

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING**

April 25, 2018

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Macino called the workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Wilson Durisko – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq. - Present
Dawn Williams-Zabicki – Present
Rick Ruffennach – Present
George Macino – Present

STAFF

Chuck Means, Solicitor - Absent
Kevin Brett, Engineer - Absent
Craig Campbell, Police Chief – Absent
Robert Caun, Planning Director – Absent
Jeff Hinds, Finance Director – Absent
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Absent
Brian Ralston, Bldg./Codes Officer – Absent
Rochelle Barry, Parks Director – Absent
Kyle Thauvette, Twp. Manager - Present
Valerie Salla, Twp. Secretary – Present

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A meeting was held to discuss personnel issues.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Before Public Comments were taken, Commissioner Macino stated the Township’s Board was looking into entering into an agreement to build a couple of lighted soccer fields. The last and final hurdle was the National Park Service. The National Park Service notified the Township today that we will not be permitted to do that. We will no longer be entertaining the lighted soccer fields.

The Audience all clapped.

Doreen Ducsay of 1 Elm Avenue approached the Board with several concerns and some of them included the soccer fields. The following were the concerns:

After reading the last two months of your meetings, I came across the Beadling request by Beth Eckenrode. It appears that Beadling does not have the money to cover the cost of the construction or the property to construct two lite soccer fields. Collier has decided to enter into an agreement to build them in our Community Park and finance them for Beadling? It is my understanding that Beadling has given their "permission" for Collier to use the fields from 6:30 AM – 2:30 PM. REALLY? Collier has a great financial rating yet in the 2018 budget there is no money to finance this project! But, you are going to finance it and the taxpayers are going to make the payments for your decision to enter into an agreement with Beadling without our input? What about OUR kids?

Also in your minutes, it shows you want to tear down the old structures at the Nike site, I would assume you are building this cost into the 5 M for the fields. As a township, this would be the only positive of this agreement.

There is plenty of unfinished business that the township should be concentrating on (some of which I will touch on at the end of my comments), without taking on any new liability or debt... especially one that is as controversial as this.

Back in 2015, with a donation of \$5,000 from Mr. Gene Czambel, Molly's Park was to be built near the same area. Other people donated to this park as well. In 2016, by a 3-2 vote for fencing of the park, \$15,000 was allotted by the Commissioners. This project has been on hold for three years by Collier Parks and Recreation, but why? Then spending \$700,000 on the Meadow Path on Hilltop, which the soil continues to fall onto the path making it unusable.

I remembered that Mrs. Eckenrode requested \$5,000 from Collier and the other school municipalities, for a sign to be put along Thoms Run Road last year to advertise CV sporting events and functions. After looking at Beadling's website, I found that Beth Eckenrode is on the Board of Directors for Beadling. Her husband is the President of Collier Parks and Recreation. Isn't this a conflict of interest?

The Chartiers Valley School District just increased our taxes for 2018 by 2mills for the construction of the Middle/High School and the High School has not even been completed. On the next election ballot, there will be the question to voters to approve/disapprove an additional \$130.00 per household for Middle/High School security costs. The original budget for this project was 67 M and is currently around 93M today. If you have never seen the construction please take the time to take a ride thru the new Middle/High School campus. To get from the Middle school to the High School area, the kids have to walk thru empty trailers (box containers), even if they are on crutches. Why did Collier give them the occupancy permit to occupy the school? I know this because I have two grandkids in these schools and have attended various functions at the school.

Back in 2000, the Panhandle Trail received \$10,000 from Collier Township. In addition, thousands of hours and dollars of donations were made by people and businesses from both the community and surround area. The trail is, by far, the most used recreation facility in Collier and was constructed with minimal impact to the taxpayers.

I know you already have applied for and most likely received the bond for, I believe 5M, but is it a taxable bond or a municipal bond? A taxable bond is sometimes used when the money being borrowed, is not used for the good of the majority of the citizens. Financing Beadling is not good for the majority of the citizens of Collier Township! It is only good for Beadling or if your child is athletic enough or has the financial means to play for Beadling. Beadling's request has been turned down by both Upper St. Clair and South Fayette and Collier is now being approached and quietly entering into an agreement together, without the taxpayers knowledge.

Also in your 2018 budget, I noticed that was no earmark for road repair work on township roads, it is shown in 2016, \$181,748 was spent and in 2017, \$131,000 budgeted yet in 2018 it shows zero? I recently drove down Scotts Run Road, which recently became a township road, entering from Ewing, the first bend is sinking with no guardrails or

visual warnings. The entire road is covered in potholes and in sections there are no guardrails. If there is a wreck on that road and it has not been fixed, make sure to tell the deceased's family that it was more important to Collier to enter into an agreement with Beadling rather than make our roads safe!

You have all taken an oath when you were sworn in as Commissioners and that oath states "Do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of the Commonwealth, and I will discharge the duties of Collier Commissioner with FIDELITY. Definition of Fidelity is: "having the quality of being faithful, strict observances of promises and duties." I hope you vote tonight to be faithful to the residents of Collier and not enter into any agreement with Beadling to benefit a for profit organization and not the taxpayers of Collier.

The audience all clapped.

MaryAnn Cupples-Wisnioski approached the Board on behalf of Gail Neustadt located at 1503 Grand Cypress Lane. Mrs. Neustadt prepared a letter that she handed to the Board.

A copy of the letter was not provided for the minutes.

Tom Cannon of 1 Cannon Drive approached the Board with two (2) subjects.

The first subject Mr. Cannon acknowledge the Public Works for the outstanding job they do on the roads every winter and all year round. The Township has the finest employees in every one of the departments including secretaries and the police department.

Mr. Cannon stated he was on the Board in the early 80's. Ever since then it has gotten better and better every year and he appreciates that as long as the Board keeps working for the tax payers of this community. Just in case this Beadling thing gets resurrected, he is still on the Board for the Boy Scouts Troop 860 sponsored by the Collier Township police department. Sal Sirabella allowed us to use storage out at Collier Park that is about 1200 square feet and is full. He didn't think they would have to look for another place for 5 to 6 years but, once the Beadling proposal came up maybe something else will come up. He would like the Board to consider letting the boy scouts extend the storage at Webb all the way back up to the fence surrounding the garbage containers. Either that or to match the municipal building somewhere out back or off to the side. If that is possible up here, maybe we could get together with the cub scouts and boy scouts and make 2400 square feet.

Subject 2: Mr. Cannon stated if the Beadling thing is resurrected, he has so many questions, a long list of the cost and who would be responsible. For instance, sponsorship signs, the Athletic Association used to get \$100 when a sign was hung on the fence. Who would get those funds? Beadling, a private outside organization? Those signs would be put up on Township property and that money should go to the Township. Also, it would behoove everyone to have a series of public hearings. When this came up, Mr. Cannon was the last to hear about it. He has never seen the residents so stirred up since 1980 and that is when the Commissioners at that time granted 48 variances to a developer. A concerned citizens group was formed and kept it in court for three (3) years and held up that development until they gave up almost all those variances. There was a fee requirement and the concerned citizens group was reimbursed over \$50,000 of attorney's fees that they paid. There has to be citizens input particularly if it is an outside organization. Citizens need to be aware of issues in the Township.

All of the audience clapped.

Commissioner Macino thanked Mr. Cannon.

Lisa Loniero of 114 Delfred Drive approached the Board stating she was confused over an email she received stating to come to a meeting while the Commissioners consider constructing two (2) regulation ball parks. If the soccer fields are not going to happen, will the mean the ball parks are not going to happen as well?

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned who sent the email.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated there was nothing about ball parks. It was only about the soccer fields.

Ms. Loniero stated that is not the email she got.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated “you got misinformed. It was always two (2) soccer fields.”

Ms. Loniero stated she could go get her phone and show the Board the email. It says you are invited while the Commissioners consider two (2) regulation turf light ball parks.

The Commissioners and audience stated it was soccer fields.

Ms. Loniero questioned then nothing is doing to be constructed up there.

Commissioner Macino stated the project with Beadling is gone.

Ms. Loniero then questioned if anything will ever been done. The stop signs might as well not even be there. People do not stop and they are speeding up and down the street. There was an elderly woman hit by a car two (2) years ago.

Commissioner Macino stated the Police Chief has tried some different things. We cannot put speed bumps in.

Ms. Loniero stated that is because you don't want to spend the money on a traffic study to justify the speed bumps.

Commissioner Macino stated there are a couple of areas in the Township and we have to look at whether we can spend that type of money or not.

Ms. Loniero stated she has been asking for three (3) years.

Commissioner Macino stated this Board will put that into consideration again.

Ms. Loniero stated she was told it was going into the budget last year and it never did and asked for a guarantee that something will get done.

Commissioner Durisko stated he put in a road paving program for the last two (2) years and nothing was done with that and I have a wonderful solution he would like to present to everyone.

Ms. Loniero stated “speaking of that, Prestley Extension is crumbling. School buses and trash trucks use this road and doesn't know how they can make in on this road from Noblestown. The side of the road is caving into the creek. This is a very dangerous situation. She has seen 18 wheelers go up this road. Can this road be just restricted to vehicles?”

Commissioner Macino stated the Board will look into this.

Commissioner Durisko stated he knows the engineers will have to take a core sample and have it tested for weight.

Ms. Loniero questioned if Prestley Extension will be paved and Scotts Run Road is also really bad. She drove that road the other day and people fly up that road too.

Ms. Loniero thanked the Board.

Diane Hines of 4 Columbia Avenue approached the Board with concerns of people racing through the neighborhood. There is one stop sign there and that is where Sylvan meets Columbia. People are using this as a cut through. No one really stops at the current stop sign now. Last year the Township put up a flashing speed limit sign. Could that be done again? and can another stop sign be installed.

Mrs. Hinds also acknowledged how great the Public Works Department is.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if these are Township streets and can a stop sign be put up.

Mr. Thauvette stated yes, they are and we would need a traffic study to get a stop sign and Have it to be enforceable.

Commissioner Chiurazzi advised Mr. Thauvette to have the police set there and ticket people. Most of the time it is the neighbors racing through. This has happened in his neighborhood.

Mrs. Hinds added she has cameras at her house that records and she has gotten multiple cars going through the stop sign. The Township can use this if needed for the traffic study.

Mr. Thauvette stated he will speak to the Chief of Police regarding this issue.

Ed Federouch of 121 Boyds Run Road approached the Board questioning where the soccer fields would have been located.

Commissioner Durisko stated they would have been back by where the two (2) military buildings are currently standing. One on the hill side and on where the elevated field is currently.

Mr. Federouch stated he currently coaches for CV Soccer and on the upper fields we had access to them last year. This year we are only allowed to use the lower fields. Are we still allowed to use those upper fields?

Commissioner Durisko advised Mr. Federouch to check with the Recreation Director.

Mr. Thauvette this is because the Township did not know what the future held for that Location and also advised Mr. Federouch to contact the Recreation Director, Rochelle or Rob Shazer the program coordinator. There should be more flexible time available now that there will not be any construction.

Mr. Federouch thanked the Board.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider action to authorize partial payment #1 to JASE Construction Services, LLC. in the amount of \$30,150.00 for the Carol Drive project as recommended by W.E.C., Inc. Engineers.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, second by Commissioner Ruffennach, to authorize partial payment #1 to JASE Construction Services, LLC. as stated above. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

- B. Consider action to authorize payment to Woltz & Wind Ford in the amount of \$47,255.00 for a Ford F550 truck.

Commissioner Durisko questioned if Woltz & Wind will be doing the body transfer for us.

Mr. Thauvette stated no, Imperial Truck Body will be doing that work.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated they will also be putting a new plow on the chassis

Motion was made by Commissioner Durisko, second by Commissioner Ruffennach, to authorize payment to Woltz & Wind Ford as stated above. By unanimous vote the motion passed.

IV. DISCUSSION:

- A. **Administrative Committee/Public Affairs:** Commissioner Ruffennach reported the following:
1. **Keep Collier Beautiful.** Was a huge success. There were 100 volunteers and 200 bags of garbage was collected. Thanks went out to Lane Construction for food and drinks for the volunteers and also to Republic Services for donating vest and gloves for the volunteers.
 2. **Fresh Thyme Market.** Located in Great Southern Shopping Center will be opening in June. They are excited for their big ribbon cutting ceremony and excited to work with the schools and the Township for fundraising. Rochelle Barry has been working with Fresh Thyme Market.
 3. **Manager's Coffee Hour.** This is on Monday, May 14th at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center. Coffee and pastries will be available.
- B. **COG Committee:** Commissioner Ruffennach informed on the following:
1. **Annual 37th Dinner.** Was held at Rockefeller's in Kennedy Township. The manager and Commissioner Ruffennach attended the dinner. It was a nice event and gave them the chance to talk with other communities. Rich Fitzgerald was the speaker. He was excited about Amazon and the Airport. Mr. Connor Lamb showed up to say hello.

- C. **Finance Committee:** Commissioner Macino reported the following:
1. *Audit.* We should have a report for the May public meeting.
- D. **Parks and Recreation:** Commissioner Durisko reported the following:
1. They are in need of members. Anyone interested should submit a letter to the Parks Director, Rochelle Barry or Tim Eckenrode. There are at least three (3) people needed.
 2. Concerts in the Park series are set.
 3. Collierfest main act is still being worked on.
- E. **Planning and Zoning:** Commissioner Williams-Zabicki informed the Board on the following:
1. There will be Public Hearings held on May 9th at 5:30 p.m. for Sheetz and for a Verizon Wireless. The Planning Commission reviewed the Verizon Wireless request and does recommend approval of this.
 2. The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on May 15th to vote on variance requests that Sheetz has made. The Planning Commission has reviewed the request and has recommend approval of this.
- F. **Public Safety Committee:** Commissioner Macino reported the following:
1. *Sergeant Position.* This position will be filled in the next couple of weeks.
 2. *Carnegie Elementary School incident.* There was a child with a gun. Police Departments from Collier, Scott, Carnegie and Heidelberg were all there. Commissioner Macino congratulated all the Police Departments for their quick response in handling this matter.
- G. **Public Works Committee:** Commissioner Durisko reported the following:
1. The Public Works Department did several catch basin repairs.
 2. Snow plows were taken off the truck.
- H. **Township Manager / Township Business:** Mr. Thauvette reported the following:
1. Public Works will host a Spring yard and waste clean-up in May on Mondays and Fridays. More information to come.
 2. New doors were installed on the Community Room downstairs in the Municipal Office.
 3. At the last Manager's Coffee Hour a resident brought up that Collier should have an Ordinance for Truth in Advertising. This Ordinance will help with businesses located in Collier Township to advertise that they are located in Collier Township.

Commissioner Macino stated when we do fire inspections, we could have something given to the business telling them they are located in Collier Township and have to advertise that.

4. Manager's Meeting. This meeting is the South West Communities Chamber of Commerce and the meeting will be held on May 8th. Tickets are available on their website. Mr. Thauvette will be one of the manager's to speak.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was discussed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams-Zabicki; seconded by Commissioner Ruffennach; to adjourn the work shop meeting at 7:45 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

George E. Macino – President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary