

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** for January 2021 was held this evening via web-conference, Chairman Mitchell Zygmund-Felt presiding. Members present were Commissioners Areman, Brockington, Holland, Pransky, and Rappoport. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were Christopher Clewell, Public Works Superintendent; Michael Fleming, Public Works Coordinator; Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning and Zoning; Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Roger Phillips, Interim Township Engineer, Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; and Robert Zienkowski, Township Manager. Also present via web-conference was Joseph M. Bagley, Esq., Township Solicitor.

Mr. Bagley announced that the Board met in an executive session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss personnel and information and strategy session related to collective bargaining agreements.

Board President Daniel Norris stated on behalf of his fellow Commissioners and Township staff, that they condemn the disgraceful and criminal activity by a mob of rioters in Washington, D.C. regarding the despicable acts at the Capitol building. The Township supports peaceful protests and will continue to show everyday how to act responsibly in our daily lives and in our governing.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

1. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- A. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the December 2020 Report of the Highway Department.
- B. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the November 2020 Report of the Refuse and Recycling Department.
- C. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the December 2020 Report of the Parks Maintenance Department.
- D. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the December 2020 Report of the Code Administrator.
- E. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the December 2020 Report of the Street & Traffic Light Superintendent.
- F. The December 10, 2020 meeting of Shade Tree Advisory Commission was cancelled.
- G. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the December 21, 2020 Environmental Advisory Council Meeting.
- H. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the December 17, 2020 La Mott Board of Historical & Architectural Review.

Certificate of Appropriateness Application L20-260 of Joyce Werkman, co-applicant and owner, and Carmen G. Reitano, co-applicant, for the demolition and removal of an existing two-story vacant, uninhabitable residence on the property located at 7320 Sycamore Avenue, La Mott, PA 19027.

Darlene Melton, Vice Chair of La Mott BHAR, added a comment to make sure that all procedures are followed through for this property before demolition, because there are other buildings in the historic district that are in worse condition. She also wanted to make sure the plans submitted to the Board reflected only the property in question. Mr. Sekawungu responded that the applicant submitted information about the condition of the property, and as required by ordinance, the building inspector and the Fire Marshal performed an inspection to confirm the condition of the building. Part of the submission will go through the Historic Commission for input as well, and information submitted will be reported to the Pennsylvania Historic Museum, as required by the ordinance.

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously concurred with the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for application L20-260 of Joyce Werkman, co-applicant and owner, and Carmen G. Reitano, co-applicant, for the demolition and removal of an existing two-story vacant, uninhabitable residence on the property located at 7320 Sycamore Avenue, La Mott, PA 19027.

- I. The December 17, 2020 meeting of the Wyncote Board of Historical & Architectural Review was cancelled.

2. REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Roger Phillips, Interim Township Engineer, introduced himself and let the Commissioners know that he is working with Mr. Sekawungu on the upcoming Wawa project and will be looking through the ongoing investigation regarding Boucher & James. Mr. Zienkowski commented that Mr. Phillips will also be working with Mr. Clewell. Mr. Clewell responded that it is important to be involved in the upcoming projects and he looks forward to working with the Interim Township Engineer.

3. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- A. Update on Deer Management Program: Mr. Clewell stated that an increased number of deer were culled at various approved locations throughout the Township.
- B. Update on the Fall Leaf Collection Program: Mr. Clewell provided an update. He explained that some of the trucks used for leaf pick up are also used for the equipment needed for certain trucks to be used for salt and others to be used for leaf pick-up, so delays were caused when crews had to switch from leaf collection to salting during winter storm events. Most routes have been completed and will continue to do the best they can to collect the remaining leaves, weather-permitting.

4. REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

- A. Discussion on Road Salt Equipment:

Mr. Clewell expressed the struggles faced by Public Works in acknowledging the Township's financial situation, but to increase salting efficiency, he proposed the purchase of an additional Salt Box Spreader.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of a V Box Spreader from Levan Machine & Truck Equipment in the amount of \$7,359.00.

- B. Discussion on new Township Park Signs.

Mr. Hinson explained the proposed design for new park signs throughout the Township. Mr. Hinson explained that thirty (30) signs will need to be replaced as part of this project to improve the parks throughout the Township.

Ms. Rappoport asked if there is a cheaper alternative, to which Mr. Hinson responded that Treasure Signs, the company who provided the proposed design, is willing to work with the Township to provide signs that fit the Townships needs. Mr. Norris suggested that additional sign designs be presented to the Board so a comparison between cost and design can be made.

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to table the discussion of the new Township Park Signs for the next Public Works Committee meeting for the opportunity to discuss other comparable options.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Areman expressed concern about changes made to the Limekiln SEPTA Bridge Project and wanted to talk about the communication of the changes.

Mr. Winston Yen, Engineer for PennDOT, stated that the proposed project began in May 2020, and the initial date for completion was September 2021; however, due to utility delay, the completion date changed to December 2021. Mr. Yen also stated the original bridge closure and detour plan was to close the bridge weeknights between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., but now weekend closures are proposed. The reason for changes is due to limited hours provided by SEPTA.

Mr. Areman expressed his disappointment of the new closures, explaining that daytime closures are disruptive to residents and that he was assured in February 2020 that they would not happen. Mr. Areman further expressed concern because the Township was not contacted directly, but learned of these changes to the project through the media. Mr. Areman and Mr. Zygmund-Felt clarified the expectation that going forward, any changes made on projects in the Township should be communicated directly and effectively so the Township is able to inform the residents, and conduct traffic management or necessary public safety measures.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked if there is a schedule in place for this project so that all issues can be taken care of and communicated to everyone that may be affected. Mr. Zienkowski responded that at the expense of PennDOT, special detail should be implemented by the Cheltenham Police Department to help prevent problems with the closure and detour.

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted not to accept the proposed work schedule until there is a comprehensive plan from PennDOT and Baker International providing a clear track for the Township to communicate with the business and adjust to the traffic patterns from a public safety standpoint.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of a one-year extension of the five-year time frame to complete improvements outlined in the Land Development and Financial Security Agreement for Westminster Theological Seminary, 2960 West Church Road, Glenside, dated July 17, 2019, following the March 15, 2019 Preliminary/Final Land Development approval due to complications of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners grant a one-year extension of the five-year time frame to complete improvements outlined in the Land Development and Financial Security Agreement for Westminster Theological Seminary, 2960 West Church Road, Glenside, dated July 17, 2019, following the March 15, 2019 Preliminary/Final Land Development approval due to complications of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- B. Consider recommending the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of a new bucket truck for the Traffic Signal and Street Light Superintendent from Altec Industries, Inc. through CoStars in an amount not to exceed \$148,554.

Mr. Stuckert explained that the current truck has significant operating hours on it because it needs to idle while he works. In addition, the bucket is not insulated, which creates a safety hazard for him.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase a new bucket truck for the Traffic Signal and street Light Superintendent from Altec Industries, Inc. through CoStars in an amount not to exceed \$148,554.

7. CITIZENS' FORUM: None
8. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.



Robert A. Zienkowski
Township Manager

Submitted by: Ariel Sykes