

**Towamencin Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Monthly Meeting  
June 12, 2024  
7:00 PM**

**Present:**

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman  
Laura Smith, Vice Chair  
Joyce F. Snyder, Secretary  
Kristin Warner, Treasurer

**Remote:**

Kofi Osei, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary – via Zoom

**Staff:**

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager  
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor  
Mary Stover, Township Engineer  
Niral Modi, IT Director  
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Opening Comments**

- The Board met in executive session ahead of the last meeting on May 22 and again before this meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- This Board meeting is provided live via Zoom for residents unable to attend in person but wish to view and hear the meeting remotely. Public comments submitted by 4:30 pm this afternoon will be read at the start of the meeting. For those present, public comment will be held at the beginning of the meeting. Reminder: when prompted for questions, please come up to a microphone as Zoom does not pick up voices from the audience.
- The Township Pool is now open daily from 12 pm - 7 pm, unless otherwise indicated. For more information or to purchase a membership visit StandGuard Aquatics' website.
- Our summer concert series begins June 20<sup>th</sup> and runs through August 1<sup>st</sup>. Concerts are free at Fischer's Park. Concessions will be available for purchase beginning at 6 pm and concerts start at 7 pm. Our first band is Shot of Southern.
- Join us for our Classic Car Show, on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am – 12 pm, at Fischer's Park.

**Emailed Public Comments:**

Resident Tina Gallagher noted she is in favor of flying the Pride flag, feeling it is a symbol of inclusion. She requested the Board provide a sewer sale update and the PUC process. Lastly, she requested that the next Comprehensive Plan Update public meeting be more welcoming than the last one - roll out the welcome mat and provide water and snacks to all who attend.

Resident Ken Stout shared comments on the request to fly flags other than the 3 movement flags (US, State and County). He is not in favor especially with the possibility of a fanatic group wanting to hang a disruptive flag. Lastly, he asked why the Township did not receive a recent grant award from the County.

Resident Paul Andrews stated that the Board could take the easy road and simply allow the US, State and County flags or be open and allow flags in addition to those three, with a caveat that the other flags may not be for a political candidate, party or movement, hate or defunct nations, but flags supporting positive groups or causes, such as POW, Autism, Pride, or Black Lives Matter should be considered. He added resident suggestions could be voted on by the Board.

Chairman Wilson asked the Township Manager to address the grant comment. Mr. Kraynik responded the question likely arose from an article in the Reporter, that day, announcing Montco 2040 awards. He noted the Township received this grant in 2021 for the Kriebel Road Trail for \$120,000 and in 2023 for the Weikel Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$200,000. Also, in 2023, the Township applied for a grant for Grist Mill Park Improvements but was not awarded funding. He added the Weikel Road project is out to bid currently, noting most grant programs will not provide more funding if previously submitted projects are not complete. There are currently 8 grant applications pending - 6 for DCED and 2 for PennDOT. These pending grants total over 7 million dollars. He added grants are a high priority for the Board and staff.

Chairman Wilson responded to the sewer sale update comment. There is nothing new to report. The PUC has not reported their final decision, regarding the new rule involving municipal system purchases.

### **In-Person Comments**

Resident Gisela Koch thanked Mr. Kraynik for his report on grants. She stated this is the first time the public has received this volume of information regarding grants. Mr. Kraynik added a more comprehensive report regarding grants is available for review on the website.

Resident Mrs. Hayes commented on the intensity of streetlights in front of her home, that they light up her entire home. If she wakes up, she cannot get back to sleep because of the brightness. She is a migraine sufferer, and they are obtrusive to her.

Mr. Kraynik responded that he received a call from Joe Silverman and Mrs. Hayes about this complaint, which he promised to investigate the concern. Mr. Kraynik stated the Township did investigate the matter, and determined if the Township was to lower the voltage of the two lamps originally discussed, the total cost would be \$525 for labor. He added other lamps could be investigated, but the Board and Public Works Committee would need to review all recommendations and approve. He also shared his concerns that if the Township begins to lower voltage of specific streetlights it could create a problem with different lighting levels and may inspire more requests throughout the Township. Mr. Kraynik added it should begin as a conversation at the Public Works Committee meeting. Mr. Kraynik indicated Mr. Silverman

would need to provide a detailed list of the lights she would like to see reduced and at that time he could obtain a full quote for the Board to review.

Chairman Wilson asked if these lights had been converted to LED. Mr. Kraynik confirmed they had, and the utility company confirmed the wattage could be reduced. Chairman Wilson asked that he also investigate a shield for the fixture.

Resident Joe Silverman remarked on streetlights, referencing an article published in the Reporter in 2004, citing streetlights are a hazard. He then referenced the land use manual and general lighting requirements. He then offered additional lighting commentary when traversing through the Township.

Resident Bruce Bailey added to the lighting topic, noting lights should face down, never up or out to the side. He felt the lighting must have incorrect fixtures if this resident has such issues. Adding, the resident does not deserve a minor improvement, but proper fixtures for the light. He remarked on the flag topic, adding there should be a policy in place, and his opinion is only the United States Flag and other government flags should be flown, no others.

Resident Joe Silverman once again commented on lighting, mentioning dark sky compliance, and drew attention to the lighting at the Marriot property in the Township. In addition, he remarked on migraines and their impact on the human body.

Chairman Wilson commented the Board is aware downward lighting is best. He also stated, regarding the Marriot, it is one of the older developments, and since then lighting requirements and options have changed and gotten much better. Supervisor Snyder reiterated the Chairman explained the Marriott is one of the older developments and everything else now has downward lighting. Chairman Wilson continued he is not sure what could be done to make an older development update their lighting, but it can reviewed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development**

#### **Consider Waiver of Damagers: 107 Sunset Way**

The Township prepared a Waiver of Damages Agreement that would allow the owners of 107 Sunset Way to install a fence within a Township stormwater easement.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the Waiver of Damages Agreement: 107 Sunset Way.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

**Mainland Golf Course Parking Lot and Development Approval (SLD 836)**

Construction is proposed for a paved area with 55 parking spaces adjacent to a pavilion. The project will include a new stormwater basin and drainage. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of the plan as well as several waivers and a deferral. The applicant is present to review the application and waivers and deferral requests. Steve Lampmann and Rosann Lapio, of Sal Lapio Homes, were present. Mr. Lampmann reviewed the scope of the project and reasons for the waiver and deferral requests. Mary Stover, Township Engineer, added additional comments regarding the project's scope.

Supervisor Smith thanked Roseann and her family for building such an amazing jewel for the Township and encouraged anyone that has not been over to see the new Mainland Golf pavilion, to do so.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved drafting the preliminary and final land development resolutions.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Consider Change Order to I&I Contract – Sanitary Sewer Repairs (Allentown Road by Finnel Drive)**

Under the current contract with Sewer Specialties Services, the sewer main within Allentown Road, from manhole 909.1 to 909.2, was televised and found to need major repairs. The Township's sewer engineer, Gilmore & Associates, provided repair options:

- Patches/spot repairs estimated at \$21,000
- Line the entire main from manhole to manhole for an estimated \$18,072 as a change order.

It is the engineer's recommendation, for cost savings, to approve the quote as a change order to the contract.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Change Order to I&I Contract – Sanitary Sewer repairs (Allentown Road by Finnel Drive).

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Township Flag Policy**

Supervisor Snyder has requested a discussion regarding a Township Flag policy. Solicitor Iannozzi had researched other municipalities to compare existing flag policies and presented his findings to the Board. Solicitor Iannozzi noted, per the Board's direction, he did a sampling of surrounding municipalities. He summarized there are 25 Second Class Townships in Montgomery County of those, 12 were sampled, where he learned the following:

Relative to displaying:

- All 12 display the USA flag
- 8 display the Commonwealth flag
- 7 display their Township flag
- 3 display the POW/MIA flag
- 3 display the pride flag during pride month

Relative to what communities had flag ordinances or resolutions:

- 9 communities have an ordinance or resolution
- 2 have resolutions or proclamations commemorating pride month
- 1 had a flag display policy

Display request process:

- 6 would decline the request
- 5 would respond per Board direction
- 1 would respond in accord with the Boards policy

Supervisor Snyder shared her hope that as neighbors we can be open and welcoming to all. She wanted to include the pride flag because there are people still out there that would rather die than come out. She wants people to know that we, in Towamencin, don't want that; we want you to be happy with whoever you are and did not feel there is much downside to doing this. However, she understood that if they allowed this, they must be open to other flags. She clarified her suggestion was never intended as an alternative to the US flag, but in addition to the US, State, County and Township flags.

Chairman Wilson shared he would like to see an ordinance that restricts the flags listed in the Pennsylvania flag code - the US, Commonwealth and municipal flag (if one is ever created). He feels if they begin introducing other flags, it becomes a challenge to say no to something in the future that is not in good taste, and to add anything else would serve as divisive.

Supervisor Snyder agreed it could happen, which is why she feels a policy should be created so that the Board would be required to discuss proposals.

Supervisors Smith commented that she approached this with a very open mind and wants everyone to know this community is open and welcoming to all. However, as the idea progressed, it became

clear to her, that flying anything other than those cited in a flag policy opens the Township up to litigation. She added that unfortunately, this is the world we live in today, and if someone does not like what you think or how you feel then they want to sue you.

Supervisor Warner stated she respects Supervisor Snyder's intentions to do this and stated she has a good heart. She feels no one is against the pride flag. However, it makes her sad that there are people that feel the US flag does not unite all. She continued this country is a melting pot and has always been accepting of all cultures and becoming part of our one United States. She believes aside from litigation; it could become cumbersome to fly all the various flags over a twelve-month period. She is opposed to flying flags other than those that have represented us over her lifetime. She added she would never tell anyone they can't fly whatever specific flag they want on their own private property.

Supervisor Osei stated this is a low stakes type of policy, whether they fly governmental flags or others, but to make this discussion more generic, he offered the Board is elected to represent our constituents. He continued the United States has a very strong first amendment, a right to political free speech, and believes restricting just the American flag strikes him as un-American and will defend other people's rights of not liking certain aspects of this country. Adding, as a Township there may be times when the Board disagrees with the US government, and they would have the right not to fly the US flag in that scenario. He supports flying the pride flag, but if most of the Supervisors did not, he would not fight about it after this meeting. He referenced speaking with an Upper Gwynedd Commissioner, where they fly the pride flag on a separate pole. Similarly, if the Township considers flying other flags, he would like them on a separate pole.

Supervisor Snyder added she would hate to spend taxpayer money for the Solicitor to prepare an ordinance when nothing is changing. Chairman Wilson clarified that a passed ordinance expresses Township policy.

Supervisor Smith clarified that if an ordinance is passed and a request to fly an alternative flag were received, the petitioner would be directed to the ordinance for guidance.

Supervisor Osei commented that the Board can ignore requests. He reminded everyone he came to public meetings saying he would continue his efforts if the Board did not cancel the sewer sale, and the Board still went through with the sale, so he feels this issue it not legitimate.

Supervisor Snyder reiterated she does not believe an ordinance was necessary.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board authorized the Solicitor to prepare a flag ordinance to restrict the flags to the governmental flags.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner,  
Voting No: Joyce F. Snyder, Kofi Osei  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

**Consider Interim Finance Director/Supplementary Finance Services Proposal**

With the resignation of the Township's Finance Director, Adam Szumski, Township staff received a proposal from Bee Bergvall & Company for an hourly rate of \$155 to perform Interim Finance Director/supplementary finance services while the Township conducts a search for a permanent replacement.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the Interim Finance Director and supplementary finance services proposal.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Consider Finance Director Search Proposal**

With the resignation of the Township's Finance Director, the Township received a proposal from Human Resources Consultant Roseann McGrath, for an hourly rate of \$125, to assist in conducting the candidate search for the permanent replacement. Staff recommends approving Roseann McGrath's proposal to perform the work in conjunction with assistance from the Director of Administration, Colleen Ehrle.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Finance Director search proposal.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Resolution 24-18: Berkheimer Confidentiality Resolution**

Berkheimer, the Township's duly appointed collector of earned income and local service taxes, requires a municipal resolution stating which Township representatives may have access to confidential tax information. The Township's current confidentiality resolution from 2011 limits this access to the Finance Director. Township staff would like to update the confidentiality resolution to limit this access to the Finance Director and the Finance Specialist.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved Resolution 24-18: Berkheimer Confidentiality Resolution.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

### **Ordinance 24-04: Amendment to Quarterly Sewer Billing**

Adoption of this ordinance will amend the Township’s billing of residential and non-residential sewer rentals, replacing non-residential from a period of six months to three months, and replacing residential billing from annually to quarterly. The ordinance also provides related regulations.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Ordinance 24-04: Amendment to Quarterly Sewer Billing.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

**Consider Online Finance Payment Proposal**

As part of the transition from annual to quarterly sewer billing, the Finance Committee and Finance Director investigated various finance platforms. They recommend upgrading the Township’s current online payment platform to accommodate the proposed 2025 sewer billing change. The new payment platform will benefit residents in numerous ways, which are not feasible with the current platform, including an opt-in paperless billing option, billing reminders, auto-pay, history, and mobile access. The new platform will also accommodate tax payments and non-tax and non-sewer online payments.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Online Finance Payment Proposal.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

**Consider Public Works CDL A Training Expense**

With succession planning in mind, the Public Works Director has suggested that all Public Works employees obtain a CDL A license. This training is essential for day-to-day operations. At the recommendation of the Public Works Director, staff investigated and compared three local providers. Each provider submitted a proposal for their CDL A training program. Staff recommends moving forward with North Montco Technical Career Center for their full CDL A training program in the amount of \$3,650 per employee, at designated intervals. This expense would be offset by eligible Delaware Valley Property & Liability and Workman’s Compensation Trust grant funds. Two Public Works employees will be enrolled in the program later this summer.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the Public Works CDL A Training Expense.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A



Absent: N/A

**Upper Salford Police Request – August 15 & September 7**

Upper Salford Police Department is requesting the assistance of the Towamencin Fire Company Fire Police for traffic direction on August 15 for the Philadelphia Folk Festival and September 7 for the Old Goshenhoppen Oyster Picnic.

Supervisor Smith noted that September 7 is the Towamencin Fire Company’s Chicken BBQ and our Fire Police will be needed to maintain our own traffic control that day. Mr. Kraynik noted that approved and non-approved date will be communicated with Upper Salford.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Upper Salford Police Department Request for August 15 only.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Laura Smith, Joyce F. Snyder, Kristin Warner, Kofi Osei  
Voting No: N/A  
Abstaining: N/A  
Absent: N/A

**Additional Business**

Supervisor Osei discussed traffic safety. He noticed a higher volume of crashes, most recently a crash involving one of our police officers on Forty Foot Road. He cited various traffic statistics. He spoke about what the Township can control for safety, offering an example to limit speed limits over 25 mph, or closing certain roads. By making such modifications, he believes the Township could go to its legislators and demonstrate the Township’s contribution to roadway safety and ask them to assist in in speed reduction on State/County roads that run through the Township. He added, if the Township wants to create a safe connected place, they need to review and consider line use, parking requirements, minimum setbacks and review if current ordinances are useful.

Chairman Wilson seconded Supervisors Osei’s comment on the safety concerns along Forty Foot Road, adding it’s become the wild west and has shared these concerns with the Chief. He did not feel the issue is necessarily speed related, but rather drivers weaving in and out of traffic and creating their own lanes, such as the road shoulder or bike lanes.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle  
Director of Administration