

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
January 22, 2025
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

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 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. When prompted for questions, please come up to a microphone as Zoom does not pick up voices from the audience.
- Our Public Works Department is performing Christmas tree pickups on Monday/Friday schedule through January 31. If you would like your tree removed, be sure to place your tree at the curb prior to 7 am on these designated days.
- Public Works Department will be performing roadside tree trimming in late January through February. Staff will trim limbs that extend into the street-right-of-way, removing and disposing of debris. Work will be completed as the weather permits.
Supervisor Smith asked residents to be cognizant of the trees and bushes on their property that intrude on sidewalks and keep them trimmed back for a clear walking path.

Emailed Public Comments:

None

In-Person Comments:

Resident John Dulcey requested a status update about the streetlight at the intersection of Keeler Road and Susan Drive. David Kraynik, Township Manager, noted the arm of the streetlight was moved and relocated and that the Public Works Committee has no plans for additional work at this time. Mr. Dulcey claimed the streetlight is not effective and the area is still as dark as previously referenced. Mr. Dulcey believes this situation is still a hazard, as it has not been properly addressed and asked the Board to act.

Chairman Wilson stated several Supervisors and staff have reviewed the area and did not see a problem. Supervisor Smith asked Mr. Dulcey to consider if the Township granted his request, it would open the Township up to additional street lighting requests. She reiterated that while the Township cannot grant his entire request, they have attempted to address his concern by offering additional lighting. Supervisor Warner offered comments on child safety at night. Mr. Dulcey felt the Board was deflecting. Supervisor Osei noted he appreciates his colleagues' regard for balancing the budget and defining priorities. He added the Township has made a commitment to improving pedestrian safety. He promised to visit the location and contact Mr. Dulcey to discuss other opportunities to address his concern.

Resident Joe Silverman applauded the exemplary work by the Public Works Department addressing the snow from the recent storms, then asked if the salt spreaders could be adjusted so that salt is not spread as far out as it is currently being distributed.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the January 6, 2025, Reorganization/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

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

Consider Approval of Decision & Order - 2060 Detwiler Road Conditional Use (Senior Day Care)

At the December 11th Meeting, a Conditional Use Hearing for a senior daycare center located at 2060 Detwiler Rd, was held. The Township Solicitor read the Conditional Use Order.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the Decision & Order for 2060 Detwiler Rd Conditional Use (Senior Day Care).

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 January Warrant list in the amount of \$1,771,114.83 was presented for approval. On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the warrant list.

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 January 16. Supervisor Smith summarized the Committee’s report, reviewing the following topics:

Weikel Road Project	Streetlight at Susan Drive & Keeler Road
Central Drive Storm Sewer Repairs	Restricting Truck Traffic on Old Forty Foot & Bustard
2025 Road Paving & ADA Ramp Project	Traffic Impact Fee Study
Green Lane Park Soccer Field	Speeding Concerns – Forty Foot Road
Welsh/Orvilla Road Intersection Improvement Project	Bull Pen Pavilion Roof Replacement
Forty Foot Road/Newbury Way/PSDC Traffic Signal	Kindle Dr & Amber Ln Storm Sewer Replacement
SR1001 (Allentown Road) PennDOT Safety Improvements	Truck Brake Retarder Prohibition
Comprehensive Plan Update	Tennis-Lukens Cemetery – Headstone Restoration
MS4 Permit Update	Grant Updates
Butch Clemens Park Pickleball Courts Concept Plan	Green Lane & Liberty Bell – Stop Sign Request

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 January 20th. Supervisor Warner provided the Committee's report, summarizing the following topics:

- December 2024 Financials
- Year-end
- 2024 Audit
- Capital Activity
- Close Inactive Bank Account

Presentation: Emergency Operations Plan Update

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety requires that each municipality provide an updated and accurate copy of their Emergency Operations Plan (“EOP”). The last Township plan update was 2018. Bill Oettinger, the Township’s Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator, presented an overview of the updated plan to the Supervisors. The Board posed questions and commended Mr. Oettinger’s efforts with the update.

Resolution 25-11: Promulgation of 2025 Emergency Operations Plan Update

By this action, the Board will formally approve the plan update, and Mr. Oettinger will forward copies to appropriate staff and external agencies as required.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved Resolution 25-11, Promulgation of 2025 Emergency Operations Plan Update.

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 Authorizing Advertising: Ordinance Adopting 2018 Edition of International Fire Code

The Township’s Fire Marshal has recommended the Township Code be updated to incorporate the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code. Currently, the Township Code references the 2000 edition. The Township Solicitor has drafted an ordinance 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; and collection of fees; and (2) amending Article IV [“Fire Code”] of the Township Code incorporating the 2018 edition and replacing the 2000 edition of the international fire code.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board authorized the advertising of a draft ordinance adopting the 2018 Edition of International Fire Code.

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 25-12: Sale of Spill Trailer

The Township purchased a spill trailer in 2019, donating it to the Fire Company for use in spill cleanups. The Fire Company noted over the last five years, the trailer was not used and returned it to the Township to sell. The Board asked how the fire company manages spills when they occur. Dave Kriebel, President of Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company, confirmed the Fire Company is capable of handling spills without the trailer, noting there have not been many and State resources are used along the Turnpike, with other contingencies in place for local roads.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved Resolution 25-12, Sale of Spill Trailer.

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

North Penn YMCA 2025 Camp Presentation

Bob Varga, Executive Director of the Lansdale Area Family YMCA, presented the YMCA's request to use Fischer's Park as a location for their 2025 summer camp, similar to its lease agreement with the Township in 2024. The Board asked how the camp went in 2024. The Board was open to the request and approved updating the lease agreement with the YMCA.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board approved the North Penn YMCA's 2025 summer camp request and updating the lease agreement with the YMCA.

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 Bull Pen Pavilion Roof Replacement Proposal

In 2024, the Bull Pen Pavilion roof was identified as needing a full replacement. This expense was accounted for in the 2025 capital budget. A proposal to remove the asphalt shingled roof, damaged plywood and supply and install new steel roofing material and accessories was received by Borowski Home Improvements, Inc. for \$22,900.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the Bull Pen Pavilion roof replacement 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

Presentation: Police Participation in the FBI's Cyber Task Force

Detective Chris Bluem's contribution on a cybercrime investigation that was turned over to the FBI earned him an invitation to join the FBI's Cyber Crime Task Force out of the Philadelphia Field Office. Appointments to a federal task force are not frequent and only occur after a local police officer works a case in conjunction with a federal agency in which they demonstrate top quality police work. This invitation provides an opportunity for the participating officer to work on criminal investigations at the federal level and provides federal resources otherwise not typically available to our police department.

Once his participation in the Task Force is approved, Detective Bluem will go through the federal clearance and approval process, following appointment to the task force. While on the task force, Detective Bluem will continue working here in Towamencin while also assisting the FBI with cyber-crime investigations. Detective Bluem and Chief Troxel presented. The Board commended Detective Bluem's achievement and resulting opportunity that will benefit the Department and Township.

Consider Approval of a Cyber Task Force Memorandum of Understanding with FBI

In conjunction with the previous item, the Board has been provided a draft Cyber Task Force Memorandum of Understanding between the FBI and Towamencin Township. Should changes be made to the document, it will come before the Board again for review.

On a motion by Supervisor Warner, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the Cyber Task Force Memorandum of Understanding with the FBI.

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 Authorization to Advertise Ordinance Prohibiting Brake Retarders on Valley Forge Road (between Sumneytown Pike & Whites Road)

The Township Solicitor has provided a draft ordinance proposing to amend Township code 147, Article I, Section 147-15.2(A) to add a brake retarder prohibition for the southbound direction of travel on Valley Forge Road, 390 feet north of Allentown Road to 65 feet before Sumneytown Road.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board authorized the advertising of the proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Brake Retarders on Valley Forge 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 Additional Fee: Construction Administration Services for Grist Mill Park Project

On November 13, the Board awarded a construction contract for Grist Mill Park Improvements Phase 1, along with a COSTARS purchased equipment/materials contract. Peter Simone, the project consultant, has requested an additional \$5,890 to account for additional construction administration services anticipated for the project.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Osei, the Board approved the additional fee for construction administration services for the Grist Mill Park 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

Authorization to Advertise: 2025 Road Paving Program

Bid documents are being prepared for a contract associated with the Township's annual repaving program. This year there are 12 roads scheduled for milling and paving. Bids are expected to be released in the spring with paving scheduled during the summer months to reduce conflicts with traffic and school buses. The curb ramps for these roads were upgraded in 2024. The budgeted amount for 2025 paving is \$875,000 in Liquid Fuel Funds and General Capital Funds. Roads scheduled for 2025 paving include: Mark Drive, Steven Lane, Oxford Road, Donna Place, Lisa Lane, Michael Way, Tyler Way, Detwiler Road, Gehman Road, Susan Drive, Tennis Way and Old Morris Road.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board authorized advertising the bid for the 2025 Road Paving Program.

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/Comments

Supervisor Osei acknowledged the Police Department for their efforts responding to a recent incident at Towamencin Condominiums. He reminded his colleagues that they all swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth, and referenced rights, due process, excessive bail, and all being innocent until proven guilty. He hopes when the Supervisors are speaking with their neighbors, they are taking their oaths seriously. Lastly, he made comments regarding Chairman Wilson's record as a Supervisor, specifically targeting past decisions, actions, and policies, including, budget requests not being met, not making commitments to improvement plans, questionable expenditures and no tax increases. He stated he would be embarrassed to be Chuck Wilson, with the length of his Supervisor tenure, having accomplishing nothing.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Director of Administration