

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
October 23, 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
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Director
Timothy Troxel, Chief of Police

Absent:

N/A

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Comments

- 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, followed by public comments from those present. Reminder: when prompted for questions, please come up to a microphone as Zoom does not pick up voices from the audience.
- The next budget work sessions will be held at 6:30 pm on October 30th and November 6th and take place at the Meeting Hall and also broadcast via Zoom for those unable to attend in person.
- Registration is open for our annual Turkey Trot. The Township's 5K at Fischer's Park is scheduled for Saturday, November 9 at 8 am. The registration link is available on our website, under Events, and on our Facebook events page.
- The Police Department will hold their annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26, from 5-7 pm at North Penn High School's parking lot. This is a fun event for the entire family.
- National Drug Take Back Day will take place on Saturday, October 26, from 10 am – 2 pm, in the Township's Police Department lobby. Turn in unneeded medications for safe disposal.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the October 2, 2024 Budget Work Session 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

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the October 9, 2024 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

Conditional Use Hearing: Mattress Warehouse (Continuance)

Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation (PSDC) has submitted a Conditional Use application for amended signage for the Mattress Warehouse location along Forty Foot Road. Mr. Edward J. Hughes, Esq., of Hughes, Kalkbrenner & Ozorowski, LLP, was present on behalf of the applicant to present and review details of the project and answer any questions. Solicitor Iannozzi conducted the hearing, a continuance from the October 9 meeting. David Ott, Director of Reed Sign Company, of Pennsburg, was sworn-in as a witness for the sign installation.

Supervisor Snyder asked for an explanation for the proposed sign change. Mr. Hughes explained there was a miscommunication between the occupant and the site manager.

Chairman Wilson asked if the new proposed sign would eliminate the current sign on the Allentown Road side of the building. Mr. Hughes confirmed it would. Chairman Wilson asked if the Solicitor would prepare a conditional use order prior to a vote or should the Board act this evening. Mr. Iannozzi confirmed he would prepare a decision and order, and suggested the Board could act this evening or wait for a decision.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Osei, the Board approved the conditional use application and directed the Solicitor to prepare the decision and order.

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 Approval of Stormwater Operations & Management Agreement: 2035 Springer Road

The Township has prepared a stormwater agreement that would allow the owner of 2035 Springer Road to construct a 3,154 square-foot accessory structure with associated stormwater management facilities.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Stormwater Operations and Management Agreement for 2035 Springer Road.

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 Approval of Escrow Release #5 for 1361 Sumneytown Pike - Kessler Dental

In accordance with the provisions of the security agreement, the Township Engineer has reviewed the developer's request for an improvements escrow release; confirming that items noted within the current agreement have been satisfactorily completed by the project developer. Township staff recommends the release of the improvement security escrow, in the amount of \$20,013.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Escrow Release #5 for 1361 Sumneytown Pike, Kessler Dental.

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

Warrant List

The September Warrant list in the amount of \$2,279,496.37 was presented for approval. On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the warrant list in the amount of \$2,279,496.37.

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

Public Works Report

The Public Works Committee meets monthly to scope projects and identify efficiencies related to Township infrastructure, properties, and equipment. The Committee met on October 17. Supervisor Smith provided the Committee's report, summarizing the following topics:

- Weikel Road Project
- Central Drive Storm Sewer Repairs
- 2024 Road Paving & ADA Ramp Project
- Repairs to Pedestrian Bridge over Forty Foot Road
- Green Lane Park Soccer Fields
- Welsh/Orvilla Road Intersection Improvement Project
- Forty Foot Road/Newbury Way/PSDC Traffic Signal
- SR1001 (Allentown Road) PennDOT Safety Improvements
- Comprehensive Plan
- MS4 Permit Requirements
- Township Pool – 2024 Season
- Butch Clemens Park Pickleball Courts Concept Plan
- Streetlight at Susan Drive and Keeler Road
- Fischer's Park Pump Station Repairs
- Restricting Truck Traffic on Old Forty Foot Road
- Traffic Impact Fee Study
- Speeding Concerns – Traffic Calming
- Grant Updates
- Green Lane & Liberty Bell – Stop Sign Request
- Fischer's Park Bull Pen Roof Replacement
- Proposed 2026 Paving Program
- Truck Brake Retarder Prohibition

Chairman Wilson asked about Weikel Road paving completion. Mr. Kraynik and Ms. Stover noted a paving schedule has not yet been provided, and a completion date is weather dependent. Supervisor Osei commented on the proposed PennDOT safety improvements, noting there was another bad accident on Allentown Road. He stated he often disagrees with traffic engineers, especially those at PennDOT, and feels PennDOT recommendations are wrong. He does not feel that different signage or paint is going to correct the traffic safety issues on Allentown Road. He feels the Township should ask our legislators to do more when it comes to traffic safety. He does not feel the Township should pay for this economic improvement.

Finance Committee Report

The Township Finance Committee meets monthly to monitor economic indicators and the pulse of the Township's revenues and expenditures. They also address various requests and concerns that may arise. The Committee met on October 16. Supervisor Warner provided the Committee's report, summarizing the following topics:

- September 2024 Financials
- 2024 Budget – Preliminary year-end projections
- Draft 2025 – 2029 Capital Plan Review
- 2025 Budget Questions
- Fire and EMS Distributions

Supervisor Osei stated before the previous Finance Director resigned, he suggested changing the sewer formula which would provide the sewer system with additional money and the Township with less, around \$300,000. He asked if the plan is to still update the formula for next year. Chairman Wilson confirmed it was.

Supervisor Osei asked if the Township plans to transfer the NextEra deposit to the general fund and if spending any of that money is included in order to avoid a tax increase next year. Chairman Wilson asked for clarification. Supervisor Osei referenced the \$600,000 NextEra deposit – and asked if this funding would be used as a rationale not to raise taxes or if any of that money has been spent. Chairman Wilson confirmed none of the money was spent and the money is reflected as deferred revenue on the balance sheet.

Supervisor Osei commented he needs to further review the budget but signaled no tax increase is more optimistic than the projections shown the last few years. He typically defaults to 2% tax hikes to keep up with inflation. He wants to avoid a situation where taxes are not increased for a series of years but need to be substantially increased due to the sustained tax rate. He stated because of this NextEra deposit, he is generally in favor of trying to complete some of the Township’s proposed projects such as engineering for pickleball. He stressed 2026 is the nation’s 250th anniversary and there is a master plan for Veterans’ Memorial Park, which advocates advancing.

Consider Adoption: Ordinance 24-07 - New Municipal Waste Collection/ Recycling Ordinance & Amended Intermunicipal Agreement

The Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission (NMCRC) is requiring it’s 11 participating municipalities to adopt a new Municipal Waste Collection and Recycling Ordinance, as well as amend and restate a new Intermunicipal Agreement. Adoption of this Ordinance will also serve to approve the amended and restated Intermunicipal Agreement. At the October 9th meeting, the Board approved advertising the proposed ordinance. The major amendments proposed include:

- Change the distribution of the 904 Recycling Performance Grant funding from a pro rata share based on population to a new method of actual tonnage collected in each municipality.
- Hire a new Recycling Grant Coordinator, Hough Associates. Hough Associates is highly credentialed and a clear industry leader in recycling grant applications.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Osei, the Board approved Ordinance 24-07, New Municipal Waste Collection/ Recycling Ordinance and Amended Intermunicipal Agreement.

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 Proposal: Stop Sign Evaluation Green Lane Road & Liberty Bell Drive Intersection

The Public Works Committee has recommended that a potential stop sign at the intersection of Green Lane Road and Liberty Bell Drive be evaluated. Our Traffic Engineer provided a proposal to perform this study for a not to exceed cost of \$3,900.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the stop sign evaluation proposal for the Green Lane Road and Liberty Bell Drive intersection.

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 Proposal: PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund

Towamencin and Hatfield Townships continue to prioritize roadway and traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Welsh and Orvilla Roads. Proposed improvements include road widening to add left turn lanes for all approaches, along with traffic signal modernization. Last fall, the Township made a grant submission to PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund, for funding the construction of the improvements. In September, the Township was notified this project was not selected for an award. The Traffic Engineer recommends we resubmit for the 2024 application period, ending November 5, 2024. The grant request is for \$3,000,000 and will be submitted in conjunction with Hatfield Township. Towamencin's proposal costs are \$2,500.00.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the grant submission proposal for the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund.

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

Authorize PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Commitment Letter (Welsh/Orvilla Project)

As required by the referenced grant submission, the Township must provide a funding commitment letter noting the Township will provide the matching funds for the project if awarded. The local match is \$1,027,000 and would be split between Towamencin and Hatfield Townships.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board authorized the Township Manager to sign the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Commitment Letter.

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 Proposal: Grant Submission Local Share Account (Statewide) Municipal Complex Improvements

In April, the Township submitted a grant application to the COVID-19 ARPA Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose program to fund various improvements to the municipal complex. The Township was notified this project was not selected for grant funding. Therefore, the Township will make a submission to the Local Share Account (Statewide) grant program for the same project seeking \$1,000,000 in funding. The Township Engineer has provided a proposal of \$2,000 to submit the grant application.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the grant submission proposal for the Local Share Account program for municipal complex improvements.

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 Proposal: Grant Submission Local Shared Account (Statewide) Central Drive Storm Sewer Improvements

The Township plans to resubmit an application to the Local Share Account (Statewide) grant fund for the Central Drive Storm Sewer Improvements Project, seeking \$1,000,000 in funding. The Township Engineer has provided a proposal of \$1,300 to submit the grant application.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Osei, the Board approved the grant submission proposal for the Local Shared Account program (Central Drive Storm Sewer Improvements 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

Consider Approving Sewer Treatment Agreement: Clemens Food Group & TMA & Towamencin Township

On September 22, 1988, the Towamencin Municipal Authority (TMA) and Township entered into an agreement with Clemens Food Group permitting the use of the Township's sanitary sewer

system. Subsequent agreements allowed for negotiated increased capacity and peak flow discharge rates. In October 2022, the agreement was extended through October 2024.

The current agreement would expire on October 26, 2024. Clemens recognizes and has determined that it is necessary and desirable to continue to utilize the Township's Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment Plant for conveyance and treatment. Clemens has requested a new agreement, adding a 150,000 gpd increase in capacity, for a total of 830,800 gpd for any given calendar month, or 1,163,120 gpd peak flow discharge rate for any stated five-day period. The agreement will have a 10-year term with 2 automatic 2-year renewals.

If during the agreement's term, it is determined by the Township or Authority that Clemens, based upon performance, needs additional capacity, Clemens will be required to purchase such additional capacity as determined by the Township's sewer engineer within 15 days. This agreement's increase in capacity will result in a payment to the Township of \$760,500 and \$1,402,650 to the Towamencin Municipal Authority, remitted at the time that Clemens Food Group signs and returns the agreement to the Township.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Sewer Treatment Agreement between Clemens Food Group, TMA and Towamencin Township.

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 Volunteer Committee Appointment

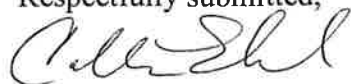
A resident has submitted an application expressing an interest to serve on the Environmental Advisory Committee. The Board may now consider this volunteer request.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Michael Bush, Jr. to the Environmental Advisory Council as an associate member, with a term ending December 31, 2025.

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

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Director of Administration