

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** for March 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; Roger Phillips, Interim Township Engineer, Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manger; 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 matters and matters that which if discussed in public would violate a lawful privilege.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

1. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- A. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously accepted the February 2021 Report of Highway Department.
- B. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously accepted the January 2020 Report of the Refuse and Recycling Department.
- C. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously accepted the February 2021 Report of the Parks Maintenance Department.
- D. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously accepted the February 2021 Report of the Code Administrator.
- E. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously accepted the February 2021 Report of the Street & Traffic Light Superintendent.
- F. The February 11, 2021 Shade Tree Advisory Commission meeting was canceled.
- G. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the February 8, 2021 Environmental Advisory Council Meeting.
- H. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the February 18, 2021 La Mott Board of Historical & Architectural Review.
- I. Wyncote Board of Historical & Architectural Review- February 18, 2021.
 1. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously concurred with the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for application W21-256 of Charley Debow and Aimee Latta for the replacement of the existing slate colored shingle roof with Tamko Heritage Virginia slate, and a new Velux Skylight on the property located at 124 Webster Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095.
 2. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously concurred with the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for application W21-257 of Richard Clarey for the installation of a 50% open Victorian Style four (4) foot high cedar fence with access gates, so as to effectively enclose the front yard.
 3. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously concurred with the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for application W21-258 of Ken Lovett for the installation of the dog run fencing adjacent to the house on the side and rear of the property located at 7 Walt Lane, Wyncote, PA 19095.

2. REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER – None.

3. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – None.

4. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

- A. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the emergency repairs to the Highway Street Sweeper in the amount of \$5,059.95.

- B. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the emergency purchase order for magnesium tanks for the Public Works yard in the amount of \$4,456.98.
- C. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the emergency purchase of salt from Mossi Construction Inc. in the amount of \$6,500.
- D. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the emergency purchase order for the emergency hauling of salt to Giuliani Contractors in the amount of \$3,015.00.
- E. Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved the emergency purchase order for emergency assistance with snow plowing Township streets to Leary Paving in the amount of \$4,200.00.

5. REPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

A. Discussion on Ashbourne Meadows Park

Mr. Zienkowski discussed the bridges that were proposed to be removed by the developer as part of the Ashbourne Meadows development. He said he would like to try and keep the bridges that are in good condition. The cost savings from not removing these bridges could go towards the restoration of the bridges. A study will be conducted to see if the bridges are sustainable.

Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously approved Gannett Fleming to complete a study on the condition of the existing bridges at Ashbourne Meadows Park.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Presentation from Springfield Township on their request for Cheltenham Township to revisit their proposed traffic signal at Church Road and Willow Grove Avenue.

Mike Taylor, *Springfield Township Manager*, began the discussion of the proposed traffic signal at Church Road and its impact on the residents on Sandy Hill Road and Shepherds Way, which includes the amount of traffic. Springfield Township has made a request to Cheltenham Township to modify the traffic signal at Church Road and Willow Grove Avenue to limit the direction of traffic.

Eddie Graham, *Springfield Township Commissioner*, opened the discussion up to concerned Springfield Township residents that have been impacted on Sandy Hill Road and Shepherds Way:

Janeen Crawford, 711 Sandy Hill Road, expressed concerns about traffic accidents, speeding, and safety in the neighborhood and the modified traffic signal would be a tremendous help to the community.

Liz Buchmann, 709 Sandy Hill Road, also expressed her concerns for safety.

Mr. Graham said he believes the modified traffic signal would be beneficial for both Springfield Township and Cheltenham Township and asked that the Board review and reconsider the traffic study.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt understood the concerns and wanted Mr. Graham to know that the Township will review the study again and will be in contact with him for continued discussion and a possible resolution.

- B. **Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners authorize the Township to enter into a settlement agreement in principal with Mr. David Bernstein to settle the partial condemnation at 222 East Church Road for a cost not to exceed \$43,381 and the waiver of

application fees to the Board for lot line change plans to be submitted by the Condemnee and to authorize Mr. Zienkowski to execute same.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ms. Elliott reported that the request by the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership to waive earth disturbance permit fees for a residential rain garden project located at 8300-8304 Jenkintown Road, Elkins Park was withdrawn.
- B. Ms. Elliott explained that the partnership of municipalities in the Wissahickon Watershed have developed a draft Water Quality Improvement Plan and submitted it to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for review and comment. It is likely the plan will not be approved before the expiration of the existing Intergovernmental Agreement, so an extension has been requested from participating entities. No additional financial support is being requested at this time.

Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution extending the 2018/2019 Intergovernmental Agreement with other Montgomery and Philadelphia County Municipalities and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators to complete a Water Quality Improvement Plan as an alternative to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed until either 90 days after final approval of a TMDL Alternative or on December 31, 2022, if no such approval has been received by that date.

- C. Ms. Elliott provide a summary of the project, saying that PennDOT review of the plans has been delayed, but final revisions are being made to the plans and it should be ready to go out to bid by late March, early April.

Ms. Rappoport asked that consideration be given to ensure that this project not interfere with the bridge replacement project on Rices Mill Road, scheduled to being late 2021, early 2022.

Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners authorize the solicitation of bids through PennBid for the Glenside Avenue/Rices Mill Road Pedestrian Improvement Project.

- D. Mr. Stuckert provided an overview on the project to optimize traffic signal timing on State Route 309. The TE-160 form is a requirement to make changes to the timing.

Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution authorizing the Township Manager to execute and submit an "Application for Traffic Signal Approval" (PennDOT Form TE-160) to optimize traffic signal timing on State Route 309 and agreeing to the conditions outlined in the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement and future modifications thereto.

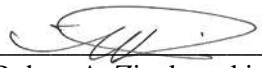
- E. Ms. Elliott explained that the garden stairs in the ceremony area at Curtis Arboretum are in need of rehabilitation to ensure they can continue to operate safely during the events at Curtis. This grant will help offset the cost of the work that has been budgeted. Quotes for the work have been delayed due to weather, but estimates were provided based on the cost of the garden stair reconstruction in 2017.

Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners authorize submission of a grant under the MontCo 2040 Implementation Program for the rehabilitation of the garden stairs at Curtis Arboretum.

- F. **Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution recognizing the month of April 2021 as Safe Digging Month.
- G. Mr. Bagley spoke on the Attorney General's prosecution of former Township Engineer Mark Eisold and his affiliation with Boucher & James, Inc. fictionalizing hours in Township bills and doing the same with other municipalities. The Township would like to file a suit against Boucher & James, Inc. to recover the monies that were lost. Mr. Areman suggested that the suit should also include "and any other appropriate parties" to avoid any further recommendations to the Board.

Recommendation of the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Commissioners authorize the filing of a suit against Boucher & James, Inc. and any other appropriate parties.

8. CITIZENS' FORUM – None.
9. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Robert A. Zienkowski
Township Manager

Submitted by: Ariel Sykes