

TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15TH, 2024
6:03 PM

- 1) The meeting this evening is a regularly scheduled Public Meeting and is accessible in person subject to the occupancy limits of the Township facility.
- 2) The Board of Commissioners held a Workshop Meeting on April 01, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners and Other Officials

Ms. Barlamas, President - Present

Mrs. Mylan, Vice President - Absent

Mr. Angus, Commissioner - Present

Mr. Molchen, Commissioner - Present

Mrs. DeBona, Commissioner – Present

Ms. Shannon Steele, Solicitor- Present

Mr. Villella, Manager - Present

Mr. Dan Barna, HRG Engineering - Present

Ms. Kristen Vasilakis, HRG Engineering - Present

Residents in Attendance

Fabiola Gergerich – Woodland Road

John Krepps – Woodland Road

Mary Jane McAdams – Woodside Drive

Rosemary Shrum – Woodland Road

Keith Meyers – Woodland Road

Angela Meyers – Woodland Road

Heidi Bober – Sylvan Road

Denise Campbell – Sylvan Road

Jack Bedalota – Sylvan Road

Public Comment.

Manager Note: This Comment period is limited to Agenda Items only. All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.

Fabiola Gergerich – Asked for clarification of the following items:

1. Item #1 under New Business. President Barlamas answered her question. The TAN note Resolution was originally voted on in November, however, the DCED had a problem with the resolution so the resolution needed to be voted on again.

2. Item #1 under Personnel - Code Enforcement what is the reason for appointing a Health Officer? doesn't the County and State have a Health Officer that performs inspections? President Barlamas answered her question. The County does not have a health inspector, but the state does. But the state takes any ability from us to protect our businesses. Businesses follow the federal regulations but the state can trump those regulations. Bu obtaining our own Health Officer, if we see any violations we can take action and trump the state. We cannot trump the state without an ordinance. Our ordinance will be written following all the federal regulations but it will allow us to intervene if there is a problem. Fees which are now paid to the state will be paid to the township. The money collected will then be used to pay the inspector. The Health Officer/Inspector is an appointed position.

3. Item #2 under Personnel-Code Enforcement is the part time job with the Public Works Department only for Summer. How many hours and what is the pay rate? Township Manager answered her question. The position is for part-time Summer work, the hour is between 20 to 25 hours a week and the pay rate has not been agreed upon yet.

Angela Meyers – Asked about the temporary traffic light set up due to the Landslide. The light takes a very long time to turn green. Chief Villagomez answered her question. The light runs a 10 second cycle and it changes every 3.5 minutes. The problem seems to be occurring a night. He will get in touch with the company and share with them the resident's concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17th, 2024, as submitted.
 Voice Vote-Motion Carried
 Motion DeBona Second Angus

II. Approval of the following reports: The Township Manager is recommending the acceptance of the following Department Reports for the month of April/May 2024.

1. Road Department Report
2. Police Department Report
3. Sewage Department Report.
4. Tax Collector's Report as submitted May 2024.

Voice Vote – Motion Carried
 Motion Molchen Second DeBona

III. Approval of the Accounts Payable for the month of May 2024

A.) It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the May 2024 Accounts Payable in the total amount of \$211,414.55

General Fund	\$ 58,514.06
2018 GO Bond Principal and Interest U.S. Bank	\$ N/A
Health Insurance	* \$ 31,082.83
Developers Escrow Fund	\$ N/A
Liquid Fuels Ck. 742	\$ 5,142.75
Sewer Fund RUN 1896-1798	\$ 116,252.28

Police Pension Fund	\$ 422.63
2018 Capital Program Fund	\$ N/A
TOTAL	\$ 211,414.55

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Angus Second Debona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

IV. Consent Agenda

The matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of the Board of Commissioners, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

V. NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE

1. A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024 05 15 01 authorizing the application for the purpose of securing a 2024 Tax Anticipation from the First National Bank in the amount of \$200,000.00 and with a tax-free interest rate of 5.67% and will mature on December 31, 2024. The two (2) authorized loan signers will be Constance Barlamas, President Board of Commissioners and Robert Villella, Township Manager. The TAN will be repaid from the General Fund.

Motion DeBona Second Molchen

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

PERSONNEL - CODE ENFORCEMENT

1. A Motion authorizing the preparation of an Ordinance appointing a Health Officer or the duly authorized representative for the inspection of restaurants as defined by Ordinance, providing for definitions of facilities, persons, agents and utensils and other equipment during the preparation, serving or storage; to provide for permitting and fees to be established from time to time by the Board of Commissioners, to provide for the grading of restaurants permitted to operate, the display of such grade notice and the reinstatement of permits and regarding of a restaurant, providing measures for the detection of disease and infection when suspected, and violations and penalties for the violation of the Ordinance any provisions thereof. The Ordinance shall be enforced by the Township Health Officer in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of PA., the PA. Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Serve Safe certified guidelines or successor Certification, which shall be controlling in the event of conflict in interpretation. The Purpose of this Ordinance is to provide a clean and safe facility for the preparation and serving of food and drink and to provide all customers or patrons of the restaurant confidence in the processes in which food or drink shall be sold onsite or elsewhere.

Motion Molchen Second Angus

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

2. A Motion authorizing the advertisement of a Pt. time Public Works employee (summer help) with qualifications and job skills consistent with the performance of public works duties to be further defined, and to be able to drive a pickup truck with trailer, lawn mower operations, to lift at least 50lbs and other duties as determined.

Motion Molchen Second DeBona
Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. A Motion to ratify the submission of the FY25 Community Funding Project Request in the mount of \$750

,000.00 and a Local Match of \$150,000 being comprised of

\$116,000.00 and \$34,000.00 attributed to Local match amounts remaining from the ARPA County Grant awards. The Township Grant request was for restoration and Repair of the Woodland Road slide area.

Roll Call Vote-Motion Carried

Motion Molchen Second DeBona

Molchen Yes Mylan Absent Angus Yes Barlamas Yes DeBona Yes

VI. REPORTS

- A. Township Manager's Report. The Manager has submitted updates to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis from the last meeting.
 1. Columbia Gas has experienced problems on Sunset and Mayfield with their Contractor because their milling machine broke down. We are waiting to hear from their construction manager on their solution.
 2. The Township has been receiving phone calls from both residents inside Harmony and outside Harmony regarding the closure of Social Security office. It appears that this office is experiencing internal security issues and security phone issues. There is a phone number on the front door to call; however, due to high call volume it may take some time to get through.
 3. The Township received notice of the Valley Bridge Inspection report. The report has been forwarded to the Township Engineers to examine our options. Does the Township look for a long-term plan to restore the Bridge or do we simply apply for grants to replace the bridge.
 4. Work started on the Township Building Renovation. The project in in Phase One but is moving along quickly.
 5. Norfolk Southern Rail Pros has authorized the start update of June 3rd for the meter pit restoration project behind Speedway.
- B. Consulting Engineer's Report An Engineers Report for the month of April/May 2024 has been submitted.
 1. Geo Technical Engineer should have their report the week of May 22nd regarding the Woodland Road Landslide.
 2. April 29th HRG met with the Township Manager regarding submitting the Grant needed for Woodland Road Landslide. Update is pending on the application.
 3. April 26th HRG went to the (3) other Landslide sites; Forest Road, Valley Road and Ridge Road. Updates are pending on this visit.
 4. HRG spoke to the Township regarding updating the Township Ordinances involving subdivision/land development, storm water and zoning. This is a viable project for HRG and this issue can be discussed later if the Township is interested.
 5. HRG did receive the reports for the Valley Bridge Inspection and HRG will be reviewing the report. Also, there is an application open for the

PFA Multi-Mobile Transportation Grant this project may qualify for this Grant.

Dan Barna, HRG Engineer, mentioned that he had lunch with Congressman Deluzio and they discussed the Woodland Landslide. Congressman Deluzio said that he has 138 municipalities under his jurisdiction and that only 15 can be chosen to present to his Congressional Board for Grant approval. He emphasized that there are many applications to review and the process takes time.

Dan Barna, HRG Engineer, discussed the idea of getting a “Road Closed Ahead Sign” at the top of Kroker Street. This may be helpful to delivery drivers. Commissioner Molchen said that the sign may be more beneficial on Woodland Road.

The Township Manager mentioned the Disaster Recovery program that is available. Only Harmony Township and Hopewell Township qualify for this program. He has forwarded this information to both Township Engineering firms, HRG and LSSE, to create a cohesive grant application can be assembled for this program. Also, the DRAP Grant may be applicable to individual homeowners who were impacted by The storms of April 11th and 12th. A program will be in place to make the residents aware of the opportunities and proper agencies available to them regarding the storms impact on their properties.

- C. Solicitor’s Report. The Solicitor has entered her invoice for services and set forth the work performed for the Month of April/May 2024.**
 - 1. The Solicitor drafted the Document for the Declaration of Emergency.**
 - 2. The Solicitor will be drafting the Ordinance for the Health Officer.**
 - 3. Negotiations are still ongoing regarding the contract for the Public Works Department. Hopefully this issue will be resolved soon.**

- D. Public Works Department. Mike Thomas, Foreman, spoke regarding the following issues:**
 - 1. On May 16th the Public Works Department will be working on the access road: trying to make the road easier to drive upon.**
 - 2. There is a sink hole on Beaver Road that the Road Crew are handling.**
 - 3. Unfortunately, The Public Works Department has fallen behind due to The Landslide situation. They are working diligently to get caught up.**

- E. Police Department. Chief Villagomes spoke regarding the following issues:**
 - 1. The Chief thanked everyone involved regarding the Building Restoration Project. He is grateful that it has started.**
 - 2. On May 16th the Police Department will be working with the Public Works Department on the access road.**
 - 3. On May 15th there was a Police and Fireman Program at Highland Elementary School. Chief Villagomez, Officer Scheers and members of the VFD came to talk to the Children and answer any questions they might have. Gifts were handed out to the Children; (play handcuffs and fireman hats), everyone had a great time. The Police Department is planning to conduct more events involving the Highland Elementary School Children.**

VII. ELECTED OFFICIALS’ REPORT

1. Commissioner DeBona wondered if the Township has any updates regarding the tree that fell on the salt shed. The Township Manager said that he was contacted by the insurance company. The Township will be calling the company from which the salt shed was purchased per the Insurance Company to complete the claim. Also, she thanked Chief Villagomez and the entire Police Department for the programs they have developed for the children at Highland Elementary School. As a former teacher she knows how much children benefit from these programs. The Harmony VFD is currently holding their primary fundraiser and she urges residents to buy tickets and support the Harmony VFD.
2. Commissioner Angus thanked Chief Villagomez and the entire Police Department for bring back the programs involving the children and the Police Department.
3. Commissioner Molchen reiterated the sediment of Commissioner Angus. Chief Villagomez and the entire Police Department's involvement with the children is great for the community.
4. President Barlamas thanked everyone for their help and support.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Public is invited to comment on any item of interest. *Manager Note: All individual comments and dialogue are limited to 5 minutes.*

1. Denise Campbell – Complained that on the first day the access road was in service: she had a confrontation with a Township employee regarding who had the right of way on the road. She felt that this confrontation was rude and unacceptable. The working foreman stated that the incident as described did not occur and that Mrs. Campbell and her passenger was verbally aggressive. She feels that the access road is undriveable and why the Road Crew cannot work daily on the road. President Barlamas said that when the landslide occurred the Township had two choices: making the access road drivable or evacuating the residents which FEMA presently does not have any funds for Pennsylvanian residents. The Public Works Department worked around the clock in inclement weather to make the access road drivable. Presently the access road is the only viable solution the Township has. Regarding the malfunction of the traffic light, Officer Edgell said that he checks the light twice a day and they are working properly. The Light does not work properly if someone runs the red light. Commissioner Molchen also mentioned that speeding on the access road affects the access road's integrity. Mrs. Campbell asked if the road will be repaired before winter. The Commissioners do not have a timeline on the repair. There are many factors that need to take place such as the awarding of the grant and the Geo Technical report. Presently, the repair cost keeps increasing and the number is now at \$750,000.00. Also, residents who do not comply and decide to drive on the closed road is detrimentally causing integral damage to the road. The Township now has jersey barriers in place because a resident decided not to follow the rules.
2. Angela Meyers – Thanked the Township, Police Department and the Public Works Department for all their efforts during this Road Emergency. Mrs. Meyers has encountered problems with the traffic signal but she understands that the Police Department is doing their best to keep the access road safe. This entire situation is a work in progress, and she realizes

that the repair to the road is not simple.

3. **Jack Bedalota** – Questioned why the Engineers applied for a loan for the Township? President Barlamas clarified that it was not a loan but they Helped to create the grant application for money needed to repair Woodland Road. This application was submitted to Congressman Deluzio’s office. Also, Mr. Bedalota thought that agendas would be available to residents before they enter the meeting room. The Township Manager apologized to Mr. Bedalota he was not aware he would be attending the meeting and in the future agendas will be available.
4. **Fabiola Gergerich** – Regarding access roads. If another disaster emergency occurs are their other access roads available and is there a plan to repair the other (3) compromised roads. At this point the Commissioners focus is on completing the repair on Woodland Road. After Woodland Road is repaired then the focus will switch to repairing the other (3) compromised roads and finding viable alternative access roads. President Barlamas feels that Ridge Road is the next road that needs repaired. The Road is slowly sliding onto the road underneath which is compromising the homes which are located there. Originally the estimated cost to repair Ridge Road was a million plus. That number has drastically increased. The next workshop meeting of the Board will be entirely on the discussing the roads.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners is as follows:

Workshop Meeting: June 5th, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Regular Meeting: June 19th, 2024 @ 6:00PM

Township Offices closed Memorial Day Holiday; Monday, May 27th, 2024.

Have a Great Holiday!

School will be out soon. Please watch for children playing.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Motion Molchen Second DeBona Time of Adjournment: 6:51PM