

May 20, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M.

The Township Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on the above date and time at 97 Wanamaker Avenue, Essington, PA 19029 with Patrick McCarthy, Board President, presiding. Present:

- Patrick Barr, Vice President
- Dennis Arthur, Commissioner
- Lisa Edmiston, Commissioner
- David D. Schreiber, Manager
- Sam Auslander, Esq., Solicitor
- Dennis O'Neill, P.E. Engineer

Commissioner Roger Joseph was absent from this meeting.

Mr. McCarthy called the meeting to order and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Prior to the commencing with the regular agenda items, Commissioner McCarthy introduced Mr. Patrick Quinn who announced the winners of the Tinicum School's 6th, 7th, and 8th grades Memorial Day Essay contest. The three winning students read their essays describing what Memorial Day means to them aloud to the meeting attendees. The winners included Donte Morales, Kyleigh Sloan, and McKayla Laurie. Each of them was presented with a small gift from the Board of Commissioners.

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ON A MOTION by Lisa Edmiston and second by Patrick Barr, the minutes of the April 2024 Monthly Commissioners Meeting were accepted and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Board President McCarthy reported that all members had received copies of the Treasurer's and Secretary's Report of Receipts. There being no questions;

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Lisa Edmiston, the reports were accepted and approved as submitted by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. McCarthy reported that the bill list for May 2024 will be distributed to all members at the end of the month. There being no questions;

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Lisa Edmiston, the bill list will be paid for the month of May 2024 by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Zurdi Dobi, 200 Powhattan Ave, Regarding Item # 7, Summer Seasonal Employees, asked why there were more hired this year than recently. The Board responded that there were either no applicants or only 1 applicant in the past couple of years. Asked for a status of the Township’s audit, the Lutheran church deed, pending litigation and if there was any new litigation received this month. Asked the Township Engineer for an update of the monthly airport meeting and the proposed library grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION, LAW, ORDINANCE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND FINANCE – Patrick K. McCarthy Chairman

Summer Seasonal Employees

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Lisa Edmiston the Board voted via unanimous roll call vote to hire the following Summer Seasonal personnel and Police Department Turn Key at a rate of \$17/hour: Summer Personnel John Lynch, Nicholas Rivera, Zac Clarke, Gabriel Rivera, Gavin Walls. Turn Key Lewis Epright

Bids for 2024 Street Repaving Project

PRIOR TO voting on this item, the Township Engineer commented that the estimated value of the project is approximately \$300,000.

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Lisa Edmiston the Board voted via unanimous roll call vote to instruct the Township Engineer to recommend specific streets or roads to include in the Township’s 2024 street repaving project and to prepare specifications, bid packages, and advertisement for said project. Potential streets may include:

- Saude Avenue from Front St. to 2nd St.
- Jansen Avenue Alley in the 600 Block
- Seneca Street from Jansen Avenue to Tinicum School
- Pontiac Street from 2nd Ave. to 3rd Ave.

Commissioner McCarthy asked that the 500 block of Jansen Avenue Alley be considered.

Draft Revised Inoperative / Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance

PRIOR TO voting on this item, Solicitor Auslander stated that the Chapters noted in the motion contain some redundancies and inconsistencies and the proposed ordinance will consolidate the requirements.

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Lisa Edmiston the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to instruct the Township Solicitor to draft and advertise amendments to Chapters 358 and 367 of the Township Code governing abandoned, junked, inoperable or unregistered vehicles on private property or public streets.

Repairs to Township Marina

ON A MOTION by Patrick Barr and second by Lisa Edmiston the Board voted unanimously via roll call vote to instruct the Township Engineer to draft a Request for Proposal for repairs to the Township owned marina to include repairs to the pilings, ramps, and finger docks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Code Enforcement Report – Roger Joseph, Chairman

April 2024 - The Code Enforcement Officer Issued:

59 Certificates of Occupancies for a total of \$ 8,600

17 Building Permits for a total of \$ 191,277

Police, Fire, and Buildings: Patrick K. McCarthy, Chairman

Police Report: April 2024

Township Fines: **\$ 8,630** Of that amount, a total of **\$ 3,954** were Parking Tickets.

The department handled **400** incidents and made **26** criminal arrests

25 of those criminal arrests were adults

01 of those criminal arrests were juveniles. Out of those juveniles

01 of the juveniles were handled within the Department and Released.

00 animals were taken into custody

Fire Company Report: April 2024

Building Fire	03	CO Alarm	01
Vehicle Fire	01	Dispatch / Cancel	07
Comm. Vehicle Fire	01	Cover Assignment	01
Brush Fire	02	Lightning Strike	01
Assist EMS	04	Special Assignment	01
MVA	11	Auto Fire Alarms	06
<u>General Cleanup</u>	<u>02</u>		
Total Calls	41		
EMS Calls	165		

Fire Marshal Report: April 2024

Plan Reviews:

1. PHL Terminal A East fire alarm modification of HVAC units
2. PHL Terminal A West substation fire sprinkler
3. PHL Terminal A East Custodial Area fire sprinkler
4. 200 Stevens Drive fire sprinkler
5. Interboro High School, fire alarm system affecting renovations

Fire / Code Inspections and Acceptance Tests:

1. Esschem fire sprinkler installation
2. Water Front Inn and Holiday Inn
3. Lincoln Corporate Aircraft Hanger aircraft oxygen recharging system
4. Corinthian Yacht Club, cleared obstructions to fire department connection
5. 314 Powhattan Avenue review of required fire sprinkler systems

Attended various meetings pertaining to proposed fire code revisions and trainings pertaining to FEMA and Pa Building Code Officials

Ray Lonabaugh, Fire Marshal

Public Works, Highways, and Railroads: Lisa Edmiston, Chairperson

Trash removal: April 2024

Regular Trash	212	Tons
Bulk Trash	8	Tons
Yard Waste	5	Tons
Street Sweepings	2	Tons

- Serviced large volume pump used at Heinz Refuge dyke
- Removed bushes at police station and planted grass
- Began spraying for weeds
- Continue seasonal landscaping
- Began seasonal street sweeping
- Continue mulching
- Installed handicap parking spot on LaGrange Ave
- Maintained ball fields
- Removed beaver dam from Longhook Creek

George Hinkle, Superintendent

Sanitation: Dennis R. Arthur, Chairman

Tinicum Township Wastewater Treatment Plant: April 2024

Total flow	50,900,000 gallons	
Average Daily Flow	1,697,000 gallons	
Total sludge	52,500 gallons	(3.25% solids)
Methane Gas	101,215 cu ft	

- Cleaned and opened restrooms at ball field
- Used bypass pumping at plant due to heavy rain event
- Removed emergency equipment from out of service police car
- Received a clean DEP report with no violations

Louis Clark, Jr., Superintendent

Health & Recreation: Pat Barr, Chairman

Mr. Barr reported that the Health and Code Officers recently completed their inspection of the Delta Hotel. Several rooms had minor issues and one room was put out of service for a toilet issue. The Officers also responded to a complaint at the Waterfront Hotel for a “cat hording” complaint. The occupant of the room was found to be harboring cats and hotel management asked the occupant to leave the hotel. The room was deemed out of service pending a clean up.

Wednesday, June 12 is the first Farmers Market of the season. The Farmers Market will be held every other Wednesday for 12 weeks.

Solicitor’s Report: Sam S. Auslander, Esquire

Mr. Auslander reported the “co-working” agreements with the Italian and Swedish organizations for space at the Lazaretto are complete, including receipt of insurance coverage provided for the Township. Regarding Wawa, a conference before the Court was held last month. No decision has been made so the status quo remains. There is no new litigation from the past month. Regarding the Delaware County Health Department litigation, Mr. Auslander reported that a number of other communities have filed a similar injunction as the original 7 First Class Townships to prevent the County from doing local health inspections. Judge Bradley’s ruling in Common Pleas court in favor of these communities has been appealed by the County. His ruling will be in effect until the appeal is settled.

Regarding the Wu litigation, counsel for both Wu and Vitetta have discussed going to non-binding mediation (essentially a settlement conference) and all parties have agreed to participate.

Parties are in the process of determining a mediator. An Executive Session for legal issues was held on May 14, 2024.

Mr. Auslander's office has reached out to approximately 6 different areas of Westinghouse regarding the deed for St. John's Lutheran Church. One correspondence was returned as undeliverable. No other responses have been received.

Engineer's Report: Dennis O'Neill, P.E.

The Township Engineer's office reported that the application for the available library grant was submitted by the April deadline for an amount up to \$1.8 million. Receipt was acknowledged by the Department of Community and Economic Development and a reply would be expected by November 2024.

Mr. O'Neill's monthly meeting with the airport included discussions about rebuilding Taxiway S, and using the de-icing ramp as a detour for a project to reconstruct Taxiway Z. The anticipated completion of Tinicum Island Road has been changed from August to October. Prior to official opening, the new Tinicum Island Road will be used in stages as a detour around the construction connecting the new road, Hog Island Road, and Second Street. The airport has begun planning for what they refer to as Phase "0" of the West Cargo Development. Phase "0" includes the process of preparing the ground for eventual construction by clearing the ground for later development. Preliminary discussions regarding storm water on this project suggest that storm water will be directed to the Delaware River and not through Long Hook Creek.

Manager's Report: David D. Schreiber

The Township Manager reported the Township has met with PennDOT representatives and PennDOT has tentatively scheduled Wanamaker Avenue, 2nd Street, and Governor Printz Blvd for repaving between 2025 and 2026. The Feasibility Study for the East Coast Greenway trail is being completed by the consultant, Traffic Planning and Design. TPD has several potential routes the Trail may follow and they have been asked to wrap up the report for review and consideration by the Board of Commissioners. The John Heinz Wildlife Refuge has been provided a grant to conduct a Darby Creek Watershed Feasibility Study to understand and develop solutions to the flooding issues along Darby Creek watershed. The Study will be focused on "nature based" solutions, or solutions that use the natural landscape and geography to improve the watershed. Volunteers to serve on the committee will be sought. The Township is in receipt of the Block Party permit for a party in June on 4th Street between Lagrange and Carre Avenues. The Township Audit is expected to begin in June,

Secretary's Correspondence – There was no correspondence this month

Other Business – There was no Other Business conducted.

Adjourn the Business Portion of Meeting

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Patrick Barr to adjourn the business portion of this meeting by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

Ms. Sharon Watson asked that when notices are posted to utility poles that the notices be removed after the advertised event date.

Mr. Zurdi Dobi, 200 Powhattan Ave., stated that the flag pole needs to be corrected and graffiti needs to be removed from various areas in town. Mr. Dobi asked if the Township Police use license plate readers. The Board responded that it has for the past 3 to 4 years. Mr. Dobi stated he was sent a certified letter costing \$8.69 of a zoning hearing for an application to erect a shed behind a house. Mr. Dobi stated that residents were surprised to find that they lived in a Commercial and not Residential district and asked the Board to change the zoning back to Residential. Mr. Dobi referenced an incident when Mr. Simpkins was Police Superintendent regarding a relative of a Commissioner reported to have been assaulted by a teenager. Mr. Barr responded that this incident involved his sister but no charges were pursued as there was deemed to be insufficient grounds to prosecute.

Adjournment of Meeting

ON A MOTION by Dennis Arthur and second by Patrick Barr this meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
David D. Schreiber
Manager/Secretary