

**Ridley Township Board of Commissioners**  
**September 22, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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The Regular Meeting of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Willert at 6:00pm on September 22, 2021 at the Township Building.

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

Also present were Mr. Ryan (Township Manager), Mr. Betzler (Controller), Mr. Neill (Solicitor) and Mr. Nespoli (Township Engineer's Office).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Forum**

No audience members addressed the Board.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Board authorized approval of the August 25, 2021 meeting minutes.

**Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. McMnamin to approve the August 25, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

**Executive Session Announcement**

Mr. Willert announced the Board met in an executive session on September 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss personnel matters.

**Appointment/Swearing-In Captain James Dougherty**

Mr. Willert stated the Board's intent to appoint Lt. James Dougherty as Captain of Police. Lt. Dougherty is a 30-year veteran of the Ridley Township Police Department, has rose through the ranks from Patrolman to Lieutenant of Patrol, has completed the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University, and has received numerous commendations for exemplary police work.

**Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to appoint James Dougherty as Captain of the Ridley Township Police Department. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

The Honorable Jack Whelan administered the Oath of Office to Captain James Dougherty. Captain Dougherty thanked the Board for the opportunity, his family and friends for their support and the Ridley Township Police Officers and support staff for their hard work and dedication. He stated he looks forward to serving the community.

### **Appointment/Swearing-In Lieutenant Daniel Smith**

Mr. Willert stated the Board's intent to appoint Sgt. Daniel Smith as Lieutenant of Patrol. Sgt. Smith is a 24-year veteran of the Ridley Township Police Department, has received several commendations for his dedicated service and will bring new, fresh insight to the position of Lieutenant.

**Motion made by Mr. Bidoli, seconded by Mr. Donahue to appoint Daniel Smith as Lieutenant of Patrol in the Ridley Township Police Department. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

The Honorable Jack Whelan administered the Oath of Office to Lieutenant Daniel Smith. Lieutenant Smith thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve in the position. He stated he is excited to take on the role and serve the members of the community. He thanked his fellow officers, his family and the public for their support.

Mr. Willert reiterated the Board's support, as well as the resident's support, of all the police officers in Ridley Township and also the surrounding towns.

A brief recess was held.

Mr. Willert announced a Special Meeting will be held on October 6, 2021 at 6pm in Garling Hall to obtain public input on the use of the American Rescue Funds.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. Ryan reported receiving a block party request for Roosevelt Avenue for October 2, 2021. The required paperwork has been received.

**Motion made by Mr. Bidoli, seconded by Mr. McMenamini to approve the block party request as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Ryan received a request from Eastlawn Cemetery to hold a movie night on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at the cemetery at 7<sup>th</sup> & Girard Avenues. They submitted a plan for parking, trash collection and their insurance information for the Board's consideration.

**Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Donahue to approve Eastlawn Cemetery's request as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Ryan announced the Board's Resolution for Caroline Emplit, a resident of Holmes, for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. Bidoli will deliver the Resolution to Mrs. Emplit.

**Motion made by Mr. Bidoli, seconded by Mr. McMenamain to adopt the Resolution for Caroline Emplit. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Ryan also stated the Board had Resolutions for three (3) Eagle Scouts from Woodlyn Troop 43 – Steven Barnard, Gabriel Thomas and Joshua Hamilton. The Resolutions will be presented to them at their Eagle Court of Honor.

**Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mr. Donahue to adopt the Resolutions for the three (3) Eagle Scouts. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

### **Recycling Report**

Mrs. Melasecca reported trash collected in August was 1,382.69 tons and recycling collected in August was 162.89 tons. 17 televisions were collected in August, bringing the total amount of televisions recycled to 137 since April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Melasecca announced the Community Shredding Event will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to 12pm at the township building.

### **Controller's Report**

Mr. Betzler announced the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligations (MMO) as follows:

- 2022 Police MMO - \$705,380.00
- 2022 Non-Uniform MMO - \$404,813.00 (PMRS) and 93,547.00 (Union)
- 2022 Total MMO – 1,203,740.00, a \$32,000 reduction over last year.

**Motion made by Mr. Bidoli, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to approve the 2022 MMO figures as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

**Solicitor's Report** - Mr. Neill reported on a 2021 tax assessment appeal for the property at 1143 Morton Avenue and requested approval of settlement and authorization to sign the stipulation that fixes the assessed value of the property for 2021 at \$346,000.00.

Mr. Neill also reported on a tax assessment appeal filed by the Ridley School District for the property at 1240 Chester Pike. He requested approval of settlement and authorization to sign the stipulation that fixes the assessed value of the property for 2021 at \$13,100,000.00 resulting in an increase of \$38,158.00.

An appeal was filed for the property at 2224 MacDade Boulevard. The appraiser's figure for the property was lower than what was assessed, coming in at \$190,000.00, resulting in a tax reduction of \$1,680.73.

**Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to approve Mr. Neill's requests as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Neill reported on the public hearing held on September 16, 2021 concerning the petition to vacate Spruce Street. He stated evidence and testimony was presented to the Board at the hearing. The next step would be to approve or deny their application.

**Motion made by Mr. Saraceni, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to approve the petition to vacate Spruce Street. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. Nespoli recommended approval of the following certificates:

- Radio Communications Service – 2021 Police Radio Maintenance Contract - \$3,134.96
- A to U Services, Inc. – 2021 Storm & Sanitary Sewer Repair Contract - \$28,514.03
- N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. – PENNVEST Stormwater Improvements Change Order No. 2 - \$50,527.49
- N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. – PENNVEST Stormwater Improvements - \$175,815.34
- N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. – 2021 Road Program - \$443,414.51
- McMahan Associates – ARLE Grant documents - \$1,920.00
- McCormick Taylor – Bullens Lane Bridge Rehabilitation - \$404.57

**Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. McMenamin to approve the certificates as read. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Nespoli reported five (5) bids were received for the Traffic Signal Upgrades through the ARLE Grant ranging from \$308,598.30 to \$397,057.10 and are currently under review.

Mr. Nespoli requested authorization to advertise for the bids for annual contracts for unleaded gasoline, diesel fuel and storm & sanitary sewer maintenance repairs.

**Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Bidoli to approve authorization to advertise for annual bid contracts. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Nespoli stated the current contract with Metropolitan Communications for Police Radio Maintenance has an option for a one-year renewal for 2022. It was his recommendation that that option be accepted at a total cost of \$38,748.11.

**Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to accept the one-year renewal of Metropolitan Communications contract for Police Radio Maintenance. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Mr. Nespoli provided an update on the PENNVEST Stormwater Improvement projects. The contractors are currently in the Holmes section then will move to the Secane area.

Mr. Nespoli also provided an update on the 2021 Road Program. The contractor is currently in the Leedom area.

### **Highway/Sanitation Committee Report**

Mr. McMenamain announced the final County Household Hazardous Waste collection event will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Upper Chichester Township Municipal Building. Pre-registration is required.

### **Law & Ordinance Committee Report** - No Report

### **Recreation Committee Report**

Mr. Donahue thanked everyone who came out to the Township's Fall Festival on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He stated it was a beautiful day and thanked the following sponsors – TD Bank, RCN Cable, SurePower and County Savings Bank for their contributions, as well as the Public Works and Administration personnel who helped.

### **Public Safety Committee Report**

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

- Crum Lynne – 111
- Folsom – 225
- Holmes – 99
- Milmont Park – 52
- Morton – 30
- Ridley Park – 118
- Secane – 78
- Swarthmore - 53
- Woodlyn – 199

Mr. Willert announced the township is seeking part-time reserve Crossing Guards. Salary is \$15.00 per hour and interested parties were asked to contact their Commissioner or the Police Department.

Mr. Willert read correspondence from Milmont Fire Company commending Ridley Township Public Works employee, Robert Heine, for his assistance at the fire scene at 423 Buchanan Avenue on July 21, 2021.

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

- Police investigated and arrested a juvenile involved in a shooting incident.
- Police arrested an individual with a warrant for Criminal Attempt Homicide.

- Police responded to an accident at Notre Dame de Lourdes Church and found the driver was under the influence of an unknown substance and also had a criminal warrant out of Upper Darby.
- Officers responded to a burglary in progress in the Milmont section of the township and apprehended the suspect. The residents were very appreciative of the quick response by the police.

### **Health & Code Enforcement Committee Report**

Mr. Saraceni read the Health & Code Enforcement Committee report for August as follows:

- Permits Issued – 187
- Contractors Registered – 10
- Certificates of Occupancy Issued – 60
- Rental Inspections – 14
- Health Inspections – 19

### **Building Committee Report**

Mr. McCrea reported on an application from John Prichard, 646 Michigan Avenue who proposed to develop the property with a proposed street and thirteen (13) new homes. **Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mr. Donahue to approve the application subject to the County Planning Department and the Alternate Township Engineer's comments. In addition, the motion includes denying the applicant's request to waive installation of sidewalks along Michigan Avenue and also denying their request to provide a 24' cartway instead of the required 27' cartway. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

### **Library & Resource Center Committee Report**

Mrs. Cummins reported on fall programming at the library. She reported 5,033 residents visited the library in August and checked out more than 11,000 books and other items, including 2,200 e-books and e-audio books. Program attendance in August was 1,165, bring the total for the year to 8,459.

Mrs. Cummins reported the resignation of Michelle Johnson and thanked her for her service. Mrs. Cummins nominated Michele Karpyn to fill Ms. Johnson's unexpired term. **Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to appoint Michele Karpyn to the Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Michelle Johnson. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

## **Finance Committee Report**

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

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

## **Old and New Business**

Mr. Saraceni congratulated Capt. Dougherty and Lt. Smith on their appointments.

Mrs. Cummins congratulated Capt. Dougherty & Lt. Smith and is looking forward to working with them.

Mrs. Melasecca agreed with Mrs. Cummins and also urged residents to contact their Commissioner if they had any issues or problems.

Mr. McCrea asked the Engineer's office to look into a drainage issue behind the alley on Acres Drive. He also thanked the Board and staff for their assistance while he was recovering from jaw surgery.

Mr. Donahue congratulated Capt. Dougherty and Lt. Smith and expressed how respected they are by the Board, their fellow officers and their peers throughout Delaware County.

Mr. McMenemy congratulated Capt. Dougherty & Lt. Smith and thanked all first responders for their work.

Mr. Bidoli congratulated Ms. Karpyn on her appointment, as well as Capt. Dougherty & Lt. Smith.

## **Adjournment**

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

Meeting concluded at 6:48pm.