

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
July 10, 2024
7:00 PM**

Present:

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

Staff:

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Celso Leite, 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 tonight's 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.
- Our next summer concert is July 11, featuring the Newspaper Taxis. Concerts are free at Fischer's Park. Concession sales begin at 6 pm; the band starts at 7 pm.
- Staff from the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library will return on Wednesday, July 24th at 11 AM to provide their next story time for preschoolers in the Meeting Hall's classroom.

Public Comments - In-Person Comments:

Resident James Collins offered comments on the recent (Bustard Road) street-lighting discussion, stressing it is appropriate for the Township to examine the issue raised due to its impact to a neighbor. He questioned if the issue is merely changing lightbulbs. He suggested if the lighting belongs to a business, then the Township could contact them and recommend

changing it. Lastly, he suggested that someone visit the site to determine if anything can be done to address the complaint and then the issue can be resolved, and everyone can move forward.

Chairman Wilson responded, at the last meeting, the location of concern was identified and that the Board, Public Works Director and Township Manager have all been out to review the area.

Resident Joe Silverman questioned if the Township's lighting contractor (Armour & Sons Electric) has a standing contract. If so, he recommended they be directed to install two downlight reflecting bulbs verses using the quote obtained for the streetlights in question.

Resident Bruce Bailey commented that if a flood light was next to a Supervisor's bedroom, they would all act. He continued this resident asked for help weeks ago, and no action has been taken. He felt the concern could be resolved by disconnecting the fixtures with no impact to lighting on Bustard Road. Switching topics, he hoped one of the five Supervisors would motion to get out of the sewer contract. Continuing, that three of the Supervisors keep spending money to fight the majority of citizens opposed to the sale. He asked that one of the three do the right thing and change their mind.

Resident James Collins praised Chief Troxel for the accommodations awarded at the last meeting. He feels good behavior should be applauded, because if something negative occurs the room is full, and everyone has something to say. He also commended Chief Troxel for implementing procedures that keep officers safe, adding the Township needs to ensure all officers are in a good place before they hit the streets, which ensures positive outcomes are achieved, and the Township keeps an outstanding police force.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the June 26th 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

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Towamencin Youth Association Update

The Towamencin Youth Association offers youth sports programs in the greater Towamencin Township area, currently providing over 2,000 children, ages 5 to 18, with the opportunity to participate in four different sports, including: basketball, baseball, softball and soccer. Doug Kyle

and Jeff Baer, TYA representatives were present to provide an update. Mr. Kyle acknowledged the open communication TYA has with the Township, specifically the relationship with the Township Manager, noting he is receptive, responsive and thorough in supporting TYA interests. In addition, he thanked David Hillmantel, Public Works Director, for his responsiveness. Mr. Kyle summarized TYAs current statistics, needs and community contributions.

Supervisor Osei asked how TYA's participation compares currently to historic registration. Mr. Kyle noted soccer has increased, though, softball, baseball and basketball remain lower than in past years.

Chairman Wilson asked if improvements approved last year have been completed. Mr. Kyle noted most have been completed or are in progress, elaborating that trees have been planted, fencing and netting have been installed and the Bustard Road batting cages have been completed.

Supervisor Warner thanked Mr. Kyle and TYA for all they do for the Township.

2023 Audit Presentation

The Township's appointed auditor Maillie LP has completed the 2023 audit for Towamencin Township. Dale Umbenhauer, from Maillie LP, provided a summary presentation of last year's audit. Mr. Umbenhauer reviewed: key financial statement items and net position for the last 5 years of Township for governmental activities and business-type activities, changes in net position, general fund balances, budget versus actual, government fund balances. This completed audit is available on the Township website for review.

Change Order #1 to Municipal Building Roof Replacement Project

At the Board's March 20th meeting, the Municipal Roof Replacement Project was awarded to Hulton Contracting, Inc. for a total price of \$91,163.70. The project includes renovations to the Administration and Meeting Hall Buildings, including roof replacements, removal and replacement of the existing wood siding. During pre-construction discussions, it was noted that the replacement siding would need to be painted to match the existing exterior siding. This additional work is recommended as a change order to the existing contract in the amount of \$9,850.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved Change Order #1 for the Municipal Building Roof Replacement Project.

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

Veterans Committee Maintenance Request at Tennis Lukens Cemetery

At their last meeting on June 24, the Veterans Committee reviewed several maintenance needs and proposed improvements at the Tennis Lukens Cemetery, the future site of the Township's Veterans Park. Committee member Dan Littlely presented the Committee's requests for the site. Mike Lewis

and Joe Meehan were also in attendance on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Littley summarized key items the Committee felt should be addressed, including:

- Routine landscape maintenance, such as removal of downed branches, topsoil fill, raking and hiring a tree surgeon to top off and remove dead tree limbs
- Provide a bench and signage
- Move the chain/gate and create a turnaround at the top of the driveway
- Concrete removal and consider professional headstone restoration
- Create four to five parking spaces

Chairman Wilson asked Mr. Kraynik if information, regarding the maintenance list presented, should be gathered in preparation for next year's budget. Mr. Kraynik confirmed that Public Works is prepared to address 75% of the items presented. However, items such as obtaining an arborist and headstone restoration will require professional quotes and staff will share those with the Board at budget time.

Additional Business

Supervisor Osei shared that he received an email at his Township email address - making it a public record – noting he does all his complaining on public events in public, therefore he felt it should be addressed. He stated the email was from Chairman Wilson regarding the passing of a Mr. DePaul, who was a decorated Township volunteer. He expressed his appreciation for anyone who volunteers, and his thoughts were with Mr. DePaul's family and that his complaint has nothing to do with Mr. DePaul personally, but rather that the email contained heavy Republican messaging and asked that he not be sent Republican emails to his Township account. He understands Township residents he disagrees with will be honored at times, but such notices should be sent from an email separate from a Republican party email. He explained why he specifically took issue with this, noting there is a blog/website run by an anonymous Township resident, who has made slanderous and threatening comments about him after he won his seat on the Board. He then recited excerpts from comments posted on the blog. Supervisor Osei noted the content contained poor election analysis, were riddled with racial slurs, threats on his life and in his opinion, conveniently, the racist comments made are animated by Republican Party lies.

Supervisor Osei declared Supervisor Wilson, Chair of the Board and the Towamencin Republic Committee, does not correct lies about him when addressed. Supervisor Warner participated in a lawsuit attempting to block his election win and not one person involved in that suit has openly admitted he is entitled to his seat.

He added all his soccer coaches were Catholic, and one of the worst misreads of his life was to think the baseball coach was someone he could look up to despite disagreeing on politics. He continued, throwing an election after a single setback and not conceding after doing a nonsense tour is truly disgusting behavior for someone, he thought was a real competitor. He does not think he has met anyone as spinless as Rich Marino, citing not once did he describe the election correctly. He continued the not-corrupt-genius elected as a Republican, now an Independent, Supervisor Smith, had the audacity to respond to his request to not receive Republican emails suggesting that he may miss something. He added she once said he did not want to hear the conversations she has with neighbors, making him question if she is friends with the website owner.

Supervisor Smith responded she has never heard of this website and finds it absolutely disgusting that something like that exists and she will rise and frown upon anyone speaking like that. She dares Supervisor Osei to tie her to that because as that is not who she is, not how she speaks. She does not approve of that language or behavior.

Supervisor Osei continued that the three of them should not mistake their relationship and that their Towamencin Republican allies are some of the vilest people he has ever had the displeasure to interact with. He has received requests to show respect to people that do not have the courtesy to correct threats on his life. They do not deserve his respect and he will not apologize for what comes out of his mouth. He is here to do the work of the people having deliberately signed up for public office knowing this sort of stuff happens. He can be cordial if his colleagues stop reminding him how infected this Township is with Republican garbage and stop talking politics around him or he will let his feelings be known. He concluded, asking that he not be included in or sent future Republican emails.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Director of Administration