

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2025
7:00 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
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

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. 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.
- Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library staff will return on Wednesday, February 26, at 11 am, to provide their next story time in the Meeting Hall's classroom.
- Join us Saturday, February 22, for a preschool pajama night of music, crafts and story time. The party begins at 6 pm. Visit our website for complete details.
- The Township's Special Events is running a trip to Lancaster County on Thursday, March 13; enjoy a magic show and lunch at Magic & Wonder Theater. Visit our website for complete details.

Summarized Emailed Public Comments

Resident Jenn Foster asked why there was no agenda item regarding progress and next steps on filling the board vacancy. As a constituent, she expects such progress updates during these meetings or through e-news. She advocated that Dan Bell be appointed to the Board of Supervisors, citing he is the least controversial appointment and is well liked and respected in the community and by this board. Her last comment was directed at Supervisors Wilson and Warner.

She feels they need to resign; Supervisor Wilson for his continued failure in leadership and Supervisor Warner for her refusal to condemn Laura's behavior as antisemitic.

Resident Tina Gallagher commented that information on the process to appoint the vacant Supervisor seat should be shared with residents, noting it was not clear at the Special Meeting. She feels a judge should not make that decision. She also asked why the vacancy board position was removed from the first agenda and is it still being considered.

Summarized In-Person Public Comments

Resident Rich Costlow commented a year ago, there was an election in this Township resulting in a tie, and decided by drawing lots. He feels the current Supervisor vacancy should be filled by Rich Marino having the same number of votes as Supervisor Osei. He noted Mr. Marino continues to serve the Township and has the experience needed as a Supervisor. He feels the Township has a unique opportunity where 100% of the Township voters would be represented, adding the gracious, fair and honorable thing to do would be to appoint Rich Marino.

Resident Paul Andrews commented he hopes the Board is having lots of discussions about the current vacancies, but does not want to see Rich Marino back on the Board. He feels during Mr. Marino's previous tenure he was dishonest with his constituents, though he recognizes he is active in the community. He supports Dan Bell for the position because of his past service on the Board and is well liked. He also was looking forward to updates on agenda items 8.2 and 8.9.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the January 22nd meeting minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson III, 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

Consider Approval of YMCA Fischer's Park Camp Agreement

At the Board's January 22 meeting, Bob Varga, Executive Director of the Lansdale Area Family YMCA, made a request on behalf of the YMCA to use a portion of Fischer's Park as a summer camp similar to the use allowed last summer with discounted rates for Towamencin residents. An updated lease has been prepared for signature between the Township and the North Penn YMCA to use a portion of Fischer's Park for the camp between June 23, 2025 and August 22, 2025.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the YMCA Fischer's Park Camp Agreement.

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

Consider Adoption: Ordinance 25-01 Prohibiting Brake Retarders - Valley Forge Road

The proposed ordinance amends the Township Code to add a brake retarder prohibition for the southbound direction along Valley Forge Road, 390 feet north of Allentown Road to 65 feet before Sumneytown Road.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Ordinance 25-01, Prohibiting Brake Retarders - Valley Forge Road.

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

Consider Adopting Ordinance 25-02 - Adopt 2018 Edition of International Fire Code

The Township's Fire Marshal recommended the Township Code be updated to incorporate the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code. The current Township Code references the 2000 edition. An ordinance has been drafted and advertised, adopting the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code, as amended, regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards; providing for the issuance of permits; collection of fees; and incorporating the 2018 edition and replacing the 2000 edition of the international fire code.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Ordinance 25-02, Adopt 2018 Edition of International Fire Code.

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

Consider Resolution 25-13: Adoption of 2022 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Funding from FEMA typically is provided to states to fund programs that assist municipalities with disaster preparedness and relief projects. An adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan by a municipality is a requirement to receive funding. The County has indicated that Towamencin Township has not yet adopted the 2022 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan and encourages that we do to assist in facilitating future funding requests through PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.)

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved Resolution 25-13, Adoption of 2022 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

Consider Bid Release: Green Lane Park Soccer Field Soil Amendment

As part of the development of the future Green Lane soccer field, a soil amendment is recommended by the Towamencin Youth Association and Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee for more durable field conditions. The soil amendment contract would include amending the topsoil with sand and compost, spreading the topsoil, fine grading the fields, and establishing the vegetation.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved releasing the bid for the Green Lane Park Soccer Field Soil Amendment.

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

Consider Proposal: Grant Application Services MontCo 2040 - Grist Mill Stormwater Basins Conversions

The Township was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant through DCED's Watershed Restoration & Protection Grant program. This project's estimated cost exceeds \$250,000 and the Township is seeking additional funding sources and intends to apply to the County's MontCo 2040 grant program. The Township Engineer has provided a proposal of \$3,500 to prepare and submit the grant application.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Proposal: Grant Application Services MontCo 2040 - Grist Mill Stormwater Basins Conversions.

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

Consider Proposal: Montco 2040 Grant Application Services - Kriebel Road Trail Phase 3

The Township was recently notified they were not awarded funding for the latest round of the DCED Greenways Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP), from our 2024 submission. The Township still prioritizes completing this final stretch of the Kriebel Road Trail connection. The updated project cost estimate is approximately \$400,000. The Township plans to submit an

application to the County's Montco 2040 grant program requesting \$250,000. Gilmore and Associates, Inc. has provided a proposal for \$1,600 to prepare and submit the grant application.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the grant application services proposal for Montco 2040 for the Kriebel Road Trail, Phase 3.

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

Consider Proposal: Engineering Services Kindle Drive & Amber Lane Storm Sewer Replacement

The purpose of this project is to replace the deteriorated storm sewer infrastructure at the Kindle Drive and Amber Lane residential subdivision. The Township Engineer has provided a proposal for \$20,000 for engineering services to prepare design plans, construction specifications, bidding documents and to provide bid administration services. The services consist of obtaining survey information of existing features and topography, design of the replacement storm sewer system piping and structures, design of ADA compliant curb ramps, preparation of construction plans, specifications, and contract documents for public bidding purposes.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the engineering services proposal for the Kindle Drive and Amber Lane Storm Sewer Replacement.

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

Consider Proposal: Engineering Services Butch Clemens Park Pickleball Courts

The Township is working to develop pickleball courts and a parking area at Butch Clemens Park. Mary Stover, the Township Engineer, presented a concept plan to the Board at their October 9, 2024 meeting. The plan includes six courts with a 32-space parking lot. The Township Engineer submitted a proposal for \$55,500, to perform engineering services required to prepare design plans, construction specifications, regulatory agency permit applications, bidding documents and bid administration services for the project. This work would facilitate future grant funding opportunities for the project's construction.

Supervisor Osei commented previously it was suggested that the Township would build these courts with grants. Earlier on the agenda, it was noted that the Township was denied a grant for the Kriebel Road Trail, something he feels is more important for connectivity. He does not believe pickleball will be built any time soon and therefore, would be voting no.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Wilson, the motion failed with a 2:2 vote.

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

Request Field Rental Use/Flat Fee (Bustard Park field) Senior Softball League

A senior softball league has been renting a field (B3) at Bustard Park for the last several years on Monday and Wednesday mornings, from spring through fall. The group is requesting to continue to rent the field at the same flat rate of \$400 for Monday and Wednesday mornings, and one Friday morning each month. The use would occur between April 1st through November 30, 2025.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the flat fee request for the field rental use at Bustard Park for the senior softball league.

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

Additional Business/Comments

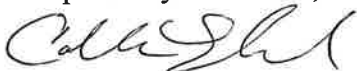
Supervisor Osei responded to the public comment suggesting Rich Marino be appointed to the Board vacancy. He does not feel that a sore loser, who sued him to keep him from being appointed to his seat, should be on the Board. He is against appointing Rich Marino to the Board.

Supervisor Osei commented that during a recent Montgomery County Commissioners Meeting he was the center of a public comment, then read the disparaging comment. He takes issue with the Montgomery County Republican Party for what he believes are their beliefs towards antisemitism. He made a comment toward Supervisor Warner and her position on the recent antisemitism matter. He stated that he proposed a plan to fill the vacant seat and only received a response from Supervisor Snyder. He presented his thoughts on who and how the vacant Supervisor seat should be filled, claiming if the vacant seat goes to courts it will be the fault of Chairman Wilson. He prefers communication go through Supervisor Snyder to try to bring the community back together, but he will play games if Chairman Wilson wants to play games.

Resident Rich Costlow requested a transcript of Supervisor Osei's comment because he could not understand what was said. Chairman Wilson responded that the minutes would reflect his comments, but a transcript could be requested through a right-to-know request. Supervisor Osei responded he would email Mr. Costlow his comment.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Director of Administration