

## Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Meeting December 22, 2021

General Meeting called to order at 12:03M with Pledge of Allegiance. Due to unforeseen issues, the meeting was postponed from December 13, 2021 to be able to have a quorum to vote.

Board Members in Attendance: Douglas Pallman, Kevin Carr and Robert Naegele

Board Guests in Attendance: Robert Sheils, III, solicitor; D. Scot Haan, CEO; and Francine Fawcett, Secretary/Treasurer

**Approval of Minutes: Motion by Naegele to approve the minutes of the General Meeting of November 22, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.**

**Announcements:** None

**Correspondence:** Correspondence is available with the Secretary's office during regular business hours for review.

### **New Business:**

***2022 Budget:*** The township's proposed 2022 budget has been available for public review. Pallman discussed that we have \$1,138,292.50 in revenue and \$1,273,189.00 in expenses with \$135,000 in unappropriated funds. Plans are being made for 2022 paving. There was a 33% increase in the proposed contract for police coverage with South Abington increasing that line item to \$80,000 compared to \$60,000 in years past. There is no tax increase for the township residents. **Motion by Carr to approve the 2022 Budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.**

***Noto Road Dedication:*** Plans were reviewed by Milnes Engineering and Mr. Noto responded to all concerns. Sheils noted that the date had to be changed to today, 12/22/2021. Resolution for deed of dedication will be drawn up and signed. The maintenance bond will stay in effect for two years from today and the other bonds will be released by the township if PADOT highway occupancy permit is transferred into the township's name. **Motion by Carr to accept the road dedication and the release of the bonds as long as the permit is transferred, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor, Naegele abstained.**

**Motion by Carr to approve Resolution 2021-5 (accepting deed of dedication of St. Andrews' Road), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor, Naegele abstained.**

***Tree Ordinance:*** Letters went out to residents that have dead ash trees located on their properties. Due to the change in seasons, the residents that could not tell what trees were ash trees, the DPW foreman will meet with them in the Spring to locate. Most residents did contact the township that they were down, need to have them pointed out (marked), or is on the list with the tree cutter. Some residents were not pleased with the wording in the letter and came to the meeting to discuss their displeasure with the supervisors. New letters will go out after reviewing the language in the Spring and once a new list of residents that have the dead trees.

***2022 Police Contract:*** As discussed earlier, the new police contract increased from \$61.29/hour to \$87.82/hour. The township contracts for 60 hours a month. The township is joining in the

talks for the regionalization of police departments between South Abington, Waverly and Clarks Summit. **Motion by Carr to accept South Abington's contract as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.**

**Motion by Naegele to sign the letter of intent to join in the regionalization of police study, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.**

*Mascaro Contract:* A draft contract was sent to Mascaro for signing before the township can sign. Service will not be interrupted.

**Standing Committee Reports:** POSTED - Planning Commission

*Recreation Center:* The status of the recreation center has not been determined yet. A public meeting at the center will be scheduled to get residents of the township input.

*Road Master:* Naegele reported on the work done this past month by the DPW. We are still waiting on the DEP permits for the culverts before we can bid out the work. We need to look for grant money to construct a new garage and salt shed.

*CEO:* Mr. Haan discussed that he had a meeting on Kimberly Circle with what the township thought was the owner of dead ash trees. It was determined that he did not own that area and the solicitor will have to investigate who the property owner is.

*Planning Commission:* Haan reported that the Planning Commission accepted the subdivision plans of Wilmot on Milwaukee Road.

*Solicitor:* Mr. Sheils discussed the letter received from an attorney with regards to a resident on Fords Pond Road having issues with the neighbor not following zoning ordinance and sewage rules. Haan reported that he spoke with the owner and one of the issues, a shed too close to property lines, has the electric removed and will move the shed next. There were no issues with the sewage enforcement officer after an inspection and report filed with DEP.

***Bills:* Motion by Naegele to approve the bills as read and prepared, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Being no further public input and discussion, **Naegele motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Meeting was adjourned at 3PM

Respectfully submitted by Francine Fawcett