

Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Special Meeting

January 30, 2023

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

Board Guests in Attendance: Robert Sheils, III, solicitor; Francine Fawcett, Secretary/Treasurer

6:04 P.M. -- Special Meeting Called to Order.

NOTE: The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the status of the Newton Recreation Center. This meeting was duly advertised in The Scranton Times.

Chairman Pallman opened the meeting at 6:04PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that we are here to discuss the long-term plan of the recreation center. We conducted a meeting like this a year ago in February and only ten people showed. He was happy to see so many in attendance tonight.

Attorney Sheils discussed the rules in place for speaking at the meeting tonight.

Before opening the meeting to public discussion, Chairman Pallman stated that the township took ownership of the rec center in 1996 where it had been decided that a voluntary rec board would run the day to day operations and it would be a solely based voluntary facility.

First to speak – Newton Township residents:

Denise Miller- 1755 Newton Ransom Blvd.: Denise stated that she has been an employee and volunteer in the past and thinks the center has lots of potential. The center needs to be accessible to the public.

Tom Summerhill – 11061 Valley View Drive: Tom stated that he believes the center should be sold and have an open auction.

Gregory Russick – 2432 Milwaukee Road: Mr. Russick has concerns with the paintings in the center being federal government paintings and is a possible impediment and we need to contact General Services before selling.

Rebecca Russick – 2432 Milwaukee Road: Mrs. Russick stated that she loves having a rec center in town and if it remains, is willing to volunteer time.

Terry Purcell – 2024 Newton Ransom Blvd.: Mrs. Purcell was a founding volunteer of the rec center when it was first acquired and is willing to volunteer again. She doesn't use email but gave the public her cell phone number for anyone wanting to contact her – (570) 335-8128.

Bobbi Jo Klinkel – 15009 Church Hill Road: Bobbi Jo stated that she is also will to volunteer.

Rosario Bevilaqua – 143 Columbus Circle: Mr. Bevilaqua had questions regarding the leases for the tenants. Pallman explained the lease for the Daydreamers and what the rate is, he also stated that the daycare occupies 73% of the building and the rate is still undervalued.

Colin Sheridan – 1418 Fords Pond: Mr. Sheridan stated that he believes it's time to sell the building.

Amber Sheridan – 1418 Fords Pond: Amber is the owner of Daydreamers and spoke on their behalf and that of the employees.

Anne and Jason Williams – 1841 Newton Ransom Blvd: The Williams live across the street from the center. They are willing to volunteer.

Sal Conaboy – 1615 Forest Acres Drive: Mr. Conaboy is supporting Daydreamers and doesn't believe the center is sustainable.

Sarah Stellar – 1264 Country Club Road: Mrs. Stellar had concerns over what the building could become and the traffic it would cause.

Mike Lucas – 116 Kimberly Circle: Supported the daycare.

Keith Eckel- 1647 Falls Road: Mr. Eckel has emotional ties to the building as he was in the last class to graduate from there. He stated that volunteers are hard to find giving examples as to how hard the fire company and church cannot get volunteers either. He recommends the sale of the center.

John Crowley – 1651 Falls Road: Mr. Crowley stated that he supports the sale of the center. He believes that the center should stay closed during the operating hours of the daycare as he has security concerns with the children being in the building. He suggests a two-year lease with the daycare to give alleviation to worried parents.

Karina Phang – 1006 Scenic Drive: Discussed the lack of high-quality child care in this area and how great the Daydreamers Daycare is.

Rena Evankavitch – 110 Sally Drive: Would like to move forward with the sale of the building.

Sarah Williams – 13033 Valley View Drive: Thinks that this is all just common sense and to sell the building to better improve the DPW garage to make things better for the residents.

Non-residents:

Amy Green – 605 Sunset Street, Clarks Summit: supporting Daydreamers.

Jennifer Suwak – 210 Fairview Avenue, Clarks Summit: supporting Daydreamers.

Angelica Snyder – 7 Lakeside Common, South Abington: stated that the center is too far gone to put money into it now and the gym is deplorable.

Kim Tenio – 2810 Rock Drive, Ransom Twp: Co-owner of Daydreamers. Mrs. Tenio discussed past events that used to be done at the center but have a lack of volunteers.

Kerry Gregory – Wyoming: A Steppin' Time Dance Studio discussed the need for a decision from the board to allow time to move and/or tell parents.

Georgia Liberatori – 14009 Maple Drive.

Megan Martino – 601 Scott Road, South Abington: Discussed the deterioration of the building.

Corrine Wilczynski – 815 Hudson Street, Mayfield: supporting Daydreamers.

Jeff Lacoë – 14016 Church Hill Road: Chief Lacoë stated that the fire company will help the rec center in whatever they decide and has volunteers.

Ashley Toth – South Abington Twp.: wants the lease renewed.

Stacey Biduck – 76 Pond Road, West Abington Twp.: Discussed the need for the parking lot to be paved and lines put in the parking lot.

David Bulzoni – Port Royal Road: Mr. Bulzoni sent an email to the Supervisors suggesting trying to partner with Ransom Township and he is available to help with any loans.

Pallman stated that we will be discussing this at our next meeting in February.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM

Respectfully submitted by Francine Fawcett