

**MINUTES
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MEETING
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 – 6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeLello called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

All three Supervisors were in attendance.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no informational items presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

Doug Drake, President of the Worcester Fire Department, provided an overview of the recent fire at Worcester Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Drake shared that on November 10th at approximately 10:07 AM. The sprinkler system contained the fire, and surrounding fire departments responded to assist. The damage was limited to the small room where the fire originated. Some additional smoke damage was sustained in the upper floors. Mr. Drake thanked the many agencies who supported the department during this incident. Mr. Drake confirmed the department is fully operational, and no injuries were sustained in the fire and no one was in the building at the time of the fire.

Chair DeLello asked if the underlying cause of the fire had yet been determined. Mr. Drake responded that the cause was still being investigated; however, it is suspected a charging device was the origin.

Chair DeLello asked if there was anything specific the department needed from the Township. Mr. Drake responded that some assistance with storage space could be needed depending on the weather.

Supervisor Quigley asked what could possibly be learned by this event, specifically fire safety related to charging devices, and how that could be shared with the public as an educational tool. Mr. Drake responded and shared that, based upon his experience with the state fire marshal and state police, that use of properly rated extension cords, mindfulness with space heaters and not plugging space heaters into extension cords.

Chair DeLello asked Mr. Drake to remain in touch with the Township manager for any needed assistance during the repairs.

- Montgomery County Planning Commission – “Sharrow” Bike Lanes at Potshop Road (from Township Line Road) along Berks Road (to Rout 73.).

Mr. Andrew Turner presented on behalf of the County of Montgomery regarding bike lane improvements “Sharrows” on Potshop Road and Berks Roads. He shared these roads were identified by PennDOT, DVRPC, and MCPC as feasible locations for sharrows. Sharrows are a portmanteau of the words “share” and “arrow” wherein the bike lane is located within the vehicle lane. As part of this agreement, PennDOT would install the sharrows during the next repaving of those roads and the Township would maintain the paint going forward. Once a signed letter is submitted by the Township to PennDOT, PennDOT would begin planning.

Mr. Quigley asked about the county-wide scale of the project, and if other nearby communities were receiving similar upgrades. Mr. Turner shared examples in East Norriton, Whitmarsh, Upper Gwynedd, and Bridgeport.

Chair DeLello asked if the approach to the sharrow design was based on limited space in the road’s cartway. Mr. Andrew affirmed that the purpose was to provide awareness to motorists and bicyclists regarding lane sharing. Mr. Quigley asked about the safety review process. Mr. Turner replied that he could share information with the Township manager. Mr. Quigley asked if the Township inherits any liabilities as a result of this modification. Mr. Turner replied that the roads are owned by PennDOT.

The Township manager offered that the discussion of liability had been discussed by staff and MCPC. He shared that PennDOT has endorsed these upgrades as a safety feature, so as long as the Township maintains the upgrades as agreed, there should be no additional liability to the Township. Mr. Quigley asked the Township manager why PennDOT would not do the line painting themselves. He replied that his belief was that PennDOT simply doesn’t have the staff necessary to inspect and monitor the state of the improvements.

The Board thanked Mr. Turner for his presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional Board comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.