

Ridley Township Board of Commissioners
October 6, 2021
Special Meeting Minutes

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

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

Also present were Mr. Ryan (Township Manager), Mr. Catania (Township Engineer) and Mr. Caponi (Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Willert announced the purpose of the meeting was to obtain input from the public concerning use of the funding that the township received through the American Rescue Plan Act. He noted there are unfunded mandates related to sewer inflow and infiltration that must be corrected and the township is able to use these funds, as well as provide additional funding for the volunteer fire companies who were unable to host fundraisers during the pandemic. Mr. Willert stated the funds will not be used for premium pay or to reimburse the township for police overtime or anything of that nature.

James Michael Donahue, Jr., 2644 Armstrong Avenue, appeared before the board concerning flooding issues at his home. He also asked how many storm water projects are in the works currently. Mr. Catania responded there are 18 projects currently that were bid and are being funded through a PENNVEST loan. He asked what areas or locations would be considered for future projects and how those projects are prioritized. Mr. Willert stated the Board works with the Engineer's office to determine which projects have an immediate need and also the cost of the project is a factor. The Board looks for funding from various sources to fund the projects.

Susan Elliott appeared before the Board and asked if grants could be made available to families who have lost a provider due to COVID. Mr. Willert said the Board will review the guidelines. Ms. Elliott also wondered if meetings could be announced in a variety of ways, not just through Facebook.

Mr. Catania stated the final guidance is not available as of the meeting date. We only have interim guidance so the Board should refrain from making any final commitments.

Al Gavetti, 813 Mitchell Avenue, appeared before the Board under the assumption the meeting was about flooding at Waverly & Agnes Avenues. Mr. Gavetti explained the history

of the flooding issues in the area and asked if the creek could be cleaned out to alleviate some of the flooding issues.

Romelle Thompson appeared before the Board and asked if funding could be given to the fire companies to renovate their facilities to hold events similar to Boothwyn. She also asked if the old driving range on Fairview Road could be turned into a dog park. Mr. Willert explained that the township does not own that property.

Jennifer Kauffeld, 654 Brighton Terrace, Holmes, appeared before the Board asking how much the fire companies would be receiving. Mr. Willert replied no exact dollar figures have been determined as of the meeting. Ms. Kauffeld asked if the township would be using any funds for loss of revenue. The Board replied no. Ms. Kauffeld asked if the Board has checked in with the businesses or if any have closed due to the pandemic. The Board consistently checks in on small businesses to offer support where needed. Ms. Kauffeld discussed how Haverford is doing a grant program for small businesses and asked if Ridley Township has considered the same. Mr. Saunders indicated he believed Haverford was set to receive almost \$20 million compared to Ridley Township's \$3.2 million. Ms. Kauffeld stated she read that a project and expenditure report was required to be submitted to the PA Treasury by October 31st. Mr. Caponi stated that date was extended and the projects have to be in place by December of 2024. The Board reiterated that no specific projects or costs have been determined as of yet and a list of projects will be posted when finalized.

Albert Ianieri, 751 Agnes Avenue, Morton, appeared before the Board concerning flooding in his area. Mr. Ryan and Mr. Catania will visit the area.

Virginia Damico – no questions or comments

Joanne Turnbull, 742 Agnes Avenue, Morton, appeared before the Board with flooding concerns in her area. She requested more help from the police to reroute traffic when the streets flood. Mrs. Melasecca stated Folsom Fire Company will clear out the water.

Janet DiOrio, 426 Ridley Avenue, Folsom, appeared before the Board to discuss the flooding concerns in the area of Agnes and Mitchell Avenues. Ms. DiOrio feels they should receive priority funding. Ms. DiOrio also asked if the small businesses could receive grants. Ms. DiOrio asked what happened to the dugouts at Folsom field. Mr. Ryan replied they were in bad shape and would be replaced in the spring.

Bruce Egan, EMS Chief for Crozer Health, along with Joe Rafferty, Crozer Health Administrator, appeared before the Board. Crozer EMS is the primary EMS coverage provider for Ridley Township and they asked if funding to cover the purchase of an ambulance could be considered by the Board. Mr. Willert stated Crozer has provided excellent service for the residents for almost 3 years now and asked if they had received federal money since they were a for-profit company. Mr. Rafferty explained Crozer did receive federal dollars. They lost about \$70 million in general. EMS is a stand-alone entity, generally losing money each year. In 2020, Crozer EMS was dispatched over 2,500 times to

homes in Ridley Township. About 1,000 of those patients were actually treated in the hospital, so the remaining 1,500 were treated in their home, therefore no opportunity to bill for the service. They have been in Delaware County for 45+ years and will continue to provide services for the township. They would appreciate any consideration to their request to purchase an ambulance. Mr. Willert asked if Crozer could begin to send monthly reports over to the township regarding their calls for service.

Sally Newport, 736 Mitchell Avenue, Morton, appeared before the Board asking what the timeline was for deciding on the projects and where residents could find the project list. Mr. Ryan stated everything would be on the township website – www.ridleytwp.org. The Board reiterated they have three (3) years to spend the money.

Ms. Kauffeld asked if the funds already received were gaining interest in the bank account. Mr. Willert replied the funds were gaining interest.

Dan Corcoran, 1433 Greenway Road, Swarthmore, appeared before the Board and asked why the meeting wasn't televised. Mr. Willert stated it was a meeting for residents to come out and let the Board know their comments and concerns.

Mr. Willert thanked everyone for attending and for their input.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Willert, seconded by Mr. Donahue. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.