

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
FAIRVIEW VILLAGE, WORCESTER, PA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair DeLello at 7:34 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:	RICK DELELLO	[X]
	LOU BETZ	[X]
	STEVE QUIGLEY	[X]

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Tommy Ryan, Township Manager, announced this evening’s meeting was being recorded for rebroadcast.
- Mr. Ryan announced that prior to this evening’s meeting the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session to discuss: (1) a matter of land acquisition regarding a property located east of Valley Forge Road; (2) a matter of land acquisition regarding a property located west of Valley Forge Road; and, (3) a matter of litigation regarding Zoning Hearing Board Application 2021-10, Ronca. Mr Ryan noted that, at this evening’s meeting, decisions are not expected to be made regarding the two matters of land acquisition, and a decision is expected to be made regarding the matter of litigation.
- In accordance with Act 65 of 2021, Chair DeLello made a motion to add an official action to this evening’s agenda – specifically a decision regarding Zoning Hearing Board Application 2021-10. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Betz.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cameron Barrett, Worcester, commented on a citation received for illegal burning.

OFFICIAL ACTION ITEMS

- a) Consent Agenda – Chair DeLello asked if any Member wished to remove an item from the consent agenda. There were no requests to remove an item from the consent agenda.

Chair DeLello commented on action items taken at the October 7 Special Meeting.

Supervisor Betz made a motion to approve a consent agenda that includes (a) the Treasurer's Report and other Monthly Reports for September 2021, (b) bill payment for September 2021 in the amount of \$518,719.51, (c) the September 15, 2021 Work Session minutes, (d) the September 15, 2021 Business Meeting minutes, and (d) the October 7 Special Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- b) Public Hearing – At 7:46pm Chair DeLello opened a Public Hearing to consider Ordinance 2021-287, an ordinance to amend certain provisions of the Township Code.

A court reporter was in attendance to transcribe the proceedings.

At 7:50pm Chair DeLello closed the Public Hearing.

- c) Ordinance 2021-287 – Supervisor Betz made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-287, to amend certain provisions of the Township Code. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- d) motion – Mr. Ryan provided an overview of an application made to the Zoning Hearing Board that seeks a use variance to allow two detached dwelling units at a property at West Adair Road, and other relief.

Supervisor Betz made a motion to authorize the Township Solicitor to send a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board regarding ZHB 2021-10, Ronca, that expresses the Members' concern with the relief sought, and offers recommended conditions of approval, should the Zoning Hearing Board, in its discretion, grant relief in this matter. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- e) Open Space Program – Stacy Crandell, Assistant Township Manager, provided an overview of the Worcester Township Open Space Program. Ms. Crandell noted the program aims to permanently preserve 300 additional acres by Worcester Township's 300th anniversary, 2033. This would result in the permanent preservation of one in every five acres in the Township.

Ms. Crandell noted the land preservation experts at Natural Lands would serve as consultants to the Township – assisting the Township with preservation efforts and helping the Township to plan for the proper care of lands preserved.

At properties preserved through a conservation easement the Township will seek to secure a substantive degree of public access, Ms. Crandell noted.

Ms. Crandell noted the preservation effort will assist the Township in meeting its stormwater management obligations under Federal and State law.

Ms. Crandell noted residents and businesses will have the opportunity to participate in the program through donations of land and financial contributions, with the Township matching every dollar contributed. Ms. Crandell noted all dollars will be placed in a reserve account to be used for open space acquisition only.

Ms. Crandell noted the program will be announced in the Spring 2022 newsletter, to be mailed to all property owners in the Township.

Chair DeLello commented on the program structure, and on the Township's ongoing preservation efforts.

Supervisor Betz commented on the importance of land preservation in Worcester Township.

Supervisor Quigley commented on open space acquisition efforts in past years, and on the Township's efforts in recent years to improve transparency regarding land acquisition projects.

- f) 2020 Budget – Nicole Quagliariello, Finance Director, provided an update on the 2022 Budget. Ms. Quagliariello noted the draft budget does not include an increase in taxes and does not include new taxes.

Ms. Quagliariello noted the budget does not propose the hire of additional full-time employees.

Ms. Quagliariello provided an overview of primary receipts. Ms. Quagliariello noted the budget assumes relatively stable Earned Income Tax, Real Estate Transfer Taxes and building permit receipts.

Ms. Quagliariello noted health care premiums.

Ms. Quagliariello 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. Ms. Quagliariello 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 volunteers are in most need.

Ms. Quagliariello commented on proposed capital improvements, including the replacement of Public Works vehicles and equipment that have reached the end of their useful life.

Ms. Quagliariello noted the Capital Fund also provides for three culvert replacements, and various bridge and roadside safety improvements.

Ms. Quagliariello noted the Capital Fund provides \$874,000 for the Township's annual Road Program, which is in addition to dollars budgeted for program design, bidding and inspection, and which is also in addition to funding for smaller fixes to be made throughout the year.

Ms. Quagliariello commented on Sewer Fund operations. Ms. Quagliariello noted the budget includes a 0.5% increase to sewer service fees, which equates to an approximate \$0.22 increase per month for each home connected to the Township's sanitary sewer system.

Ms. Quagliariello commented on the State Fund, and on the 2022 estimated Liquid Fuels allocation.

Ms. Quagliariello noted she will provide an updated budget at the November 17 Business Meeting, at which time the Members will consider authorizing the budget be made available for a 20-day public inspection hearing, before the budget is considered for adoption at the December 15 Business Meeting.

Chair DeLello noted the Township prepares its budget through the year, so to develop a more accurate budget.

Supervisor Quigley commented on the responsiveness of Methacton School Board Members during public comment periods at public meetings, and Methacton School District legal expenses.

Supervisor Betz thanked Ms. Quagliariello for her efforts to prepare the 2022 Budget.

- g) bid ratification – Supervisor Betz made a motion to ratify a bid approved by Hatfield Borough for the purchase of winter materials for the 2021-2022 winter season to Morton Salt, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$58.33 per ton delivered, and to approve Worcester Township's participation in the Montgomery County Winter Materials Consortium for the 2021-2022 winter season. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- h) bid award – Supervisor Betz made a motion to award a bid for the sale of a 1994 Volvo/Michigan loader to Paul Lanigan, Eagleville, PA, the highest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$35,200.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- i) bid award – Supervisor Betz made a motion to award a bid for the sale of a 2009 Ford F-250 truck to Alex Sherman, Pittsburgh, PA, the highest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$18,100.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- j) bid award – Supervisor Betz made a motion to award a bid for the sale of a 2008 John Deere 997 mower to Andrew Meehan, Norristown, PA, the highest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$3,900.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- k) bid award – Supervisor Betz made a motion to award a bid for the sale of surplus brick pavers to Sean McKee, Sinking Spring, PA, the highest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$1,350.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- George Hiltner, Worcester, commented on the on-lot septic system at his Township Line Road property. Mr. Ryan commented on the Montgomery County Health Department permitting process, and Township Code regulations regarding on-lot septic systems.
- Jim Mollick, Worcester, commented on legal fees paid by the Methacton School District regarding Right-to-Know requests, legal fees paid by Worcester Township regarding Right-to-Know requests, the Methacton School District Right-to-Know process, Worcester Township's Right-to-Know process, the public comment period at public meetings of the Methacton School Board, Worcester Township Board of Supervisors efforts, and Worcester Township efforts to improve transparency.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Board, Chair DeLello adjourned the Business Meeting at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tommy Ryan