

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION  
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL  
FAIRVIEW VILLAGE, WORCESTER, PA  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 – 6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair DeLello at 6:31 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jim Mollick, Worcester, commented on the potential open space referendum, prior open space acquisitions, prior open space acquisition procedures, legal representation of property owners whose lands were acquired, land acquisition files maintained at the Township Building, a Right-to-Know request for Farmland Preservation Program records submitted by an State Ethics Commission official, a Right-to-Know request for Township records pertaining to the State Ethics Commission, and legal representation retained by Supervisor Caughlan.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Open Space Funding Study – Owen Franklin, The Trust for Public Land, provided an overview of the Trust, and services available through the Trust.

Will Abberger, The Trust for Public Land, commented on the Trust’s study and polling services, and referendum campaign experiences.

Mr. Abberger commented on open space funding through a real estate tax, earned income tax, and bond issuance. Mr. Abberger commented on levies and estimated revenues for reach funding source.

Chair DeLello commented on Trust experience on statewide and local referendum campaigns. Mr. Abberger commented on referendum campaigns in Hatfield Township and Lower Moreland Township.

Chair DeLello commented on the utilization of the Trust to conduct polling on this matter, and the Trust serving as an open space advocate.

Mr. Abberger commented on a projected schedule of polling and referendum language submission to the Board of Elections.

Supervisor Quigley commented on the referendum wording, and the use of funds for open maintenance. Mr. Abberger commented on the use of funds for open space maintenance. Supervisor Caughlan commented on the use of funds for open space maintenance.

Supervisor Caughlan commented on open space funding through a real estate tax, earned income tax, and bond issuance.

Chair DeLello commented on the number of residents who pay the earned income tax, and on the number of residents who pay a real estate tax.

Mr. Abberger commented on polling objectives, and he noted that real estate taxes are broadly-based. Supervisor Quigley commented on the benefit of open space to all residents.

Mr. Ryan commented on current and potential mill and real estate tax levies, and on the estimated revenue for each funding source.

Dr. Mollick commented on Trust communication with the Members, the average assessment of properties in the Township, the average income of Township residents, Township-owned properties, the objectivity of the Trust for Public Land, the objectivity of polling questions, and Township open space and park maintenance reserve funds.

Winifred Hayes, Worcester, commented on polling response rates and sample design.

Phil Berg, Worcester, commented on the open space funding study cost and grant funding.

Chair DeLello consideration of this matter will continue at the February 19 Business Meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jim Mollick, Worcester, commented on roadway program costs, bridge and culvert repair costs, potential fees for utilization of Pennsylvania State Police services, funding for the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, and the increased in real estate tax proposed by the Methacton School District.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business brought before the Board, Chair DeLello adjourned the Work Session at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Tommy Ryan  
Township Manager