

Ridley Township Board of Commissioners
November 17, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Willert at 6:00pm on November 17, 2021 at the Township Building.

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

- Arthur Weisfeld, Executive Director of Senior Community Services. Mr. Weisfeld introduced the Schoolhouse Senior Center's new director, Jessica Hadfield and requested the township continue with their financial contribution. Mr. Willert thanked Mr. Weisfeld and stated how valuable their services are to the community.
- Janet DiIorio – 426 Ridley Avenue, Folsom, appeared before the Board asking the status of the Marine Training Center on Route 420. Mr. Willert and Mr. Ryan stated the property is government-owned, not township-owned and the township is trying to obtain the property. Ms. DiIorio also thanked those who voted for her in the recent election and stated she would continue to help the township.

Manager's Report

Mr. Ryan announced the following budget meetings: Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6pm to present and consider adoption of the 2022 tentative budget; Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6pm to review the 2022 final budget and Monday, December 27, 2021 at 6pm to consider adoption of the 2022 final budget.

Mr. Ryan also announced the Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 9, 2021 concerning the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application.

Mr. Ryan reminded everyone the December meeting would be held on December 15, 2021.

Mr. Ryan presented a Resolution acknowledging November 27, 2021 as Small Business Saturday. Mr. Saunders encouraged residents to visit the township website, view the business directory and support the local businesses.

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

Executive Session Announcement

Mr. Willert announced the Board met in an executive session on November 9, 2021 to discuss a litigation matter.

Mr. Willert also announced that the office had been receiving calls about delinquent tax notices taped to people's front doors. He stated the notices are from the County, not township, and to contact the County Tax Office with any questions.

Recycling Report

Mrs. Melasecca reported trash collected in October was 1,203.47 tons and recycling collected in October was 163.53 tons. 12 televisions were collected in October, bringing the total amount of televisions recycled to 170 since April 1st.

Controller's Report

Mr. Betzler requested a motion to approve opening a new account for the purpose of administering the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to open the account as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Solicitor's Report - No Report

Engineer's Report

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 - \$6,332.76; N. Abbonizio Contractors – PENNVEST Stormwater Improvements - \$109,790.86; N. Abbonizio Contractors, 2021 Road Program - \$326,174.30; Traffic Planning & Design – Kedron & Franklin Traffic Signal Improvements - \$1,895.00; Traffic Planning & Design – MacDade Blvd. Traffic Improvements - \$1,717.50

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

Mr. Catania reviewed the Nall Field Improvements bids – Contract A for fencing and Contract B for site improvements. Both bids came in over budget. Mr. Catania recommended both bids be rejected and re-advertised.

Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to reject and re-advertise the Nall Field Improvements bids for fencing and site improvements. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania updated the Board on the PENNVEST Stormwater Improvement Project currently underway. Two projects were completed recently. The contractor is currently working on Morris Avenue and the next project is Darby Road which will last approximately a month and a half. Mr. McCrea asked if the issue from the resident in the one alley was resolved. Mr. Catania stated he forwarded the information to the contractor and hadn't heard back so he assumes it has been taken care of, but will verify. Mr. McCrea wanted to thank Mr. Catania and the contractor for quickly addressing issues that came up on the job in his area.

Mr. Catania reported the 2021 Road Program is substantially complete. The contractor is working through the punch list currently.

Mr. Catania reported the township's \$250,000 Delco Greenways Phase 2 grant application for Nall Field Improvements was denied, which is another reason the bids were rejected earlier.

Highway/Sanitation Committee Report

Mr. McMenamain announced there is no trash collection on November 25th or 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. McMenamain also announced the leaf collection program is on schedule. Volume and weather conditions may hold them up, but he encouraged residents to be patient.

Law & Ordinance Committee Report - No Report

Recreation Committee Report

Ms. Cummins reported the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on December 7, 2021 beginning at 6:30pm. The Recreation Department is sponsoring the Toys for Tots collection and new, unwrapped toys will be collected at the township building. The Winter/Spring newsletter will be posted on the website shortly.

Public Safety Committee Report

Mr. Willert welcomed Mrs. Lois Moore back and expressed the Board's sympathy on her husband's passing. Mr. Willert read the Public Safety Committee Report noting the calls for service in October as follows:

- Crum Lynne - 175
- Folsom - 263
- Holmes - 115
- Milmont Park - 38
- Morton - 33
- Ridley Park - 134
- Secane - 75
- Swarthmore - 51
- Woodlyn - 209

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

- Officers were involved in a multi-jurisdiction pursuit involving a carjacking and assisted in the suspect's apprehension. Further investigation revealed the occupants were suspects in a multi-state carjacking ring.
- Officers assisted Collingdale police in their pursuit of a vehicle that fired shots at a residence in Collingdale. The pursuit entered a neighborhood in Ridley Township before heading back to Collingdale where our officers were able to stop the vehicle and Collingdale took the occupants into custody.

Health & Code Enforcement Committee Report

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

- Permits Issued - 233
- Contractors Registered - 22
- Certificates of Occupancy Issued - 58
- Rental Inspections - 34
- Health Inspections - 14

Building Committee Report - No Report

Library & Resource Center Committee Report

Mrs. Cummins reported on upcoming events at the library. 4,324 patrons visited the library in October and checked out more than 11,400 books and other items, bringing use of the library back to pre-pandemic levels. Program attendance in October was 1,577 bringing the total for the year to 11,252.

Mr. Willert commended Donna Murray and the library staff on the great job they do serving the residents.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Saraceni 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 wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Cummins wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated Mrs. Melasecca on her election victory.

Mrs. Melasecca reminded residents about Folsom Fire Company's Christmas Festival on December 11th from 11am to 5pm.

Mr. Saunders wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. McCrea wanted to let residents in the Leedom area know of an event for the Kelly Family on November 18th for Sammi Kelly who was diagnosed with Sanfilippo Syndrome.

Mr. McMenamain, Mr. Bidoli and Mr. Willert wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

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

Meeting concluded at 6:32pm.