

Ridley Township Board of Commissioners
December 15, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Willert at 6:00pm on December 15, 2021 at the Township Building.

The following Commissioners were present: Mr. Saraceni, Mr. Donahue, Mrs. Cummins, Mr. McMenamain, 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 – None

Resolution Presentation – Commissioner Tom Donahue

Mr. Willert announced this was Commissioner Donahue’s last meeting, as he is stepping down as 2nd Ward Commissioner. Mr. Willert thanked Mr. Donahue for his work in the 2nd Ward and all of Ridley Township and wished him well. Mr. McMenamain presented Mr. Donahue with a Resolution acknowledging his 11 years of service. Mr. Donahue thanked his family and the Board of Commissioners.

Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to adopt the Resolution for Commissioner Tom Donahue as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board authorized approval of the October 27, 2021, November 17, 2021, November 22, 2021 and December 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

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

Manager’s Report

Mr. Ryan asked for a motion to ratify a Resolution for Julianna Fazekas’ 100th Birthday.

Motion made by Mr. McMenamain, seconded by Mr. McCrea to ratify the Resolution presented to Mrs. Fazekas. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Ryan asked for a motion to authorize the disposal of three police vehicles through the Municibid website.

Motion made by Mrs. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to authorize the disposal of vehicles through Municibid. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Recycling Report

Mrs. Melasecca reported trash collected in November was 1,368.93 tons and recycling collected in November was 152.25 tons. 17 televisions were collected in November, bringing the total amount of televisions recycled to 187 since April 1st.

Controller's Report

Mr. Betzler requested a motion to authorize Leitzell & Economidis, PC to perform the 2021 fiscal year audit at a cost of \$26,000.00.

Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to authorize Leitzell & Economidis, PC to perform the 2021 audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Neill discussed the Stinger's Waterfront Tax Assessment Appeal filed by the County challenging the exempt status of that parcel. The County Board of Assessment ruled in favor of the County's appeal. Mr. Neill requested a motion to ratify the filing of an appeal by conflict counsel to the Board of Assessment's decision dated November 15, 2021.

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

Mr. Neill discussed the County's Board of Health Department and the concerns from some municipalities about how it will be implemented. The Board is in favor of joining the efforts of other towns in not turning over the Township's Board of Health duties to the County.

Motion made by Mr. McMnamin, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to authorize conflict counsel to join the petition for a preliminary injunction relating to joining the County Board of Health. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Neill discussed the lawsuit initiated by previous County Councils concerning the opioid crisis and a possible settlement against the pharmaceutical company. Mr. Neill requested authorization to join in the settlement and execute any agreements required subject to his review.

Motion made by Mr. McCrea, seconded by Mr. Donahue to participate in the settlement and execute any required settlement participation agreements subject to the Solicitor's review. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

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 - \$33,244.03; and N. Abbonizio Contractors – PENNVEST Stormwater Improvements - \$29,686.95.

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

Mr. Catania requested approval to have Traffic Planning & Design act as Special Project Traffic Engineer on grants for traffic signal improvements throughout the Township.

Motion made by Mr. McMenemy, seconded by Mr. Donahue to authorize Traffic Planning & Design as Special Project Traffic Engineer. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania discussed the 2nd rebid for the Nall Field Improvements, including fencing & ADA accessibility improvements. He recommended award to Pro Max Fence for the fencing bid in the amount of \$158,547.00 and to Frania, Inc. for the accessibility improvements in the amount of \$48,200.00, both subject to the review of PA DCNR and the Solicitor. Mr. Willert asked if the job will be done by spring, given the situation nationwide with the delay in getting materials. Mr. Catania replied the intent was to award the job now to give the contractors enough time to get the material in and the project done by spring.

Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to award the bids as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania requested authorization to advertise for bids for storm sewer repair at MacDade Boulevard & Sutton Avenue.

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

Mr. Catania discussed the 2022 CDBG Program and the Public Hearing held on December 9, 2021 concerning same. He requested approval of a Resolution authorizing the priority project to be submitted be the Crum Lynne Streetscape Improvements and the alternate project be Recreational Improvements in the Crum Lynne area.

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

Mr. Catania requested the Board adopt Sanitary and Storm Sewer Inspection Testing and Acceptance Standards, enumerating a list of tests that are expected to be done by contractors prior to those systems going into service.

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

Mr. Catania updated the Board on the PENNVEST Stormwater Improvement Project currently underway. Restoration is being completed on Schiavello Drive and the Cedar Avenue projects. Work has begun at 5th & Sylvania and on Darby Road, which is the largest project they have. The Darby Road project is expected to be completed in January.

Highway/Sanitation Committee Report

Mr. McMenamin announced the 2021 Holiday Trash Collection Schedule. He also announced the Curbside Leaf Collection Program will end this week and requested residents to bag any remaining leaves and place them out on either one of their trash days, separate from their regular trash.

Law & Ordinance Committee Report - No Report

Recreation Committee Report

Mr. Donahue reported on the success of the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and on the upcoming winter/spring recreation programs.

Public Safety Committee Report

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

- Crum Lynne – 87
- Folsom – 268
- Holmes – 118
- Milmont Park – 52
- Morton – 45
- Ridley Park – 125
- Secane – 70
- Swarthmore - 64
- Woodlyn – 226

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

- Officers observed a suspicious male and upon investigation, the subject was in possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia and was arrested.
- Officers observed a motorist acting suspicious who sped away when officers tried to stop. Inventory of the vehicle revealed drug paraphernalia and suspected marijuana. The driver's license was suspended.
- Police assisted CID in conducting a search warrant which confiscated a large quantity of narcotics.
- Officers observed an individual wanted on warrant who ran from police. Police were able to subdue and investigation revealed drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Health & Code Enforcement Committee Report

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

- Permits Issued – 213
- Contractors Registered – 13
- Certificates of Occupancy Issued – 47
- Rental Inspections – 121
- Health Inspections – 17

Building Committee Report - No Report

Library & Resource Center Committee Report

Mrs. Cummins reported on upcoming events at the library. 3,973 patrons visited the library in November and checked out more than 10,600 books and other items. Program attendance in November was 1,588. Mrs. Cummins announced the Holiday Hours for the Library.

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 wished everyone Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Mrs. Cummins wished everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year and congratulated Mr. Donahue. She also announced Edgewood Elementary is holding a fundraiser for their playground improvements. Information is available on their website.

Mrs. Melasecca wished everyone a Merry Christmas and wished Mr. Donahue well.

Mr. Saunders wished everyone a Merry Christmas and wished Mr. Donahue well.

Mr. McCrea wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He also thanked the Leedom Civic Association for their "Elf Leap" throughout the neighborhood. He also announced Santa will be visiting the 6th Ward on December 18th. Mr. McCrea also wished Mr. Donahue the best.

Mr. McMenamain put out a challenge to all residents to up the recycling tonnage. He also wished Mr. Donahue best wishes.

Mr. Willert thanked Mr. Donahue for this service and wished him well. He also thanked everyone involved with the Township Christmas Tree Lighting and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Donahue thanked the residents of the 2nd Ward for their trust over 11 years and also the township employees for their assistance, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Cummins and Mrs. Melasecca announced Santa will be visiting the 3rd and 8th Wards on December 18th.

Adjournment

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

Meeting concluded at 6:32pm.