

Ridley Township Board of Commissioners
August 25, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Ridley Township Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Willert at 6:00pm on August 25, 2021 at the Township Building.

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Resolution Presentation

The Board presented a Resolution to the family of Richard Temple who passed away on July 18, 2021. Mr. Temple was President of Holmes Fire Company, a volunteer firefighter for over 40 years and a former radio dispatcher for Ridley Township and Delaware County Emergency Services Center.

Motion made by Mr. Bidoli, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to adopt the Resolution as read. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Public Forum

John Shaffer, 309 Kossuth Avenue, appeared before the Board regarding school taxes, the recent building fire and procedures followed at the fire, the township rental halls, the demolished house at Belmont & Forrest Avenues, the status of the home at Belmont & Chester Avenues and the drainage ditch near his home.

James Michael Donahue, Jr., 2644 Armstrong Avenue, Holmes, appeared before the Board concerning the township audit and the name of the auditing firm.

Jen Kauffield, 654 Brighton Terrace, Holmes, appeared before the Board in reference to the American Rescue Plan Act funding and when a public meeting will be held, and also when items will be posted on the township website.

Executive Session Announcement

Mr. Willert announced the Board met in an executive session on August 19th to discuss personnel matters.

Condolences

Mr. Willert expressed the Board's condolences to the family of former Township Solicitor, Peter J. Rohana, who passed away on August 22, 2021.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board authorized approval of the June 23, 2021 and July 28, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Mr. McMenamain, seconded by Mr. Bidoli to approve the June 23, 2021 and July 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Manager's Report

Mr. Ryan reported on the following requests for Block Parties:

- 400 block of Wyndom Terrace – September 4th
- Grace Road – September 11th
- 1600 block of 6th Avenue – September 18th
- 700 block Michell Street – September 18th

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

Mr. Ryan received a request from Ridley School District to hold their Annual Homecoming Events as follows:

- Bonfire – October 6th at High School Softball Field
- Homecoming Parade and Community Day – October 9th at the High School. *Parade will begin at Woodlyn Baptist Church/Nall Field parking lot and proceed down MacDade Boulevard to Morton Avenue to the High School.*

Motion made by Mr. McMenamain, seconded by Mrs. Melasecca to approve Ridley School District's request to hold their 2021 Homecoming Events as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Ryan announced the receipt of an application for the Vacation of Spruce Street. A public hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, September 16th at 6:15pm in Garling Hall.

Mr. Ryan announced the township website will be undergoing a refresh and the Board is looking to add a You Tube channel to it's social media line-up. Upgrades should be completed within 60 days.

Recycling Report

Mrs. Melasecca reported trash collected in July was 1,174.14 tons and recycling collected in July was 227.33 tons. 11 televisions were collected in July, bringing the total amount of televisions recycled to 120 since April 1st. Mrs. Melasecca announced the Community Shredding Event will be held on October 23rd from 9am to 12pm at the township building.

Controller's Report - No Report

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Neill reported on a 2021 tax assessment appeal for the property at 1937 W. MacDade Boulevard and requested approval of settlement and authorization to sign the stipulation that fixes the assessed value of the property for 2021 at 1,600,000.00. **Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. Bidoli to approve Mr. Neill's request as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

Engineer's Report

Mr. Catania 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 - \$40,533.56
- B. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. – PENNVEST Stormwater Improvements - \$181,432.80
- MOR Construction – PENNVEST Utility Locations - \$11,440.00

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

Mr. Catania received notification from Mr. David Damon, PE, Alternate Township Engineer, recommending approval of escrow releases for Neerland Building & Remodeling for properties located at 502/510 Belmont Avenue in the amount of \$27,180.00 and 129 Baltimore Avenue in the amount of \$3,072.30.

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

Mr. Catania reported six (6) bids were received for the Braxton Road/Clymer Lane Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation area. He recommended awarding the bid to Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe, Inc. at their bid amount of \$285,125.00 subject to concurrence of the Township Solicitor and a waiver from the township procurement contract eligibility standards Section 3.C11.

Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to award the Braxton Road/Clymer Lane Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation bid to Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe, Inc. subject to the Solicitor's review. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania requested the Board update the township's street opening standards and work zone maintenance procedures. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Mr. Bidoli, seconded by Mr. McMnamin to update the standards and procedures as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania requested authorization to advertise for bids for the Haverford Road Bridge Repairs (by Maria's Bakery).

Motion made by Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to approve Mr. Catania's request as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania updated the Board on the PENNVEST Projects. There were 19 project locations and 4 of the projects are substantially complete. Everything is going well.

Mr. Catania updated the Board on the 2021 Road Resurfacing Program. The contractor started the work and is expected to be done mid-September.

Mr. Catania requested authorization to apply for 2 grant programs as follows:

- PECO Green Region Grant – S. Swarthmore Avenue Shade Tree Project
- Delco Greenways Grant – Phase 2 Nall Field Improvements

Motion made by Mr. Saraceni, seconded by Mrs. Cummins to authorize application to the 2 grant programs as presented. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Catania discussed the Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) as required by the state. The information is on the township website and the public comment period ends August 27th. He explained to the Board how the township is required to do construction projects to eliminate sediment getting into the streams and suggested that the American Recovery Plan funds can be allocated toward those projects. Mr. Catania will submit a cost estimate to the Board.

Highway/Sanitation Committee Report

Mr. McMenamain announced no trash collection on September 6th in observance of Labor Day. He also announced the County Household Hazardous Waste collection event on September 18th at the Emergency Services Training Center. Pre-registration is required.

Law & Ordinance Committee Report - No Report

Recreation Committee Report

Mr. Donahue read the Recreation Committee report concerning the Fall newsletter, Fall programs, discount amusement park tickets and the township's Fall Festival.

Public Safety Committee Report

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

- Crum Lynne – 96
- Folsom – 293
- Holmes – 115
- Milmont Park – 62
- Morton – 55
- Ridley Park – 139
- Secane – 93
- Swarthmore - 52
- Woodlyn – 215

Mr. Willert announced that Captain Scott Willoughby filed for a disability retirement through his attorney, S. Stanton Miller, Jr., Esq. Mr. Miller supplied the township with the medical verification from Captain Willoughby's physicians. The Township sent Captain Willoughby for an Independent Medical Examination which concurred with the findings of Captain Willoughby's physicians and requested a motion to accept Captain Willoughby's request for a disability retirement effective August 31st.

Motion made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to accept Captain Willoughby's request for a disability retirement effective August 31st. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Willert thanked Captain Willoughby for his 31 years of service and announced the Police Committee would like to appoint Lt. James Dougherty Acting Captain of the Ridley Township Police Department and Sgt. Daniel Smith as Acting Patrol Lieutenant effective September 1, 2021. Lt. Dougherty thanked the Police Committee and the Board for their confidence and stated he looked forward to continuing to work with the officers of the RTPD to serve the residents and community.

Mr. Willert read correspondence from Joe Costa commending Elaine DeSalvo and Paul Dick from the Code Enforcement Office for their assistance in obtaining a fence permit.

Mr. Willert read an email received August 4th from Andres Jalon, Esq. requesting a continuance on the Heart and Lung hearing until after September 3, 2021.

Health & Code Enforcement Committee Report

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

- Permits Issued – 206
- Contractors Registered – 3
- Certificates of Occupancy Issued – 68
- Rental Inspections – 17
- Health Inspections – 15

Building Committee Report - No Report

Library & Resource Center Committee Report

Mrs. Cummins reported on the County Library's Automatic Renewal program and the Stock's Pound Cake fundraiser. She reported nearly 5,000 residents visited the library in July and checked out 9,500 books and other items, 2,200 downloads of e-books and program attendance in July was 1,305 bringing the total to 7,300 for the year. The Library will host a Blood Drive on September 15th. Information on all programs is available at the library website – www.ridleylibrary.org.

Mrs. Cummins announced Chrissy Koway resigned from the Library Board and thanked her for her service. Mrs. Cummins nominated Lauren Raikowski to the Library Board to fill Ms. Koway's unexpired term.

Motion was made by Mrs. Melasecca, seconded by Mr. Saraceni to appoint Ms. Raikowski to the Library Board. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Willert complimented Donna Murray, Library Director, and the library staff for the great job they do with all their programs and services.

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

Mrs. Cummins wished Captain Willoughby well and congratulated Lt. Dougherty.

Mrs. Melasecca announced Folsom Fire Company's Octoberfest will be held at the firehouse on October 9th (raindate October 10th).

Mr. Saunders wished Captain Willoughby well and looks forward to working with Lt. Dougherty & Sgt. Smith in their new positions.

Mr. McMenammin thanked Captain Willoughby for his years of service and congratulated Lt. Dougherty.

Mr. Bidoli congratulated Lt. Dougherty. He also reminded residents to slow down and watch the children going back to school.

Mr. Donahue congratulated Lt. Dougherty and Sgt. Smith.

Adjournment

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

Meeting concluded at 6:57pm.