



SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WORKSHOP & GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING – 9-21-2021

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

The Board of Supervisors of the Township of South Heidelberg met at the Municipal Building for the monthly workshop & general business meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Byrne at 9:00 AM, on September 21, 2021 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MEETING ATTENDEES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman, Thomas R. Byrne
Vice-Chairman, John N. Musante
Secretary, Tiffany L. Billingsley

TOWNSHIP STAFF & ADVISORS

Township Manager, Sean A. McKee
Police Chief, Leon J. Grim
Public Works Manager, Bill Lanza
Township Solicitor, Andrew George
Township Engineer, Gary Kraft

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Adams, District Attorney RE: SHPD Check. District Attorney John Adams was present to present a check to the South Heidelberg Township Police Department in the amount of \$15,126 to be used towards the recent purchase of AXIOM body cameras. District Attorney Adams commended the SHPD for their work in the communities they serve and praised the professionalism of the department. Mr. Byrne thanked Mr. Adams for the contribution and support provide by the District Attorney's office.

Dan Grabyill Jr, Berks Surveying & Engineering RE: Weaver Ace Hardware. Mr. Grabyill presented a plan and information relating to the property at 4610 Penn Avenue (next to Weaver Ace Hardware). Mr. Graybill stated the plan was to demolish the existing building and erect a storage facility related to the Weaver Ace Hardware in the area of the demolished building. Mr. Graybill stated he was requesting a waiver of land development. Township Engineer Gary Kraft stated that he would not recommend a full waiver of land development based on what is being proposed. Mr. Kraft stated that the interaction between the current Weaver Ace Hardware and the proposed building is a concern as there are items pertaining to the new building that need to be addressed as part of the land development process. Mr. Kraft also stated that based on the change of use of the existing building/site, a variance is required to permit the non-conforming front yard setback.

Kevin Treese – Public Works RE: Introduction to the Board. Public Works Manager Bill Lanza invited public works new hire Kevin Treese to the meeting. Mr. Lanza introduced Mr. Treese to the Board and stated that Mr. Treese has been a great addition to the public works group. Mr. McKee stated that Mr. Treese is in the process of obtaining his CDL license and has been doing an excellent job. The Board welcomed Mr. Treese to the team and wished him success moving forward.

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WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT/WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE

Western Berks Fire Commissioner Jared Renshaw and Western Berks Ambulance Director Anthony Tucci were present to review and discuss the financials of each organization and the request for additional tax dollars needed to fund each department.

Fire Commissioner Jared Renshaw stated that the Western Berks Fire Department has reviewed their current financials as well as the future needs of the department which will include renovations to the existing Wernersville Fire Station as well as fire vehicle purchases. Commissioner Renshaw stated that based on the review of these future needs that his department is requesting additional funding from each of the municipalities that are part of the Western Berks Regional Fire Department (South Heidelberg Township, Lower Heidelberg Township, Sinking Spring Borough & Wernersville Borough). Township Manager McKee asked Commissioner Renshaw the proposed costs of for the renovations and Commissioner Renshaw stated the final figures for the renovations are still being gathered. Mr. McKee also stated he had asked for several pieces of information relating to the financials of Western Berks Fire Department and Commissioner Renshaw stated he would get those to Mr. McKee and the Board. Mr. Byrne stated that based on the current conditions and pandemic impacts he was hesitant to raise any taxes. Mrs. Billingsley and Mr. Musante also expressed concerns over a tax increase. Mr. McKee asked what increase Commissioner Renshaw was requesting and if there have been any discussions on revisions to the agreements with the municipalities. Commissioner Renshaw stated the two funding scenarios discussed were to raise the total municipal contributions to either \$1.2 million or \$1.3 million. Commissioner Renshaw stated that revisions to the funding calculations have not been discussed. Mr. Byrne asked if the increases have been presented to the other municipalities and Commissioner Renshaw stated the increase has been discussed at the Western Berks Board of Trustees meeting which includes members from each municipality. Mr. McKee stated that he would review the information from Commissioner Renshaw and provide the Board with an analysis as part of the upcoming budget meeting in October.

Ambulance Director Anthony Tucci addressed the Board with a similar request to increase the funding to the Western Berks Ambulance Department. Director Tucci stated that several factors are impacting the ambulance department including losses from insurance payments. Director Tucci stated that insurance carrier payments to South Heidelberg residents that used the ambulance services were kept by those residents resulting in a loss of approximately \$13k. Mr. McKee asked if there is any legal action that can be taken regarding those monies and Director Tucci believed that there was no recourse. Director Tucci stated that insurance companies have been paying less for ambulance services resulting in \$50 less per trip paid which will result in approximately \$600k in losses. Director Tucci also stated that rising health insurance premiums which have gone up by 19% for the Ambulance department as well as fuel cost surges are other factors in the request for increase. Mr. McKee asked the amount of the increase the Ambulance Department was requesting. Director Tucci stated approximately \$12k. Mr. Byrne again expressed concern with raising taxes based on the pandemic impacts on citizens. Mr. McKee stated that ARPA funds could be used to provide the additional monies however those funds would only support one year and the following year the additional \$12k would be needed again. Mr. McKee stated he would review the information provided by Director Tucci and prepare an analysis for review by the Board at the budget workshop in October.

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

2022 Preliminary Budget. Mr. McKee stated he provided a high level draft of the 2022 Proposed General Fund Budget to the Board for review. Mr. McKee discussed revenue assumptions with the Board which included an increase in property taxes based on several projects completing in 2022. Mr. McKee also discussed expenditure assumptions which included additional infrastructure spending as well as addressing township parks and township owned buildings that are in need of repair and maintenance.

Mr. McKee reviewed significant capital expenditures which will includes replacement of the salt shed roof at \$45k, replacement of the police server at \$25k, a guiderail replacement at \$45k and approximately \$200k towards roadway and stormwater infrastructure improvements.

Lastly, Mr. McKee discussed two public works vehicles loans and the potential to payoff those loans early to free to debt. Mr. McKee stated that both loans could be paid off in 2021, which would free up monies to be used towards other purchases needed by the public works department.

Mr. McKee asked the Board if they had any questions. The Board had no questions. Mr. McKee stated that he would prepare the full 2022 proposed budget packet for the October workshop meeting.

See Click Fix Launch. Mr. McKee stated the See Click Fix system is no live to include the Community Connect app for IOS and Android. Mr. McKee stated the Township staff has been trained and the system will be promoted to citizens via the website, facebook and codered.

Emergency Dispatch Services. Mr. McKee stated that as part of the county dispatch services agreement a resolution would need to be adopted and provided that resolution to the Board. Mr. McKee stated the Board authorized the agreement at its last meeting but the resolution was also needed and would be on the general business meeting agenda.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

Incidents/Activity. Chief Grim referenced incidents of significance from his report.

Chief Grim asked for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Chief Grim asked the Board if there were any questions. No comment from the Board.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER REPORT

Point Road Underpass. Mr. Lanza discussed the project to address the Point Road railroad underpass and that his team would be working to secure the roadway and addressing the stormwater issues that have resulted in damage and erosion to that area.

Mr. Lanza asked the Board if there were any questions from his report. No comment from the Board.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT

2021 Road Projects Payment Application. Mr. Kraft stated he has reviewed a second and final payment application in the amount of \$327,560.54 relating to the 2021 Road Projects. Mr. Kraft stated he would recommend approval of that payment conditioned upon a correction of a manhole adjustment and receipt of the liquid fuels cost adjustment paperwork in the correct format.

Prime Wellness Phase 1 Land Development Escrow Release. Mr. Kraft stated he has reviewed a request to release the balance of escrow for the initial Prime Wellness project. Mr. Kraft stated the requested release is of the current balance of \$94,982.00 however the release would be subject to correction of two sinkholes identified during the site inspection.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT

Caron Foundation Building 6100 Escrow Release. Mr. Kraft stated he has reviewed a request for to release the balance of escrow relating to the Caron Foundation Building 6100 project. Mr. Kraft stated he would recommend the final release request in the amount of \$113,113.00.

Mavis Tire Land Development. Mr. Kraft stated that Mavis Tire has received zoning approval. Mr. Kraft stated that the next step is for Mavis to submit a revised plan set. Mr. Kraft stated an extension letter is expected from Mavis regarding the plan submission and the Board would take action regarding the extension request at its next meeting.

Mr. Kraft asked the Board if there were any questions from his report. No comment from the Board.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR REPORT

Joint Comprehensive Plan. Mr. George stated due to the request for population changes by Lower Heidelberg the hearings were not held in August. Mr. George stated South Heidelberg would hold it's public hearing at the Board's general business meeting next Tuesday. Mr. George stated that hearings for Wernersville Borough and Lower Heidelberg Township are also scheduled.

Wernersville CCC Zoning Hearing Update. Mr. George stated that Judge Rowley has issued an opinion and that his office is awaiting a briefing schedule and argument date from the Commonwealth court.

Child First Services Hearing Update. Mr. George stated arguments before Judge Rowley was held on September 15, 2021. Mr. George stated that the next step will be for the Judge to enter an order either denying or granting the appeal by Child First. Mr. George stated that depending on the outcome, either party can appeal to the Commonwealth Court.

Mr. George had nothing further to report. The Board had no questions.

RECREATION BOARD

Mrs. Billingsley stated the Recreation Board is planning Holiday events. Mr. McKee stated that the Board would also need to take action regarding designating Halloween Trick or Treat Night. Mr. McKee stated that Halloween occurs on Sunday October 31, 2021 and trick or treating is usually held between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to recess the meeting to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 11:15am was made by Mr. Byrne seconded Mr. Musante and carried unanimously by the Board.

RECONVENE

A motion to reconvene the meeting to at 11:56am was made by Mr. Musante seconded Mrs. Billingsley and carried unanimously by the Board.

Amendment to Notice of Administrative Charges. Mr. McKee stated that the Board would need to take action on authorizing and amendment to the notice of administrative charges.

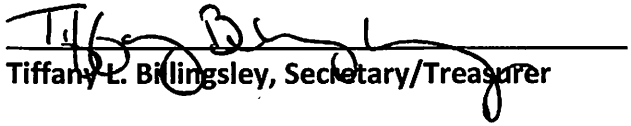
A motion was made by Mrs. Billingsley, seconded by Mr. Musante and carried unanimously by the Board to approve the issuance of a notice of intention to file amended administrative charges against former Corporal Jason Rimby.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Byrne, seconded by Mrs Billingsley to adjourn the meeting at 11:59am.


Tiffany L. Billingsley, Secretary/Treasurer