

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, SHALER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 P.M. by the Chairman David Shutter. Following a prayer by Commissioner Cross and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman asked the Secretary to call the roll as follows:

PRESENT: Mizgorski, Fisher, Iozzo, Boyle, Cross, Shutter
ALSO PRESENT: Timothy Rogers, Manager; Harlan Stone, Solicitor; Judith Kording, Assistant Manager; Amanda Jennings, Finance Assistant; Elaina DiBucci, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Rogers noted that **Commissioner Fisher** called into the meeting and was present telephonically due to being out of state.

Commissioner McElhone was unable to telephonically connect into the meeting due to phone difficulties.

The Chairman announced that an Executive Session was held on December 8, 2020 and this evening at 5:30 p.m. wherein the following topics were discussed: employee and personnel matters, contracts and policies, and an update on the actual and on-going litigation as well as potential litigations and identifiable complaints and agency business which if conducted in public would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of confidential information. Mr. Stone said the session was absolutely necessary and was in full compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and Act 15 which covers public meetings under the Governors Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

Approval of Minutes

The first item of business was the possible approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners held Tuesday, December 8, 2020. **Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Cross that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2020 be approved as received by each Commissioner. The motion was carried.**

Engineers Report – Mr. Matthew Sebastian

The next item of business was the Engineers Report.

- *Sanitary and Storm Sewer*
 - Months ago, we discovered that landslide activity on private property in the wooded area near Farrell Park had buried a Township sanitary manhole and cut off access to our sanitary lines. The property owner brought in a contractor to address the landslide. Coordinating with the contractor, we had our manhole exposed and raised for continued access. To complete the work and ensure that our sewer is fully functional and repaired where necessary, Insight Pipe will televise and line the now accessible sewer. Insight's work will be completed in January.

- *Paving*
 - Met with Hampton and HSWA to discuss and finalize the Road Repair Details and Ordinance. These updated Details and new Ordinance will allow for higher quality and more consistent road restoration throughout the Township. The new Details and Ordinance will be used most frequently in conjunction with utility work (water, gas, etc.).
 - Completed the road scan for the RoadBotics assessment. The completed assessment was received earlier this week. I will be working to complete an initial paving list to send to the Board as soon as possible. It is my intention to have the annual paving program ready to bid in February.

Upon inquiry from **Mr. Cross, Mr. Sebastian** stated that the sewer line repair on East Pennview will be finished tomorrow. Mr. Sebastian also stated that he will talk to the contractors prior to them starting the work again next week to see if they can figure out a timing that works better for residents to get in and out of that neighborhood.

Shaler Hampton EMS

The next item of business was a report from **Mr. Eric Schmidt**, Director of Shaler Hampton EMS (SHEMS). Mr. Schmidt reported on the 2020 year to date volume data, mutual aid and call disposition, response times and an update on COVID-19. He stated that Kittanning Street is open to emergency vehicle access, so they have not had any problems with that. He stated that they have had significant challenges with staffing throughout the pandemic, but the part time staff has stepped up to help a lot. Mr. Schmidt stated that almost 80% of the staff took part in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. He stated many of them have already gotten the second dose and the others have gotten their first vaccine, waiting on the second. Mr. Schmidt also reported that unfortunately Shaler cases of COVID-19 are continuing to increase within the Township.

Appointment of Various Members to Fill Committee Vacancies

Shaler North Hills Library Board, three-year term

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Shaler North Hills Library Board.

Mr. Cross moved, seconded by Mr. Iozzo that Lori Mizgorski be reappointed to the Shaler North Hills Library Board for an unpaid three-year term, said to expire January 1, 2024. The motion was carried.

Mr. Mizgorski abstains from this due to a relation to Lori Mizgorski.

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Shaler North Hills Library Board.

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Mizgorski that Ann Carlson be reappointed to the Shaler North Hills Library Board for an unpaid three-year term, said to expire January 1, 2024. The motion was carried.

Planning Commission Board, four-year term

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Planning Commissioner Board.

Mr. Cross moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle that Gregory Greiff be reappointed to the Planning Commission Board for an unpaid four-year term, said to expire January 1, 2025. The motion was carried.

Planning Commission Board, Interim Appointment for Fire Liaison

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Planning Commissioner Board, Interim Appointment for Fire Liaison.

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Mizgorski that John Rihn be appointed to fill the unexpired term for the Planning Commission Board Fire Liaison for an unpaid four-year term, said to expire December 31, 2024. The motion was carried.

Educational Service Agency, three-year term

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Educational Service Agency.

Mr. Iozzo moved, seconded by Mr. Mizgorski that Timothy J. Rogers be reappointed to the Educational Service Agency for an unpaid three-year term, said to expire January 1, 2024. The motion was carried.

Shaler Hampton EMS Board, three-year term

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Shaler Hampton EMS Board.

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Mizgorski that William Cross be reappointed to the Shaler Hampton EMS Board for an unpaid three-year term, said to expire January 1, 2024. The motion was carried.

Mr. Cross abstains.

Zoning Hearing Board, three-year term

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Mizgorski that Charles Porter be reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board for an unpaid three-year term, said to expire January 1, 2024. The motion was carried.

Emergency Management Coordinator, four-year term

The Chairman then asked for an appointment to the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Cross that John Rihn be reappointed as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for an unpaid four-year term, said to expire January 1, 2025.

Receipts and Authorizations

The next item of business was the receipts for the month of December 2020.

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Cross that the receipts for the month of December 2020 be turned over to the proper authorities for deposit. The motion was carried.

The next item of business was the authorizations for the month of December 2020. **Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Iozzo that warrants be drawn for the month of December 2020. The motion was carried.**

Ordinances and Resolutions

Passage of Ordinances

Ordinance No. 1958 Road Restoration

The next item of business was the passage of Ordinance No. 1958 Road Restoration Ordinance. **Mr. Mizgorski moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle that Ordinance No. 1958 be approved by roll call vote.**

Public Hearing: Mr. Sebastian stated that Shaler and Hampton Township have worked together to come up with this ordinance to be identical for both Townships. He stated the purpose of this ordinance is for a much smoother outcome for road repairs after utility work is complete in Shaler or Hampton Township. This ordinance now has cutback and ridging requirements to allow for that much smoother transition. This will cause a full travel lane of the road replaces after a repair is done instead of just where the utility line was which causes a very uneven road. Mr. Sebastian stated there is now a minimum of 10 feet on each side of topcoat to be placed on patches, which will allow a paver to drop in and come back out for good transitions on each side.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Iozzo, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Cross, Mr. Mizgorski
The motion was carried.

Ordinance No. 1959 Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement with Verizon

The next item of business was the passage of Ordinance No. 1959 Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement with Verizon. **Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Cross that Ordinance No. 1959 be approved by roll call vote.**

Public Hearing: Mr. Rogers stated he is Chairman of the cable committee for the North Hills Council of Government (NHCOG) and they have been in negotiations with both cable companies. He stated one of the biggest issues was Verizon's desire to avoid FCC requirements to enter negotiation into municipalities. He stated Verizon is under the opinion that they are exempt because they provide internet services, but they got past that. He stated they wanted a shorter contract of 5 years instead of the normal 10-year contract. He stated their issue is that they want to be able to terminate all Verizon cable services to all their customers in a very short period. Mr. Rogers stated the bulk of the negotiation was that they needed to give the Township enough time to allow residents to get other services. Mr. Rogers stated Verizon is considering the possibility of no longer offering cable television. Mr. Rogers stated issues regarding franchise fees were resolved to the Townships favor, Verizon is now meeting equity with Comcast. He stated there was a change in law on the federal government side saying that any cable TV service that has previously provided to a municipality a free service to EMS, fire companies, the Township, etc. will no longer be available. Municipalities are now permitted to deduct those costs from the cable service revenue, which has decreased over the past few year. Mr. Rogers stated the Township does not receive franchise for services other than TV.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Iozzo, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Cross, Mr. Mizgorski
The motion was carried

Ordinance No. 1960 Volunteer Tax Credit

The next item of business was the passage of Ordinance No. 1960 Volunteer Tax Credit. **Mr. Cross moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle that Ordinance No. 1960 be approved by roll call vote.**

Public Hearing: Mr. Rogers stated this ordinance is to allow senior members of the volunteer fire companies to put the \$300 towards their property tax instead of the earned income tax. The volunteer fire companies provided the Township with a set of standards that explains what makes them eligible for this credit or not. He stated they must provide service to the volunteer fire company; they do not have to be active duty though. He stated they are only eligible on their township property taxes only and they must be a property owner, not a rental.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Iozzo, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Cross, Mr. Mizgorski
The motion was carried

Resolutions

Resolution No. 1-2021 Volunteer Tax Credit

The next item of business was Resolution No. 1-2021 Volunteer Tax Credit. Mr. Rogers stated the purpose for this resolution is to provide policy for Ordinance No. 1960.

Mr. Cross moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle that Resolution No. 1-2021 Volunteer Tax Credit be approved by voice vote. The motion was carried.

Commissioners Comments

Mr. Cross stated Saturday, January 9th was National Law Enforcement Day, and he recognized the fine work of the Shaler Township Police Officers and asked Chief Sean Frank to extend his thank you to all the Officers.

Chief Frank thanked Mr. Cross.

Manager's Report

Mr. Rogers stated that 3000 tons of salt were used in the previous snowstorm, totaling \$41,000.

Public Comments

There being no further business, **Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mrs. Cross that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Rogers, Secretary
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