

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for February 2022 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Areman, Pransky, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Danielle Pearson, Assistant Director of Fiscal Affairs; Kelly Rebitz, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; John Slavin, Acting Chief of Police; and Lauren Walter, Special Projects Coordinator.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:53 p.m.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of January 2022:

A. Property Maintenance Supervisor

B. Public Information Officer

- Update on website upgrade: Ms. Walter announced that the initial facelift on the website has been made live. She encouraged members of the public, staff and boards/committees to complete the survey if they have not already. It will close on Monday, February 14, at which point Municipal One will compile the data and submit a plan by late February, early March that will be presented to the Committee. Upgrades will take six to eight weeks to implement, once it is approved. Ms. Rappoport asked if the survey has been up long enough. Mr. Pransky said he thought it was enough time and that people who have an interest in the website will have responded fairly quickly.
- Ms. Rappoport asked about the decisions behind how various types of information are promoted. Ms. Walter explained nuances of the use of different output channels and said that she does want to restyle the report that she inherited when she has a chance.
- Ms. Walter noted that Municipal Engage launched this week, which allows the Township issue a mass email notification at any time during the day, in addition to the one daily 5:30 p.m. e-blast. Ms. Rappoport noted that the Municipal Engage email did not look like the Township's standard email and asked whether that needed to be addressed. Ms. Walter will work with Municipal One to see if the sender of the email can be renamed or is static, and she will also continue to get the word out about this new communication tool.

C. Director of Parks and Recreation

- 2022 TrailFest: Greta Bunin, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), provided an update on planning for the EAC's 2022 TrailFest. The event will take place on Sunday, April 24 between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and be held on the Tookany Creek Trail. This event coincides with Earth Day weekend. The EAC is coordinating with the Police Department to combine this event with the Police Department's Bike Rodeo, and also to close Tookany Creek Parkway. A rain date will likely be the following Sunday. The purpose is to get people outside to enjoy the Township's parks and trails, and raise awareness about bike safety, trails, and other environmental issues. They are planning a cleanup and potentially a bird walk through partnership with Audubon Wyncote. Acting Chief Slavin said he thinks the collaboration of the Bike Rodeo with TrailFest is a good fit.
- Ms. Rebitz provided an update on Parks and Recreation events. She is working with the Concert Committee to plan this year's concert series, which will run live and be live-streamed. Planning has begun for pool season. She is communicating with past pool staff and looking for water safety instructors so the Township can offer swim lessons this year. The swim teams will also be running this year. Mr. Brockington asked whether the School District will be running its lifeguard course. Ms. Rebitz is reaching out to them regarding this. She is also working with one of the Township's pool staff to see if he could run a lifeguard certification course; he is certified to teach through the American Red Cross. Planning is also ongoing for Arbor Day and TrailFest events in April.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the above reports.

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
  - A. Historical Commission – January 13, 2022
  - B. Twinning Committee – No January Meeting.
  - C. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – January 18, 2022
    - Mr. Areman commended the Economic Development Task Force on their Business Spotlight videos to get the word out on our local businesses. Ms. Rappoport asked everyone to share the videos, which are posted on the Township’s YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/CheltenhamTownship7](http://www.youtube.com/CheltenhamTownship7) (*subscribe to the channel to receive the latest updates on Township meetings, Business Spotlights, and other videos*).
  - D. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – No January Meeting.
  - E. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – No January Meeting

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Committee Meeting Minutes listed above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2022

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the staff meeting minutes as stated above.

4. New Business
  - A. Consider authorizing the submission of grant applications under the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Ms. Elliott said the Township was approached by its Traffic Engineer late last week about this grant program that is usually focused at the county level, but has been released statewide. Mr. Stuckert said the funding source is gaming revenues generated pursuant to the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (2004-71). The grant, which is due March 15, is up to \$1M without a match, and there does not seem to be a limit on how many applications an applicant can submit. Due to the quick turnaround time, staff decided to focus on projects close to that \$1M value that the Township has already been working on. In addition, they wanted to spread the money around to different types of projects.

Mr. Stuckert said he is proposing to utilize this money to run fiber optic line to all the traffic signal cabinets along Old York Road. If successful, this will set the stage for discussions with PennDOT to upgrade the traffic signal monitoring system, which was discussed at last week’s Public Works Committee meeting with respect to the Township Line and Old York Road intersection. There is also the possibility of adding some cameras to allow police to monitor some of the more dangerous intersections along the Old York Road corridor.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked if all four items will be submitted as one grant or as separate grants and whether the \$1M cap is for all four grants total, or individually. Ms. Elliott said all four projects will be submitted separately and the maximum ask for each grant is \$1M. She said all four projects will be close to that number. Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked whether the Township is prohibited from soliciting funds from other sources if these grants are submitted. Ms. Elliott said other funding sources can be used as matches and no funding source is guaranteed. Ms. Rappoport asked about timing for this grant. Ms. Elliott said she is not sure when an award will be made, but it is usually three to six months following submission.

Public Comment:

*Robert Hyslop, 211 Harrison Avenue*, thanked the Township for its commitment to continue with the DEP Flood Control Project, even though it is a long, slow process. Mr. Areman thanked Mr. Hyslop for his compliment and said that the Township has been meeting monthly with the United States Army Corps and recently met with DEP to keep these projects moving.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of grant applications under the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the following projects:

- Replacement of the Glenside Avenue Bridge over Shady Nook
- Purchase of new Vector and Camera Trucks
- Purchase of three properties for the Glenside Avenue Flood Control Project
- Fiber Optic Upgrade for Old York Road Traffic Signals

5. Old Business

- A. Consideration of Ordinance prohibiting the feeding of feral or stray cats was tabled indefinitely.

6. Announcements

- A. Mr. Areman asked for a status on the Township's phone system and when it is anticipated that it will be back up. Mr. Zienkowski said the part was supposed to arrive today and the team will work on installing it tonight, with hopes of being back up tomorrow. Mr. Pransky asked if there is an active service contract on the phone system; Mr. Zienkowski said there is not. Mr. Zienkowski said the best way to reach the Township is via email and/or stop into the Township.
- B. Ms. Rappoport announced that the Cheltenham NAACP held a panel discussion on January 27 on Critical Race Theory, which was recorded, if any wants to listen.
- C. Ms. Rappoport said she recently participated in a panel for Cheltenham High School students who were focused on the Township's facilities problems. She thanked Allen Brown for his cooperation. The students identified certain needs in the community, including: a walkable daycare center, a movie theater, a food arcade, and entertainment for Arcadia students.
- D. The Historical Commission will have a program in honor of Black History month on February 10. Dr. Cheryl Renee Gooch will present "Patriotism and Our Shared History," speaking about the more than 200,000 United States Colored Troops who contributed to re-unifying our country.

7. Citizens' Forum – None.

8. There being no further business, upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager