

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Work Session Meeting
December 9, 2015
7:30 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
James P. Sinz, Secretary
Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Treasurer/Asst. Secretary
David Mosesso

Absent:

Laura Smith, Vice Chairman

Staff:

Robert A. Ford, Township Manager
Jack Dooley, Esq., Township Solicitor
Tom Zarko, Township Engineer
Paul T. Dickinson, Chief of Police
Maureen Doyle, Finance Director
Colleen Ehrle, Assistant to the Township Manager

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Award and Recognition

Resolution 15-49 Recognition of Community Service – Patricia Litavec

Pat Litavec decided to step down from the Township Zoning Hearing Board, at the end of December, after faithfully serving the Towamencin Community for the past twenty-two years. Keeping with her humble and unassuming fashion of service, Pat did not wish to be publicly recognized. Nevertheless, on behalf of the Township, the Board would like to express their gratitude for Pat's extensive and dedicated service.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Mosesso, the Board approved Resolution 15-49, Recognition of Community Service for Patricia Litavec.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, James P. Sinz, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to review matters of personnel and potential litigation.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Mosesso stated he would approve the minutes, with the condition that staff will refer the research of different recording and transcription software options for future minutes to the Technology Assessment and Innovation Committee.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the meeting minutes of November 24, 2015 were approved.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

Zoning, Subdivision & Land Development

Request for Extension: SLD 803 North Penn Animal Hospital

The applicant has proposed an expansion to the existing animal hospital building and parking area located at 1200 Welsh Road. The applicant went before the Zoning Hearing Board and was granted approval to expand a non-conforming veterinarian hospital use. The applicant received Preliminary Plan approval in February 2015 and Final Plan Approval was granted on September 9, 2015. The applicant is requesting an extension of time in which to satisfy the conditions of plan approval. This will extend the agreement to March 1, 2016.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the Request for an Extension for SLD 803, North Penn Animal Hospital was approved.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

Old Business

Proposal to Remove Note Restriction for Title Purposes - 1536 Allentown Road (Lapp Property)

The owner of 1536 Allentown Road has requested preparing a recordable document for title purposes that would remove a restriction from the subdivision plan, which indicates the property is located on an “unbuildable” lot. The basis for this original restriction was the subdivision plan depicted the lot was located in the Floodplain. However, subsequent FEMA Floodplain Maps have since removed the Floodplain designation.

The owner's attorney presented a summary of the issues at the Board's November 24th meeting. However, before taking further action on the request, the Board directed that additional information be submitted to the Township Engineer to confirm the lot can be developed.

Chairman Wilson introduced Township Engineer, Tom Zarko. Mr. Zarko confirmed the stormwater management report was submitted and received. Mr. Zarko stated the data provided in the report is sufficient and confirms that it can be a buildable lot.

The Board authorized Township Solicitor, Jack Dooley, to draft an agreement with the applicant's attorney in order for the applicant to finalize a recordable document to remove the note restriction.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the request to remove the note restriction for title purposes for 1536 Allentown Road (Lapp Property) was approved.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

New Business

MS4 Presentation

The stormwater related requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act are administered under the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System ("MS4") Program. The Township has participated in this program since 2003. Significant changes in program regulations were implemented by the PADEP in 2012. Since that time, municipalities have been working to develop Strategy Plans to address the changes in the regulations. The deadline to submit the strategy plan to PADEP is December 31, 2015.

Township Engineer, Tom Zarko, presented Towamencin Township's strategy plan to the Board of Supervisors. This plan was presented to and endorsed by the Township's Environmental Advisory Council at its November meeting.

The Board discussed the plan briefly with Mr. Zarko. Supervisor Littley asked what would be the impact of the Turnpike Expansion project on the Township's MS4 Program. Mr. Zarko explained there should be no impact and that the Pennsylvania Turnpike has its own MS4 plan and requirements to follow.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the Board authorized submitted the proposed strategy to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

Appointment of North Penn Water Authority Representative

The North Penn Water Authority Articles of Incorporation provide that each municipal member of the Authority shall have one representative on the Board of the Authority. The term for the current Towamencin representative expires on December 31st of this year. Mr. Ernie Yocum has served as Towamencin Township's representative since 2008 and has agreed to continue in this position should the Board so desire. The Board of Supervisors may appoint a representative to fill the term expiring December 31, 2020.

Supervisor Littley commended Mr. Yocum for the job he has done over the years.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Mosesso, the Board reappointed Mr. Yocum to the North Penn Water Authority, with a term expiring December 31, 2020.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

On Site Sewer Inspection - Program Fees

The Township is required by the Commonwealth to ensure that the Township is providing adequate sewage treatment facilities and protecting the public health by preventing the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated sewage. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that the Township's Act 537 Plan addresses both public sewage facilities and private on-lot septic systems. As directed by this DEP approved Plan, all on-site sewer systems in the Township are required to be inspected at least once every three years. Until 2012, the Township had been successful in receiving grant funds from DEP to offset the cost of this program. However, these grant funds have continually declined, until they were eliminated in 2011. Consequently, the Township established a fee in 2012 to cover the cost to the Township for administering this program. Property owners with on-lot sewer systems have been charged \$35 annually to cover the costs of inspections required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A recent slight increase in the contractor's fee generated a discussion on whether to consider alternatives.

The Board discussed the two proposals between All County Associates and Gilmore Associates and options for increasing the fee. Supervisor Littley suggested contracting with Gilmore Associates. While Supervisor Sinz recommended continuing with All Country Associates.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the Board agreed to switch the contracted sewer inspector to Gilmore Associates and to increase the sewer fee to \$40 annually.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

Consideration of Electric Supply Agreements

In August 2013, the Board approved agreements with three electric generation suppliers for the 36 month period ending August 2016. The agreements provided the best opportunity for savings for the three year period. At this point, a year in advance of the expiration dates, electric generation suppliers have provided the Township with proposals for the next three-year period through August 2019. In some cases, the rates are lower than those for the current period. Dependent upon usage, savings will at least exceed \$3,000. Staff is recommending that the Board approve the proposed electric generation agreements for the period September 2016 through August 2019.

The Board discussed the frequency of the suppliers' rate changes. Finance Director, Maureen Doyle, added the rates are updated daily. Chairman Wilson proposed tabling the matter with the idea of possibly joining the Towamencin Municipal Authority in negotiating a better rate.

The Board agreed to table this item and requested an update for their next meeting, December 23, 2015.

Authorization to Prepare & Submit TAP Grant Application

Township Manager, Robert Ford, presented an overview of the proposed TAP Grant Application.

The Township's Open Space Preservation Plan and Master Trails Plan both recommend the future development of a trail extension along the Towamencin Creek, from the Trumbauer Road Bridge to Valley View Way. The Towamencin Municipal Authority is planning a sewer project in the same area to replace an interceptor between Trumbauer Road and Manhole 30 along the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Combining these two projects will create the potential for saving money for the projects. It appears, the trail may be able to be constructed on lands owned by Township. Also the trail may be able to utilize the Trumbauer Road Bridge as the major stream crossing, in lieu of the need to construct another bridge across the creek.

The Township Open Space & Parks Committee reviewed this proposal at their June 2015 meeting and recommended that such a trail be included in the reconstruction of the interceptor. The cost of the trail and structured crossing of Towamencin Creek is estimated at approximately \$200,000

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT's) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding application submission period opened November 2, 2015. Approximately \$7.5 million will be available for the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region, and a minimum of \$9 million will be available statewide. Local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, local education agencies, or schools and tribal governments are eligible to apply for the competitive TAP funds. The application period will close at 4 pm on January 8, 2016.

Supervisor Mosesso commented that since the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee oversees the trails, he would like them in the loop with this project. Mr. Ford indicated that he would add this issue to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee's next meeting agenda to brief them on this grant opportunity.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Mosesso, the Board authorized the Township's Wastewater Engineer, Gilmore Associates, to prepare and submit the TAP Grant Application for this project.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

Proposal for Professional Services - Police Contract Arbitration

At their November 24th meeting, the Board authorized staff to obtain contract proposals to provide the Township with professional quantitative and economic analytical services in preparation for interest arbitration for the labor contract with the police union.

The Board reviewed the proposal submitted by The Kapoor Company for Labor and Economic Analytics Services.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the Board approved The Kapoor Company's proposal for labor and economic analytics services that the Township will require in preparing for the police contract arbitration hearing.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., David Mosesso, James P. Sinz

Voting No:

Abstaining:

Absent: Laura Smith

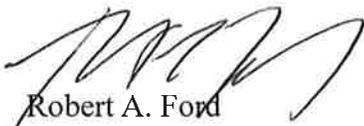
Additional Comments

Supervisor Littley commended Cortney Marengo, Special Events Facilitator, for all her work on the Holiday Lights Festival, held Saturday, December 5, 2015. He also noted and thanked the contributions of the Public Works and volunteer staff, who also helped make this event a success with its biggest turnout to date.

The Board discussed possibilities for additional lighting options at next year's event.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert A. Ford
Township Manager