

REVISED MINUTES

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for August 2021 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Pransky, Areman, 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; Brian Hinson, Director of Park and Recreation.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:29 p.m.

Ms. Rappoport read a statement about the loss of one of Cheltenham's school and community leaders Brian Malloy. Mr. Malloy was a founder and advocate for Cheltenham Pickleball.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of July 2021:
 - a. Property Maintenance Supervisor – Ms. Rappoport thanked Allen Brown on behalf of the Board of Commissioners for all the work he has been doing for the Township.
 - b. Public Information Officer – Ms. Rappoport extended her congratulations to Lauren Cartlidge on her marriage.
 - c. Director of Parks and Recreation – Mr. Hinson said everything is running well with the pools as pool season starts winding down. They are still fully staffed, but some staff members will be leaving for school in the next few weeks so some scheduling adjustments will be made to keep the pools open and staffed until Labor Day.

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously received the above reports.

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Historical Commission – No July Meeting
 - b. Twinning Committee – No July Meeting
 - c. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – July 20, 2021
 - d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – No July Meeting
 - e. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – July 6, 2021

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the meeting minutes as stated above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2021 and July 21, 2021

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

4. Report of the Cheltenham Center for the Arts (CCA)s: Margaret Griffen, Executive Director
Ms. Griffen read a statement on the "State of the Center," discussing the changes made at the Center in 2020 and 2021 to adapt to the changing conditions of the pandemic, while still providing valuable services to the community. She noted that the pandemic has impacted CCA's income. Summer camp in 2019 brought in \$88,000, but \$23,000 in 2020. In 2021, summer camp income rebounded to \$67,000. In general, programs experienced a 50% loss of income, but things are a bit improved in 2021. CCA is planning as though there will be a fall season of classes and events, but it will be ready to adjust if necessary.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt congratulated Ms. Griffen for CCA's recovery so far. He asked if there are any issues with the condition of the building. She said that while the building is not in imminent danger, it is an old building and there is concern about its condition.

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Cheltenham Center for the Arts.

5. Report of the Township Manager – None.
6. New Business
 - a. Discussion and possible recommendation for approval to implement a new Township Health Insurance Program starting January 1, 2022.

Mr. Zienkowski noted that one of the biggest expenses the Township has outside of payroll is health insurance and it is incumbent upon the Township to periodically review expenses and offerings to ensure it is providing the best service it can to its employees while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. It is anticipated that this new program will save the Township money, but actual savings will not be known until after the first year. All three collective bargaining units guarantee their members certain coverages, but do not prohibit from changing carriers as long as the coverage remains the same. Mr. Zienkowski recommends switching from Aetna, managed by Delaware Valley Trusts (DVT), to Independence Blue Cross/Blue Shield managed by Benecon.

Chris Whitney of villaNOVA Insurance Partners, the company that managed the proposal and review process, provided additional background on the program and answered questions of employees and retirees at the meeting. He said a Request for Proposals was distributed and several responses were received. The Township's current provider, DVT, was also encouraged to provide a response. The new Health Insurance program through villaNOVA Insurance Partners and Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) will be administered by The Benecon Group and Independence Blue Cross will serve as the Third Party Administrator (TPA) providing employees access to the Independence Blue Cross network of providers. The coverage will be the same or better as the current coverage in the transition to the new program. There will be no loss or reduction in coverage. Following approval by the Board of Commissioners, notice will be provided to employees, retirees and their family members. They will hold information sessions and help them work through the transition.

Mr. Zienkowski said approximately 20 percent of the Township employee's use DVT's health clinic as their primary doctor with a zero dollar copay and zero cost prescriptions. He said a similar service will be provided in a location closer to the Township.

Employees and retirees participated in a question and answer session regarding the proposed health insurance program.

- Employees and their family members will not be subject to a mandatory health screening prior to insuring; pre-existing conditions will be covered.
- The new program will match all the items provided in the Township's current program. Any changes in coverage or costs to the Township will be negotiated through the collective bargaining agreements, which are under negotiation this year.
- Employees with Preferred Provider Organization plans (PPOs) will continue to have a PPO. All employees on the Health Maintenance Organization plan (HMO) will move to an Exclusive Provider Organization plan (EPO), which is an upgrade from the current plan.
- Retiree plans will not change.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Holland, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve implementation of a new Health Insurance Program through villaNOVA Insurance Partners and Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative, administered by The Benecon Group with Independence Blue Cross serving as third party administrator to provide employees access to the Independence Blue Cross network of providers with the same or better as current coverage in the new program.

b. Consideration of a Website Upgrade.

Mr. Pransky said he, Mr. Zygmund-Felt and staff spent a great deal of time reviewing a number of vendors to upgrade the look and function of the Township's website. He explained that the first phase will upgrade the look of the website and can be done quickly. The second phase will take a bit longer and will work on condensing, updating and reorganizing the information on the site.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt said this will help us improve our ability to communicate with the community.

Mr. Norris said updating and improving the website has been talked about for a long time and thanked Mr. Pransky for his work on this project.

~~Ms. Rappoport suggested having separate storage for retaining information from the Township website so that people can access that information at any time. asked that the website continue to serve as a repository for Township information.~~ Ms. Elliott said information on the website will be reviewed to ensure it is timely and relevant. Information and materials that are not will be removed and/or updated to minimize confusion. Special attention will be paid to ensure that reference materials are retained.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a website upgrade through Municipal One CMS in two phases, at the cost of \$12,500, with an annual hosting fee of \$3,400 and an annual fee of \$3,000 for Municipal Engage, an on demand mass notification text and email subscription service.

7. Old Business

- a. Mr. Zienkowski said he and staff have developed a list of projects for a grant program through Communities that Care and will send it to them. This grant will provide funding for lighting, landscaping and other improvements to increase safety in the Township's recreation areas.

8. Announcements – None.

9. Citizens' Forum – None.

10. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager