

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP MEETING

April 11, 2022

7:00 P.M.

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

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Dawnlee Vaughn – Present
Tim Young – Present
Debra Zymroz – Present
Mary Ann Cupples- Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq.– Present

STAFF

Kate Diersen, Solicitor – Absent
Kevin Brett, Engineer – Absent
Craig Campbell, Police Chief – Absent
Bob Caun, Planning Director – Absent
Jeff Hinds, Finance Director – Absent
Tom Plietz – Bldg/Fire Codes – Absent
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Absent
Josh Werner, Parks Director – Absent
George Macino, Twp. Manager – Present
Valerie Salla, Twp. Secretary – Present

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Was held prior to the meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

II. Board Discussion for Committees

A. Administrative/Public Affairs

Commissioner Zymroz reported the following:

1. *Computers.* Replaced one frontend secretary computer that has been outdated. Replaced one hard drive in a secretary computer that is required to function. Replacing a computer in the Public Works Department.
2. *Wi-Fi Upgrade.* Was done at the community center. It had not been updated since 2015.
3. *Employee Handbook.* Is from 2012 and being updated.
4. *Keep Collier Beautiful.* Is on April 23rd. Procedures are in place and Northeast paving is a sponsor and providing water bottles for the volunteers. There is also a sponsor providing pizza for lunch. This will take place at the Community Center.
5. *Letters to Businesses.* Positive responses to the letters for businesses stating they are located in Collier Township.
6. *Managers Coffee Hour Comments.* Does Collier have a fallout shelter? The next coffee hour will be on Monday, May 2nd at 9:30a.m. at the Community Center.
7. *E Waste Event for Fall.* We are exploring the possibilities.

8. *ALOM Conference*. Commissioners Zymroz and Cupples thanked Ms. Salla for helping get the reservations for them. At the conference, they learned a lot and Collier does not have some of the issues that other communities face. Collier is a great place to live.

Commissioner Cupples and Zymroz accepted the award for Collier being a Banner Community. Collier is one of a few that have received the banner community award since it started.

B. Building/Codes

Commissioner Chiurazzi reported the following:

1. *Letter to Businesses*. We had some positive responses and one that was a little odd that he called them and took care of it and it became positive. Collier businesses should be proud to be in Collier.

C. COG (Char West Council of Governments)

Commissioner Vaughn reported the following:

1. *COG Meeting*. Was held on March 17, 2022, at the Stowe Township Municipal Building. She informed the COG that we Hired George Macino as our Township Manager.
2. *COG Annual Dinner*. The COG President indicated they are not ready for the annual dinner. With Covid starting to decline, the President wanted to wait to see what the next few months would be like and would possibly like to wait till December to have the dinner.
3. *Next COG Meeting*. Will be on April 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Crescent Township Building.

D. Finance

Commissioner Young reported the following:

1. *Bills*. Tonight's bills total around \$245,000 which is within reason for the month.
2. *Finance Director*. Is out of the office until next Monday.

E. Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Zymroz reported the following:

1. *Silver Sneakers*. We will be adding this program soon. Silver Sneakers will give the Township back \$2.50 per person per day once the program is implemented. Offering Silver Sneakers is something Mr. Werner has been working on since he started. This would be great for the community.
2. *Community Center Staff*. Has hired two (2) additional workers and is looking to add a few more.
3. *Hilltop Playground Project*. Is almost complete. Just waiting for the ADA walkways to be installed. There will be a grand opening for the park in early May.
4. *Bunny Breakfast*. We are looking for volunteers to help with the breakfast on Saturday, April 16, 2022, from 9:00a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
5. *Comprehensive Plan Grant*. Has been closed out and in the coming months, meetings will be held to discuss what our first move should be.
6. *Internet*. Has been upgraded for the first time since 2015. Many compliments have been made by members.

7. Community Center Hours. We are going to increase our hours on the weekend starting in May.
8. Summer Camp. Information will be coming out soon and we are looking for another successful year.
9. Successful Programs in the last month are:
 - Family Fun Night – 117 people
 - Collier Kids Club (In-House Pre-School Program – 6 kids)
 - Adult Craft Night – 15 people
 - Bunny Breakfast – 100
 - Bus Trip #1 – 40 people
 - Youth Volleyball Skills Clinic – 42
10. CPR/AED Certification. Held on Thursday, April 28th or Saturday, May 8th at the Community Center from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. and it is \$30.00 per person.
11. Adult Cooking Class. The Art of Tuscan Cuisine. For ages 21 and over. BYOB is welcome. The instructor is John DeFazio. This will be held on Saturday, May 7th from noon to 3:00p.m. The cost is per person; \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members.
12. Adult Cooking Class. The Art of Tuscan Cuisine II. For ages 21 and over. BYOB is welcome. The instructor is John DeFazio. This will be held on Saturday, May 14th from noon to 3:00p.m. The cost is per person; \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members.
13. Eastern Bluebird Class. Bill Wenger has been putting up bird houses for years. He is a long time blue-birder going back to the 1970's when he saw his very first blue bird flying across Thoms Run Road. The Class will be held on April 21st from 6:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center and is free but they would like you to pre-register.

F. Planning and Land Use Development

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

- Zoning Hearing Board. Will meet on Tuesday, April 19th to hear the following:
 1. Eat N Park. Is requesting steep slope variance for the construction of a new restaurant on Washington Pike.
 2. Kirwan Heights VFD. Requesting to construct a digital wall sign.
 3. Northeast Paving. Requesting to add signage to the existing silos.
- Planning Commission. Will meet on Thursday, April 21st to review the following:
 1. Eat N Park. Preliminary Land Development.
 2. Legacy. Proposed Pool and Clubhouse.
 3. NVR Properties. Requesting a text amendment to allow garden apartments in the B1A Zoning District.
 4. Ryan Homes and Woodville Associates. Requesting rezoning of the undeveloped area above Neville Park to allow for single family, townhomes and two (2) family dwellings.

G. Public Safety

Commissioner Young reported the following:

1. Police Department. He spoke with the Chief of Police regarding the Civil Service rules and regulations which we will be voting on tonight. There have been a lot

of changes and the updated rules and regulations need approved before we can hire another police officer.

2. Fire Departments. Commissioner Young will ask Chief Wauthier to speak but he was told the fish fry was very successful at the Presto VFD and Rennerdale VFD this year.

Chief Dan Wauthier of the Presto VFD reported the following:

1. Calls. There have been no major incidents this year but so far this year at Presto VFD, we had call 103 today.
2. Line Officers Meeting. There is a line officers meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at the Presto VFD. The Commissioners are welcome to come.
3. Bylaws. We are still working on the Township wide bylaws. They are working on some of the recommendations from the study.
4. American Recovery Funds. There have been several Fire Departments in the local area at their municipalities are cutting them in on the American Recovery Funds that they receive. Chief Wauthier asked the Board to consider the fire departments when it comes time for the \$800,000.00 plus to be utilized.

Commissioner Zymroz stated she heard at the ALOM Conference that everyone is losing firemen. No one wants to volunteer and this is a necessity that we need and for people not to forget the fundraisers. The fire departments do a little bit and we try to help out but there is still more the fire departments need like bunker gear, etc. People do not realize the cost of things that are needed.

Chief Wauthier stated one of the trucks they have, the 2009 Ladder truck costs use \$664,000 in 2009. Right now, you will not touch that truck for less than 1.3 million dollars and where do you expect the fire departments to come up with that kind of money. As far as volunteers, there are two (2) income families now and everybody works. Just to enter a burning structure, there is over 200 hours of training that you must go through plus everything else. It is getting to the point where the volunteer services are limited. Eventually municipalities will have to pay fireman. The Presto VFD has one paid firemen during the daytime and we are hoping to up that to two (2) fireman and having them rotate through two (2) stations in Collier Township for 7 ½ hours Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Zymroz questioned if Chief Wauthier thought if daytime was better than the evening. The evening being 12 noon to 7:00p.m.

Chief Wauthier stated the daytime is when everyone is at work. The other day there was a call at 3:00p.m. on the Parkway and Presto had four (4) people, Rennerdale had four (4) people and Kirwan had two (2). For that many to show up was actually a lot and had it been a couple of hours earlier, there may have only been a total of three (3) or four (4) people responding. This is the part of being a volunteer. Everyone usually has a 40 hour a week job at least and plus other stuff. There are more and more departments talking about putting daytime people on. South Fayette Township is talking about

putting daylight staffing on. Scott Township fire departments have a couple of daylight staff. Bridgeville VFD does not have daylight staff, but they have a couple of people that work the emergency medical field, so they work 12 hour shifts. Bridgeville does call us because they know we have bodies in the station. We are on automatic dispatch with everything for Bridgeville during the daytime and they help us when needed.

Commissioner Zymroz stated the Board and Kyle spoke about this last year.

Chief Wauthier stated he gave the Board a proposal last year regarding this.

Commissioner Zymroz stated the Board needs to look at this again because the fire departments are buying bunker gear that is used from someone that is getting rid of it. If the gear is not good for the one who is getting rid of it, it is not better for us. The cost is better.

Chief Wauthier stated NFPA is not a law in Pennsylvania. It is a standard. If the NFPA says turnout gear is only good for 10 years, then in 10 years and 1 day the gear is not good anymore. The question is, is the turnout gear still good? Yes, it is still good but if someone gets hurt in that gear and the gear is 10 years and 1 day old, the NFPA will investigate and then come after the Chief, the fire department and the Township. The Township has to provide fire protection.

Commissioner Zymroz questioned how much one bunker gear cost?

Chief Wauthier stated for him to suit one (1) person, the pants and coat are about \$2,800, helmet is \$400, boots are about \$500, SCBA is \$6,000 to \$8,000. An SCBA is only good for about 15 years. The SCBA is a federal standard. There are hidden costs that people do not realize. He currently has people in gear older than 10 years because the department cannot afford to not have gear and those people do not go interior for a fire. They stay on the exterior. But, according to the law, they are not within the standards of the law.

Commissioner Zymroz stated she appreciates what all the firemen do and thanked them

All the Board members thanked Chief Wauthier.

H. Public Works

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. Hilltop Park. Is almost completed. We hope to have a ribbon cutting as soon as we can. We did open the park this past weekend and it is available for the public to use.
2. Summer Equipment. Getting weed-wackers, lawn mowers, etc. ready.
3. Keep Collier Beautiful. Working on preparations for this.

I. Sewer Department

Commissioner Young reported the following:

1. Dye Tests. Last month Mr. Durisko did 20 sewer/dye test. There were two (2) of them that required fresh air vents because one was located under a porch and the other was crushed in.
2. Thoms Run Road. We need to come up with a solution for this.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that he wanted to be clear in the minutes that anything relative to the sewer's issues on what Commissioner Young and Mr. Macino spoke about. If it is a Collier Township matter, it is a Collier Township issue. We will not spend taxpayers' dollars if it is not a Collier Township issue.

J. Township Manager / Township Business

Mr. Macino reported the following:

1. Thoms Run Road. Robinson Pipe Cleaning went and looked at the Thoms Run Road issue. Their bid was reasonable compared to the other bids they received. We should go through with the cleaning to see if there is actual blockage here which we would have to resolve regardless of what happens to that stretch of pipe. They have been scheduled to start this work next week. It is part one of what we are targeting. Step 2 is dye testing if nothing else comes up. Step 3 is how do we mitigate whatever the issues are with backflows
2. Grant. The Township was given a Redevelopment Authority Grant from the gaming, economic and tourism fund. Mr. Macino has been in touch with Allegheny County and has the information on what is needed to be done and it is not too late. It involves a couple of different things and it was never signed. The grant is still available and Mr. Macino will get it signed and put into motion. The grant is a 20% match.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Frank Nogal of 500 Azalea Lane approached the Board regarding a meeting in December that he attended and showed some pictures of roads that were taken over by Collier Township.

Mr. Nogal gave the two (2) new Commissioners (Dawnlee Vaughn and Tim Young) a copy of the pictures and said back in 2018 the Engineer said he owed an inspection of the roads before they were turned over. Mr. Nogal stated he questioned Mr. Macino about the inspections of the roads and there are not any inspections of these roads.

Mr. Nogal questioned both Commissioners Young and Vaughn if the Engineer gave false information or someone did something they should not have done. The Township accepted roads that in a matter of a month, are on the schedule to get repaired and he is thankful for. Mr. Nogal hopes they all get repaired, completed and the silt socks are taken off the grate covers and the barriers are taken down at the top of Neville Park Blvd. The Board may want to look at the votes that were cast and the information given prior at that meeting because no one looked at it. He wants to put this on record and he will email Mr. Macino and Ms. Salla the pictures to get back into the minutes. He appreciates the Township getting the roads fixed up to standard. Mr. Nogal would

like the Board to look at the pictures and ask why did you accept these roads in these conditions?

Commissioner Zymroz questioned why the rest of the Board did not get copies of these road pictures.

Commissioner Vaughn stated she would pass the pictures down to Commissioner Zymroz.

Mr. Nogal stated the Board was here at the December meeting when the roads were shown on the big screen. The Board is spending tax dollars on roads to be fixed that you could have had the Developer fix before the Township took them over.

Commissioners Cupples questioned of the pictures of the roads are labeled as to what road they are.

Mr. Nogal stated Neville Park, Azalea Lane....

Commissioner Zymroz stated she does not live in that area and does not know what roads the pictures are of.

Commissioner Cupples stated the one picture looks like Neville Park and the road has been bonded. Mr. Cargnoni is responsible for fixing that road. It is not a Township expense. Before we turned the roads over, we made sure that Mr. Cargnoni knows he is responsible for that road and when he is all done with the trucks, he has to repair that road.

Mr. Nogal questioned if this was in writing. Mr. Cargnoni really has not done much for the Township in all these years.

Commissioner Cupples stated that is Mr. Nogal's opinion.

Mr. Nogal stated that Commissioner Chiurazzi said it many times that you do not go against Jack. He asked the Commissioners to look at the pictures and to look into the Engineers report that says roads were complete and satisfactory condition. You may want to look at your Engineer and thanked the Board for listening.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider action to approve Resolution No. 041122-01, A Resolution amending the Official Sewage Facilities plan to include the Hawk Hill Plan of Lots.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve Resolution 041122-01 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

2. Consider action to approve amendment No. 1 to the Chick fil-A Developers agreement. The Township Solicitor has reviewed and recommends approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Cupples to approve amendment No. 1 to the Chick fil-A Developers Agreement as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

3. Consider action to award the base bid and add alternates for \$381,803.00 plus add alternates as chosen by BOC for a total amount of \$576,704.15; to Youngblood Paving Co.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Cupples to award the base bid and add alternates to Youngblood Paving Co. as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

4. Consider action to approve the updated rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission as of February 14, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn to approve the updated rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

V. Approval of General Fund Operating Account items:

- Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested March 29, 2022 to April 11, 2022 in the amount of \$233,762.06.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve the General Fund Operating Account items as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

VI. Approval of Capital Investment Account items:

- Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested March 29, 2022 to April 11, 2022 in the amount of \$5,736.28.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve the Capital Investment Account items as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

VII. Approval of Sewer Account items:

- Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested March 29, 2022 to April 11, 2022 in the amount of \$4,837.41.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Zymroz, to approve the Sewer Fund Account items as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples; seconded by Commissioner Vaughn; to adjourn the workshop meeting at 7:40 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

Wayne M. Chiurazzi, President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary