

**MINUTES
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
October 16, 2024 - 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman DeLello.

ATTENDANCE

All members of the Board of Supervisors were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Assistant Township Manager, Christian Jones, stated that the meeting was being recorded for future broadcast (technical issues occurred and the meeting video is not available) and informed the public of an executive session that occurred on September 18, 2024 concerning personnel matters.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. 2025 Preliminary Budget Presentation by Finance Director

Nicole Quagliariello, the Finance Director, gave the preliminary budget presentation. She started with a warning that the numbers in the budget might change and an acknowledgement that no tax increases are recommended on a township level. Ms. Quagliariello discussed the draft budget including increases to insurance coverage costs, the conversion of a part-time employee to a full-time employee, capital purchases for Public Works fleet, and fire company contributions.

Chairman DeLello asked the Township Manager, Dan DeMeno, to elaborate on the additional staffing.

Mr. DeMeno indicated that the Township needed additional administrative staff to effectively and efficiently carry out day-to-day operations.

Chairman DeLello noted that the Township Auditor had noted that there needs to be additional Finance support and indicated that cross-training would be essential for continuity of operations. He continued by informing the public that the Budget is a living, breathing document, and was not yet finalized.

Supervisor Quigley voiced his support for the capital purchases for the Public Works fleet indicating that existing staff would be able to perform work with this equipment rather than hiring an outside contractor.

Chairman DeLello informed the public that the Township is aware that Methacton School District will be voting on authorization of the design of a new High School at the end of October. He stated that Township taxes will not be used to fund this project, and that the Township has not approved anything from a land development or permitting perspective. Chairman DeLello further elaborated that the Township has only met with representatives of the School District for informational purposes regarding this potential project to date.

Supervisor Quigley informed the public that the Township does not have control over everything. There are Federal, State, and County regulations and requirements that the Township must comply with, which is resulting in change within the Township.

Vice Chairman Betz indicated that he has been following social media. He informed the public that the Township has not yet approved the City View Apartments project but noted that the Township needs to comply with Federal, State, and County regulations and requirements as Supervisor Quigley previously noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill McGrane discussed the park usage analysis prepared by Township staff. He believes a more comprehensive analysis is necessary and should be provided to the Planning Commission once prepared. Mr. McGrane's concern primarily rests with whether Worcester Township organizations are mostly using the fields or organizations not based in Worcester Township are using the fields more. He noted that it may be that Worcester isn't short on fields, but that other municipalities are.

Bob Andorn referenced Supervisor Quigley's earlier comment concerning the Township's lack of control over City View. He indicated that, as a Planning Commission member, he voted against the curative amendment that was ultimately approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Andorn also voiced his opinion that the Budget document provided to the public did not provide enough detail and did not follow along with the Finance Director's presentation.

Christine Steere informed the Board that election signs were being stolen and disposed of within the Township. She indicated that a large number of signs have been disappearing and noted that they, as well as signs from other municipalities, have been found in an open area in the Township by the church off of Morris Road. Ms. Steere stressed that theft, vandalism, and negative impacts on the environment are all issues caused by this matter.

OFFICIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
 - a motion to approve a consent agenda that includes the following items:
 - i. September 18th Work Session Meeting minutes;
 - ii. September 18th Business Meeting minutes;
 - iii. Treasurer's Report and other Monthly Reports for September 2024; and
 - iv. bill payment for September 2024

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Betz and seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

Bob Andorn expressed his desire to have a copy of the Bill List in the public packet so that the public can review what bills are being paid. He stated that the Bill List shouldn't be approved until the public has had a chance to review the document.

Mr. DeMeno, responded indicating that the Bill List isn't available until the day of the meeting due to billing procedures. He also stated that staff is working on getting the Bill List finalized sooner, but noted that this was going to take time due to all the moving parts involved in the process.

The motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION

a) Church Road "No Parking" Ordinance

Mr. DeMeno provided a brief background on the history of the parking issues on Church Road.

Township Engineer, John Evarts, elaborated on the focus and results of the study and report which was prepared by Bowman, the Township's Traffic Engineer. Ultimately, the Township Traffic Engineer recommended restricting parking on one side of the street.

Vice Chairman Betz expressed his concerns with the recommendations provided by the Township Traffic Engineer. He believed that a smaller portion of the road was going to be restricted and disagreed with the proposed restrictions noted in the Ordinance. Mr. Betz suggested that he could visit the site with the Township Traffic Engineer and see the issues himself.

Both Chairman DeLello and Supervisor Quigley questioned why Vice Chairman Betz was bringing this concern before the Board on the night of proposed adoption of the Ordinance. Mr. DeLello noted that the Supervisors had the traffic report for three months and it would have been best to bring these concerns to the Board prior to the authorization to advertise the ordinance which was voted and approved during their September meeting. He indicated that the Township would take another look at the matter and revisit this item during a future meeting.

b) Resolution to apply for LSA grant for the Valley Forge Corridor Improvement Project

Mr. DeMeno explained that this resolution was to authorize the application for a \$1,000,000 grant to help fund the construction of Phase One of the Valley Forge Corridor Improvement project. He further explained that the LSA grant has no match requirement.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Vice Chairman Betz and seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

The motion was approved unanimously.

c) Resolution to apply for LSA grant for Firehouse Upgrades

Mr. DeMeno explained that this resolution was to authorize the application for a \$1,000,000 grant to upgrade the Firehouse. He further explained that this was on behalf of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Company as their sponsor for the grant. As with the prior LSA grant, this would require no match.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Vice Chairman Betz and seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

The motion was approved unanimously.

d) Final Payment to Allan Myers in the amount of \$1,143,581.86 for 2024 Road Paving Program

Mr. Evarts informed the Board that the final project cost for the 2024 Road Paving Program came in under the bid award amount. He indicated that the project was ready for final payment.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Vice Chairman Betz and seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

The motion was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Betz asked for an update on several capital project grant applications and Mr. Evarts provided updates indicating that some were in progress and others hadn't been authorized for his firm to start working on.

Supervisor Quigley discussed his desire for the Old Duchy Church to be repaired so as to prevent further deterioration.

Mr. DeMeno indicated that he had met with the Director of Public Works to visit the Old Duchy Church. He was able to locate previously-obtained quotes for historical restoration, but noted that they were expensive. Mr. DeMeno discussed the possibility of obtaining quotes to simply protect the church from further deterioration and researching the availability of grants for historic restoration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Andorn expressed his congratulations to the Board for postponing the adoption of the "No Parking" ordinance. He noted that the study was a "Sight-Line Analysis" and not a comprehensive "Traffic Study". Mr. Andorn expressed his belief that the proposed Ordinance was overkill and noted that he had issues with the Township Traffic Engineer's calculations. He continued to note that he believed there were other intersections that need this type of study in the Township and that a study should be done for all of them.

Mr. Andorn moved on to discuss his concerns with financial transactions associated with the annual Fire Hydrant fee paid to North Penn Water Authority. He indicated that he had met with Mr. DeMeno, but his questions were not answered to his satisfaction.

Chairman DeLello provided a brief explanation concerning the history of the matter and Mr. DeMeno elaborated indicating that the timing of the bill was different than in past years prompting a need to make adjustments to reflect actual circumstances. He further indicated that the Auditor had been involved in the process and everything was appropriately resolved.

Russel Dean referenced the “No Parking” Ordinance discussion held previously in the evening. He indicated that he was a resident of Wheatsheaf and that he believed that the proposed Ordinance would unnecessarily take away parking on Church Road. Mr. Dean continued to state that the Township Traffic Engineer didn’t speak with neighbors throughout the process of their study. He finished by suggesting another study be performed.

Marilyn Reese stated that she did not agree with Mr. Dean. She thanked Township staff and the Board for their transparency and diligence in communicating and investigating the parking matter. Ms. Reese indicated that the intersection of Church Road and Wheatsheaf is accident-prone and that vehicular views are blocked by truck parking. She indicated that the proposed ordinance would create a safer environment and that the majority of residents of the neighborhood would like to see something done.

Robin Pinkney stated that she did not believe parking should be restricted to the extent that was proposed by the draft ordinance.

Phyllis Dean thanked the Board for agreeing to take another look at the situation.

Mary Palladino indicated that the parking has become a problem recently due to the trucks parking near the intersection. She suggested that it might be helpful to have the HOA of Wheatsheaf involved in the discussion.

Bill McGrane stated that the statement of revenues and expenditures was helpful. He alleged that the general fund statement didn’t match the financial statement. Mr. McGrane also questioned the “Other Parks” category in the meeting packet. He continued to inform the Board that the Farmers Union and the Friends of Worcester would like to be involved in the planning of 2025’s Community Day. Mr. McGrane also provided the Board with sketches of a proposed plan for Heyser Field.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.