

Ridley Township Board of Commissioners
October 27, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Willert at 6:00pm on October 27, 2021 at the Township Building.

The following Commissioners were present: Mr. Saraceni, Mr. Donahue, Mrs. Cummins, Mr. McMenamin, Mr. Saunders, Mr. McCrea, Mr. Willert, and Mrs. Melasecca. Mr. Bidoli was absent.

Also present were Mr. Ryan (Township Manager), Mr. Betzler (Controller), Mr. Neill (Solicitor) and Mr. Catania (Township Engineer).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

- Don Taziolo, 237 Acres Drive, Ridley Park, appeared before the Board to discuss traffic issues with the Wawa at Chester Pike & Acres Drive.
- Matthew Stellabotte, 405 Broomall Street, Folsom, appeared before the Board regarding traffic & reckless driving along the back streets of Folsom.
- Robert Matthews, 310 Amosland Road, Holmes, appeared before the Board inquiring about the vacation of Spruce Street and the traffic flow on Amosland Road after development of the property.
- Jennifer Kauffeld, 654 Brighton Terrace, Holmes, appeared before the Board asking if any updates were available for use of the American Rescue Plan funds, website updates, meeting transcripts, and requested more detailed agendas.
- John Shaffer, 309 Kossuth Avenue, Milmont Park, appeared before the Board inquiring if the Director of Public Safety position was filled, if a volunteer firefighter is permitted to go to a fire during work hours, hedges at MacDade Boulevard and Buchanan Avenue, traffic signal at MacDade Boulevard and Kossuth Avenue, drainage in Tom & Jerry's parking lot, being placed on the Milmont Fire Company memorial wall, and commercial trucks parking overnight in MacDade Crossing parking lot.
- Dan Muller, 902 West MacDade Boulevard (Harvey's Locksmith), appeared before the Board inquiring about a traffic signal at MacDade Boulevard and Kossuth Avenue.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board authorized approval of the September 16, 2021 public hearing minutes and the September 22, 2021 Board meeting minutes.

Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Ratify Resolution – Leedom Fire Company’s 75th Anniversary

Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to ratify Resolution celebrating Leedom Fire Company’s 75th Anniversary. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Manager’s Report

Mr. Ryan reported receiving block party requests from Amosland Road between Holmes Road & Hutchinson Terrace for October 30, 2021 and also Wendy Road for June 4, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. McMenamin, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to approve the block party requests as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Ryan stated the Brandywine Veterinary Hospital Stray Dog contract is up for renewal. The renewal terms would be January 1 to December 31, 2022 and compensation would be \$126.00 per month fee which would cover the cost of (3) days housing per month; \$42.00 housing fee after that; additional fees for testing would apply if the animal is housed more than (2) days. If the owner is found, all fees would be billed to them for reimbursement. Only individuals designated by the township may take the dog to Brandywine Vet under the agreement.

Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mr. Saunders to approve the renewal terms as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Ryan reminded residents the November Commissioner’s meeting would be held November 17th – one week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Ryan updated the Board on the 2020 audit. The audit was completed and the report is currently in technical review to ensure compliance with GASB as required.

Mr. Willert announced businesses coming into the township – UPS Store at 1300 MacDade Boulevard, Delco Steaks & Miniature Golf on Academy Avenue, GoPuff in Woodlyn, and Pizza Hut in the Ridley Shopping Center. There are also other businesses coming in, but until contracts are signed and approvals given, the names could not be disclosed.

Recycling Report

Mrs. Melasecca reported trash collected in September was 1,322.79 tons and recycling collected in September was 221.05 tons. 21 televisions were collected in September, bringing the total amount of televisions recycled to 158 since April 1st. Mrs. Melasecca thanked everyone who came out to the Community Shredding Day and reported 11,840 pounds of materials were shredded. She thanked J&K Shredding and the Public Works personnel who assisted residents.

Controller's Report - No Report

Solicitor's Report - No Report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Willert announced an addition to the agenda under the Engineer's Report – Adoption of Resolution to apply for Traffic Signal on MacDade Boulevard at MacDade Crossing. It was received after the agenda was posted and the application has to be submitted before the next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to amend the agenda to add the item as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania recommended approval of the following certificates: Radio Communications Service – 2021 Police Radio Maintenance - \$3,134.96; A to U Services, Inc. for the 2021 Storm & Sanitary Sewer Repair Contract - \$33,678.09; N. Abbonizio Contractors – PENNVEST Stormwater Improvements - \$85,671.44; N. Abbonizio Contractors, 2021 Road Program - \$471,777.08; McMahon Associates – ARLE Bid Documents - \$390.00; McCormick Taylor – Bullens Lane Bridge Rehabilitation - \$2,656.49.

Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to approve the certificates as read. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania recommended approval of (2) escrows for new construction for Neerland Building & Remodeling. Lot 4 – 866 Michigan Ave in the amount of \$20,790.00 and lot 5 – 870 Michigan Ave in the amount of \$20,790.00.

Motion made by Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. Donahue to approve the escrow amounts as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania reviewed & recommended award of the following bids:

- 2022 Diesel Fuel- PAPCO – OPIS + \$.0534 differential
- 2022 Unleaded Gasoline – PAPCO – OPIS + \$.0184 differential

Mr. Willert asked if the differential had increased over last year's figure. Mr. Catania explained that the differential was basically the same – it was the daily price that increased. Our costs would be based on the cost plus differential on the day of delivery.

- 2022 Street & Sanitary Sewer Repairs – A to U Services at their bid unit prices submitted.

- Haverford Road Bridge Rehabilitation – Mar-Allen, Inc. - \$48,723.00
- Nall Field Contract A (Fencing) – Bid award was tabled until November’s meeting
- Nall Field Contract B (Site Improvements) – Bid award was tabled until November’s meeting
- Traffic Signal Installations (ARLE Grant) – Kuharchik Construction, Inc. - \$308,509.30 **awarded subject to Solicitor’s review*

Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to award the 2022 Diesel Fuel, 2022 Unleaded Gasoline, 2022 Storm & Sanitary Sewer Repairs, Haverford Road Bridge Rehab and Traffic Signal Installation bids as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to table the bids for the Nall Field Project Contracts A & B as recommended. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania recommended extension of the Ejector Station Maintenance contract with John Lewis Electric HVAC in the amount of \$675.00 per month.

Motion made by Mr. Saraceni, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to approve the contract extension as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania updated the Board on the PENNVEST Stormwater Improvement Project currently underway. 6 of the 19 projects have been completed. The contractor is still having supply issues. A meeting is scheduled with the contractor to get the latest update.

Mr. Catania reported the 2021 Road Program is nearing completion.

Mr. Catania informed the Board a letter of intent to apply for FEMA flood mitigation was filed to try to get relief for residents on Agnes Avenue and also Armstrong Avenue.

Mr. Catania requested authorization to submit an application to PennDOT for installation of a traffic signal on MacDade Boulevard at MacDade Crossing.

Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. Saunders to authorize the application as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Highway/Sanitation Committee Report

Mr. McMenamain announced there is no trash collection on November 2nd , Election Day, or November 11th, Veterans Day.

Law & Ordinance Committee Report - Mr. Saraceni deferred to Mr. Neill who presented Ordinance No. 2057, the Vacation of Spruce Street. Mr. Neill explained there was a public hearing on October 16, 2021 to hear the petition to vacate Spruce Street extending between Maple Avenue and Amosland Road and adjacent on both sides.

Motion made by Mr. Saraceni, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to adopt Ordinance No. 257 as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Neill requested photos and the proof of publication to be marked as exhibits.

Motion made by Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. McMenammin to adopt the exhibits as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Willert asked Ms. Niermann, the owner of the properties adjacent to Spruce Street, if she is on target to have the existing buildings demolished in December. She replied yes.

Recreation Committee Report

Mr. Donahue reported that registration for the Township's Trunk or Treat event is full. He announced the Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on December 7th with a raindate of December 14th. The Township is a drop off location for the Toys for Tots program. The box will be in the Municipal Building and will be available up until the tree lighting event.

Public Safety Committee Report

Mr. Willert read the Public Safety Committee Report noting the calls for service in September as follows:

- Crum Lynne – 113
- Folsom – 286
- Holmes – 84
- Milmont Park – 53
- Morton – 51
- Ridley Park – 144
- Secane – 77
- Swarthmore - 53
- Woodlyn – 253

Mr. Willert wished Lois Moore well, as she used to attend the meetings.

Mr. Willert read a sampling of some of the calls for service the police responded to:

- Officers assisted a disoriented elderly woman who was driving.
- Officers stopped a vehicle driven by a male with a criminal warrant in Ridley Township and arrested the subject.
- Officers assisted Ridley Park Borough police with a suicidal subject on the Amtrak train tracks.

- Police investigated a broken-down vehicle in the rear of Woodlyn Shopping Center which was registered to an individual with a warrant out of Pocono Township. An arrest was made.
- Police and medics were dispatched to a medical emergency where the front and rear doors of the location were locked. Police gained entrance through a window and the patient was transported to the hospital suffering from seizures.

Mr. Willert also commended Detective Tim Kearney who, through his work with the County's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, was instrumental in putting away a predator. The defendant was sentenced to 50-100 years in prison earlier in the day.

Mr. Willert also commended Mr. Ryan on his participation in the Law Enforcement Memorial Run from Philadelphia to Washington, DC. Mr. Ryan is a retired 42-year law enforcement officer and was one of over 175 runners who completed the event. It was the event's 25th year and Mr. Ryan's 14 year participating.

Health & Code Enforcement Committee Report

Mr. Saunders read the Health & Code Enforcement Committee report for September as follows:

- Permits Issued – 217
- Contractors Registered – 56
- Certificates of Occupancy Issued – 64
- Rental Inspections – 21
- Health Inspections – 20

Building Committee Report - No Report

Library & Resource Center Committee Report

Mrs. Cummins reported on upcoming events at the library. 4,010 patrons visited the library in September and checked out more than 11,300 books and other items. Program attendance in September was 1,205 bringing the total for the year to 9,664.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Saraceni reported all Commissioners received a list of this month's bills.

Motion made by Mr. Saraceni, seconded by Mrs. Cummins that the bills be approved subject to the Controller's review and approval. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Old and New Business

Mr. Saraceni reminded residents to drive carefully, especially on Halloween.

Mrs. Cummins wished everyone a Happy Halloween, congratulated Mr. Ryan, and reminded residents to vote on Election Day.

Mr. McCrea congratulated Leedom Fire Company on their 75th Anniversary

Mr. McMenemy wanted to thank Mr. Ryan, Mr. Ward and Mr. DePietro and their employees for their hard work and dedication in responding to his constituent's issues.

Adjournment

**Motion made by Mr. Willert to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Donahue.
Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Meeting concluded at 6:58pm.