20-day public inspection hearing, before being considered at a Public Hearing at the December 16 Business Meeting.

Chair DeLello commented on Township assistance provided to the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, and on the year-end transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Fund.

Supervisor Quigley commented on the selection of roads for inclusion in the annual road program, and projected tax and other receipts for the current year.

Chair DeLello commented on the identification of required capital improvements to the sanitary sewer system, and on the administrative cost allocation included in past year budgets for the Sewer Fund.

OTHER BUSINESS

- There was no other business considered at this evening's Work Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no other additional public comment at this evening's Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Board, Chair DeLello adjourned the Work Session at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tommy Ryan
Township Manager