

**Towamencin Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Monthly Meeting  
January 27, 2016  
7:30 PM**

**Present:**

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

**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.

**Appointment of Elected Auditor**

At the Township's reorganization meeting effective January 4, 2016, Joseph Sorgini submitted his resignation as an Elected Auditor, in order to serve as the Township's Constable.

Per the Pennsylvania 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Township Code, if a vacancy occurs in the office by death, resignation, removal from the township or otherwise, the Board of Supervisors may appoint a successor who is an elector of the township and has resided in that township continuously for at least one year prior to their appointment.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Littley, the Board appointed John Blystone to the Board of Auditors with a term to expire January 1, 2018.

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

**Voting No:**

**Abstaining:**

**Absent:**

Township Solicitor, Jack Dooley, formally swore in Mr. John Blystone to the Board of Auditors.

### **Opening Comments**

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

Chairman Wilson commended the Public Works staff for all their hard work in tackling the approximate 2.5 feet of snow along the Township's 60 miles of road from storm Jonas, January 22-23. Residents and local businesses were thanked for their patience and for staying off the roads during the weekend, so the roads could be addressed. The coordinated efforts of the Police Department, Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company and the VMSC, along with Public Works staff, were recognized in their response to medical emergencies during the storm on Saturday morning.

### **PEMA Emergency Management Basic Certification to Chris Doerr**

Pennsylvania law requires that the emergency management coordinators at each level of government earn two levels of certification. The purpose of the certification and training program is to prescribe the training required to develop competency in individuals serving as county and local emergency management coordinators and staff. The Basic Certification requires a minimum of 11 courses including National Incident Management qualifications.

Tom Piatek of the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management presented the Basic Certification to Towamencin Township Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Chris Doerr. The Board recognized and congratulated Mr. Doerr on his certification and thanked him for his contributions and work in the Township.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the meeting minutes of January 13, 2016 were approved.

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

**Voting No:**

**Abstaining:**

**Absent:**

**Old Business**

**Authorization to Advertise Public Hearing – Landscape Buffer Ordinance**

This issue was originally discussed at the January 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, during which the Board directed various edits be made to the draft ordinance for further review. The proposed ordinance amends commercial and parking buffer requirements, presently outlined in the Township’s Subdivision and Land Development ordinance, in order to update them to current best practices and to address concerns realized in the review of previous land developments.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized staff to advertise a public hearing and to schedule the consideration of adopting the revised version of the Landscape Buffer Ordinance for a future meeting.

**Voting Yes:** H. Charles Wilson, III, Daniel M. Littley, Jr., James P. Sinz, David Mosesso, Laura Smith  
**Voting No:**  
**Abstaining:**  
**Absent:**

**New Business**

**Warrant List**

The warrant list was presented for approval.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$913,432.22.

**Voting Yes:** Daniel M. Littley, Jr., James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, David Mosesso  
**Voting No:**  
**Abstaining:**  
**Absent:**

**Request for Reduction of Speed Limit on Troxel Road**

A Township resident has requested that the speed limit on Troxel Road be reduced from the current 40 mph, based on the volume of traffic and accidents on the road.

Township Manager, Robert Ford, explained the process of lowering a speed limit according to PennDOT. The first step in reducing the limit on a state-run road, such as Troxel Road, is to petition the local municipality, who can then request an engineering and traffic study by PennDOT. Any alteration in a speed limit on a state-maintained roadway must be made upon the basis of an engineering and traffic study performed by PennDOT.

Mr. Ford then referenced a speed study conducted on Troxel Road in 2011, by the Police Department's Highway Safety Unit, in conjunction with a speed limit complaint from Westhampton Way residents. In this study, it was found that 85 percent of the clocked speeds came in at 41 mph, while 50 percent of the speeds were 36 mph. At that time, there was no recommendation to move forward with a PennDOT study to reduce the speed limit.

Supervisor Smith commented at one time, maybe in the 1970s, the speed limit was actually higher at 55 mph. She also said that accidents on this road have generally been caused by drivers, driving under the influence - which likely contributed to their speed versus an overall speeding issue on the road day-to-day.

Mr. Ford added the Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit could check the road this spring for appropriate signage and suggest recommendations if conditions warrant.

It was the consensus of the Board to keep the speed limit along Troxel Road at the current 40 miles per hour.

### **Proposal for Engineering Design Services: Kriebel Road Interceptor Trail**

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. Combining these two projects will provide a cost saving opportunity. The projected construction cost of the trail and structured crossing of Towamencin Creek is estimated at approximately \$300,000.

The Township's sanitary sewer engineer, William Dingman of Gilmore & Associates, Inc., has provided a proposal to prepare the necessary trail-specific components to be inserted into the overall project bid specifications. The cost breakdown is: (1) Access/Trail Design Engineering - \$20,000, (2) Stream Crossing Engineering and Hydraulic Flood Study - \$15,000, (3) Bid / Award and construction administration/observation - \$6,000.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board accepted the engineering proposal for the Kriebel Road Interceptor Sewer Access/Trail project.

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

**Voting No:**

**Abstaining:**

**Absent:**

### **Sewer Capacity Request – Franconia Township**

The Franconia Sewer Authority has expressed interest in acquiring sewer capacity from Towamencin Township and has requested information to further analyze the interconnect

possibility, including whether Towamencin is interested in selling the capacity. The Township Sanitary Sewer Engineer has prepared a proposed response.

Township Sewer Engineer, William Dingman of Gilmore & Associates, Inc, presented the correspondence and his prepared response with the data requested by Franconia Township.

The Board asked Mr. Dingman if Towamencin's sewer system could handle the additional volume anticipated from such a connection. Supervisor Mosesso asked if the interconnect point would require a larger pipe or any other infrastructure changes. Mr. Dingman explained the system was designed to accommodate additional connections and future development. Consequently, no infrastructure changes would be needed, provided Franconia's discharge location would be at the Wambold and Schoolhouse Road intersection sewer and that their average daily flow does not exceed the available capacity of 110,000 gallons per day.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Mosesso, the Board authorized Township staff to respond to Franconia Township's Sewer Authority Executive Director regarding the inquiry to interconnect to Towamencin's sewer system.

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

**Voting No:**

**Abstaining:**

**Absent:**

### **Memorandum of Understanding – Pool Agreement with North Penn YMCA**

Over the past ten years, the Township pool has experienced a steady decline in membership, whereby the revenue has not been keeping up with the operating costs, which have remained relatively steady. Recognizing that such an operation is not sustainable, the Township has been working with the North Penn YMCA to develop a mutually beneficial agreement, whereby the YMCA will assume the running of the pool. The YMCA has also committed to retaining the Towamencin Swim Team.

Chairman Wilson explained the Board had hoped to have some agreement terms available for the meeting. However, negotiations are on-going and they anticipate having more information at a future meeting. Chairman Wilson added, despite any rumors circulating, there will still be a Towamencin Swim Team, under current Coach Beth McConnell.

### **Commendation for Achieving Eagle Scout - Christopher Delamater**

The Township recognized the service of Christopher Delamater for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Christopher's Eagle Scout Service Project consisted of planning, funding, and the rehabilitation of the General Nash Elementary School Peace Garden. He replaced old and dying plants with healthy new ones, representing plants from around the world, as well as, removing deteriorating railroad ties to enhance visitor safety and aesthetics. This commendation will be presented to him at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony, scheduled for January 31, 2016.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the commendation of Christopher Delamater for achieving Eagle Scout Rank.

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

**Voting No:**

**Abstaining:**

**Absent:**

**Commendation for Achieving Eagle Scout Rank – Kevin Rossi**

The Township recognized the service of Kevin M. Rossi for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Kevin’s Eagle Scout Service Project, which was aided by fellow troop members and scout leaders, provided for the planning, funding, and installation of a low, split two-rail fence system at the Morgan Log House. The Morgan Log House is an 18<sup>th</sup> century historical structure, located in Towamencin Township. Kevin’s project further enhanced the outside appearance of this facility, while also improving visitor safety of the site by removing walking and tripping hazards.

On a motion by Supervisor Littley, seconded by Supervisor Sinz, the Board approved the commendation of Kevin Rossi for achieving Eagle Scout Rank.

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

**Voting No:**

**Abstaining:**

**Absent:**

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Ford  
Township Manager