

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP MEETING

July 25, 2018

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Macino called the workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:02 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Wilson Durisko – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq. - Absent
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
Rochelle Barry, Parks Director – Absent
Kyle Thauvette, Twp. Manager - Present
Valerie Salla, Twp. Secretary – Present

- C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Executive session was held to discuss personnel issues.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Rennerdale VFD. Andy Giroski, President and Dave Brown, Chief were in attendance to discuss purchasing a new vehicle with the Board of Commissioners. They submitted paperwork to the Board on purchasing a 2018 Sutphin Rescue Pumper at a cost of \$500,000.00. This piece of apparatus will take the place of their 20 year old engine and will be the first out for all calls. Their current engine will be moved to a reserve and the last out on a call. Their current engine 2 will be moved to quick attack brush. These changes are outlined in the 2005 Study page 39 which was given to the board members. This new vehicle will be the only one of its kind in the surrounding area. This truck has seat belts and roll over protection.

Rennerdale VFD is asking the Township for its help in financing this recommended and needed piece of equipment with the following options:

1. Collier finance \$500,000 at 0% for 20 years - \$25,000/Savings = \$292,000
2. Collier Bond - \$500,000 at 3% for 20 years = \$ 33,000/Savings = \$165,000 – wasted \$127,000.

3. Payment – Quarterly payment from Township distribution.

Rennerdale VFD needs to decide and sign an agreement for the purchase of this equipment by August 15, 2018 or the price will increase for the truck due to the steel tariffs.

Commissioner Macino stated the Township may not be able to get a bond by August 15th.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated she supports the fire departments services provided to the Township but we need to think of the best way to do this and to be prepared for this when the other fire departments come in asking for the same thing to be done when they want to purchase equipment. If the Township finances fire equipment this, it does open the fire departments up to for the Board to see a full accounting and auditing of all the fire departments finances. We cannot treat anyone as the favorites.

Commissioner Durisko stated this is the first step in consolidation. This would be the first piece of equipment that that Township purchases and it now falls under the Collier Fire Department and we make the payment out of your \$90,000 a year. Are you willing to concede that payment out of the \$90,000 a year? The Township will own the equipment. The Township insures it already. The Township now has oversight and if next time Kirwan or Presto comes to use and says we need a ladder truck. The only way for the Township to prove that is needed from the study or it is decided this is the next best piece of equipment the Township should have for the Township.

Mr. Giroski stated they are for the oversights. If the Township buys the equipment he would not expect the monies to be reduced to the departments.

Chief Brown stated this is not an unheard of thing. Scott Township has three different districts and all their trucks say Scott Township on them. There is no difference. Rennerdale VFD has no issues with putting Collier Township all over the truck.

Commissioner Durisko stated this Board is moving forward and this is how we feel. You can get on the train or not. The Township needs to say you are right Rennerdale, the Township needs this and we can fully support it.

Chief Brown thanked the Board for letting them come to a workshop meeting because the last thing they want to do is cause bad blood with the other two (2) fire departments coming publicly. He did email Chief Wauthier and never heard back. He emailed Chief Riddle and he gave a thumbs up for it. The other surrounding fire departments gave the thumbs up also for this truck when it comes to mutual aid.

Commissioner Macino questioned if there are grants for vehicles like this.

Mr. Giroski and Chief Brown stated there are grants but you have to be a depressed town.

Commissioner Ruffennach questioned if Rennerdale VFD uses the other Township fire departments assistance first before calling out other mutual aids from departments outside of the Township.

Chief Brown stated yes if the piece of equipment they need help for is equipment the fire department has otherwise they have to call out the fire department that has the equipment that is needed to help with the fire.

Commissioner Durisko stated we need to have Jeff Hinds look at all the options on financing and see what the best option is.

Mary Ann Cupples-Wisnioski of 608 Juniper Lane, Bridgeville PA approached the Board stating she received a call from Tim Eckenrode of the Parks and Recreation Board wanting to know when the Township will front the \$13,000 for the dog park being moved. The Parks and Recreation Board feels that if you are thinking of doing the \$10,000 giving back to the donators then why not do the \$13,000 and make the residents of Collier happy. Drew Weiss has a friend that will move the fence from the prior location of the dog park to the new location for a lower price or for free. Will this hurt the bid we already have or can the fence quote be reduced? The prior Commissioner Jason Oskamp said at a meeting that he would cut the fence down himself and then ask Public Works to move it. We want to know when the Board will decide about the money. When will the land be cleared? Will we move the fence? Will someone else move the fence?

Mr. Thauvette stated he met with Pittsburgh Fence Company and they stated the fence needs to be removed and rolled in a certain way so it can be reused and volunteers will not necessarily be able to do this. The bid includes the cost of taking the fence down and anything they don't use they would keep and credit the Township back.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated if someone was able to do it correctly, would it reduce that fee and would the Township be interested.

Commissioners Williams-Zabicki and Ruffennach stated they would be interested in hearing about it.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated Drew was supposed to call somebody and he was supposed to be standing here and she was to encourage him to speak. She received a call from Mr. Eckenrode who gave her questions to ask the Board. When will we know when the Commissioners will agree to moving the fencing?

Commissioner Durisko stated he wants to know who is going to be in charge of the dog park.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated she heard according to Kyle it is Rae Torres.

Mr. Thauvette stated we will talk about this when we talk about the dog park tonight.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated Mr. Eckenrode has been calling you.

Mr. Thauvette stated he spoke to Mr. Eckenrode today.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated if Mr. Thauvette could relay any of what we talked about she would appreciate it.

Mr. Thauvette stated ok.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

IV. DISCUSSION:

A. Administrative Committee/Public Affairs: Commissioner Ruffennach reported the following:

1. *Community Center* is hosting a DCNR Grant Workshop on November 14, 2018. We were selected over other communities because of our amenities.
2. *Employee Evaluations* are under way. Mr. Thauvette is working on this.
3. *Stop the Bleed Course*. The employees attended this course which was through UPMC. Kits will be built and given to employees to keep on hand. They will go to the Police Department, Public Works and one for Administration and one for the Community Center.
4. *Meadow Path*. The pond near Marigold Court is nearly completed. Grass on hillside.
5. *Negotiations* are underway for the Public Works Department and the Police Department.
6. *Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Plan*. Mr. Thauvette explained that every year Allegheny County has allocated money for low volume roads that have 500 or less vehicles that travel on them in a day. Money is made available to maintain these roads. We do not have a lot of these roads but there is an opportunity with some of the sliding that has occurred throughout the Township. Scotts Run Road is the best opportunity for us to secure grant funding to repair the road and the hillside. We are submitting the grant paperwork regardless of what the actual traffic count is. The County will actually determine the volume on the road by doing a traffic study.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki questioned if Dorrington Road is included in this potential grant. She noticed a sign on the road stating no tractor trailers.

Mr. Thauvette stated the other day a tractor trailer came down from Hilltop Road and got stuck at the bottom. PennDot is doing a traffic study now to add additional signs and improve the routes.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated the Uber drivers are doing this also. Is there a way Dorrington Road can be considered for the grant also?

Mr. Thauvette stated possibly but if there are more than 500 vehicles that travel it then it would not be considered.

7. *Manager's Coffee Hour*. The next one is Monday, August 13, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

B. COG Committee: There was no report. Summer Break.

C. Finance Committee: Commissioner Macino reported the following:

1. August 1, 2018 is the date for training with Brentwood Bank to learn the efficiencies so we are not making trips to the bank except for cash items.

Commissioner Macino questioned who would be getting trained.

Mr. Thauvette stated anyone that deals with checks on a regular basis. Val, Jeff, myself, Louann, Rochelle, Casey and Rochelle.

D. Parks and Recreation: Mr. Thauvette reported the following:

1. He spoke to Mr. Eckenrode tonight and he mentioned a few things about the meeting. The Parks and Recreation board is in favor of the dog park moving forward. They feel it is a project that was started and should be completed.
2. *Corn Hole Boards*. They would like to get a set of these Boards for the Community Center. Scott Park has them.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki questioned if this is for the Board to fund.

Mr. Thauvette stated Mr. Eckenrode really didn't say who is to fund this.

Commissioner Macino stated they are not Boards. They are concrete structures. He spoke to Scott to see what they were and get pricing. They can be delivered and set. If we are going to do this, we should have an activity center and move the bocce court there also. He will give the information to Mr. Thauvette. He was not sure where we could put this at Collier Park.

Commissioner Durisko asked for an update on the demolition of the buildings at Collier Park.

Mr. Thauvette stated he spoke to the engineer, Kevin Brett, today and they were mailing out the award letter to the demolition company and getting ready to schedule the pre-bid meeting with them. There are still some items left in the buildings that need moved out by Public Works. The Boy Scouts still need to move there things out too. Tom Cannon of the Boys Scouts has been notified they have to move out and Mr. Cannon has requested the Township build them another building for storage and Mr. Thauvette told him the Township could not do this at this time.

Commissioner Durisko questioned if there is another building they could move there things too.

Mr. Thauvette stated no.

3. *Tree Donations.* The Parks and Recreation Board is looking at getting trees donated that can be installed by the benches along Meadow Path. Mr. Eckenrode asked if an Eagle Scout could make the benches. Mr. Thauvette is meeting with an Eagle Scout from Scott Township next week to discuss an Eagle Scout project. We will see if he has any interests in making the benches and then installing the trees in the fall.
4. *Parks and Recreation Board Members.* Mr. Thauvette will be working with Val and Rochelle on doing an eblast looking for 2 full-time members and 1 alternate member.

Commissioner Durisko questioned who does the Community Room here in this building. He knows Louann does the scheduling for the room and it is starting to fall into some sort of disarray with a cabinet door falling off and needs fixed up a little bit. Do we budget a little bit for these repairs?

Mr. Thauvette stated it is not part of the Community Center. We would need to do this as building improvements. We try to monitor this the best we can and agrees that we need new blinds.

Commissioner Durisko stated blinds throughout the building and is this something we should consider moving under Parks and Recreation. This is another usable space. It is almost as much rental as the Community Center itself. He is not trying to take work off of Louann but it seems to make sense. It is confusing that a resident has to go to the Office and not the Park to rent it. This is just an idea but feels we need to touch up a few of the broken things in the Community Room.

Mr. Thauvette stated he will look into this.

- E. Planning and Zoning:** Commissioner Williams-Zabicki informed the Board on the following:
1. *Planning Commission.* Are still waiting from the Zoning Hearing Board on the Sheetz variances.
 2. Still working on the SALDO for the number of entrances to be required in housing plans based on the number of units. They will meet in August.

Commissioner Macino stated the Zoning Hearing Board issued their response and the actual hearing turned into a meeting with the judge downtown. The judge asked the parties to get together and resolve this. What is the time line on this?

Mr. Thauvette stated it is sixty (60) days. The Zoning Hearing Board has agreed to meet and discuss the concessions that Sheetz is willing to make and offer any counters or approval to those but the Zoning Hearing Board are waiting till August 14th. They do not need to wait until August 14th. They can do this at any time. He spoke to the Township Solicitor who cannot talk to the Zoning Hearing Board so Mr. Thauvette is reaching out to them to see if there is any way they can expedite their decision so we can put this to rest. The longer they draw this out,

and the briefs that need done really puts a time crunch on this that he doesn't think the Zoning Hearing Board is aware of.

The Board advised Mr. Thauvette to make the call to the Zoning Hearing Board President, Tony Bagnato.

- F. Public Safety Committee:** Commissioner Macino reported the following:
1. *Police.* The police force is almost back up to speed but within the next couple weeks we will be losing our SRO's when school starts. The SRO program is good through 2019.
 2. *Police Chief* is still on the FBI training. Sgt. Ferrance is the Officer in Charge until the Chief gets back.

- G. Public Works Committee:** Commissioner Durisko the following:
1. Potholes on the white line of McMichael Road near the cow farm are extremely bad. Can we patch those? Also potholes on Noblestown Road.

Commissioner Macino stated one of the owners of a Bridgeville business that was affected by the flood told him that one of the Public Works guys that went down to help treated it like it was his own things. The description of the Public Works guy sounded like Chris Palmer. He said Chris worked harder than the Bridgeville guys did. Our guys need a pat on the back for helping out there.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated the trees taken down at the municipal building looks nice.

Mr. Thauvette stated other trees will be planted which is part of the Sheetz development.

- H. Township Manager / Township Business:** Mr. Thauvette reported the following:
1. PennDot notification on the section of Baldwin Road south of Cowan has a dip in the road that was washed out during the last rain storm. They will begin repair on this in the summer of 2018. He had a meeting with Rinker Pipe and they stated Baldwin Road is of poor quality and affects the trucks they bring in and out of the Township. They use Baldwin to get to 376. They suggested concrete pipes being put under the roads and there might not be the problem we have. Mr. Thauvette explained Baldwin is not a Township Road and we cannot encourage anything but the lowest responsible bidder.
 2. We just got our new F550 Truck with the stainless steel bed back today from Imperial Truck Body. This should be on the road by the beginning of next week.
 3. Residents on Beram Avenue stating that Enterprise Rental Cars went back to parking cars on the street again. Mr. Thauvette is in the process of getting things together to determine what is needed to do for either permit parking only or residential parking only. Enterprise is looking for a new location that is a little more commercial but this does not solve the problem now.

4. Recycling Crisis flyer. An eblast went out on a flyer from Republic Services. This is their attempt to make customers aware that contaminated recycling is affecting a whole load. People need to make sure they are only putting recyclable materials in their recycling bin. We, Collier Township, are the contracted body for trash and recycling. Residents will not be receiving any type of fine at home and there will not be an increase.
5. Dog Park. Commissioner Macino stated the bottom line for the dog park is that we either spend \$13,000 to complete or

Commissioner Durisko stated \$13,000 in monetary funds. We still have \$10,000 for Public Works Department work to clear the lot. "Who is going to be in charge of the dog park? If the Township is in charge of it and taking care of it then he is fine with it. The Township will say where the benches and stuff will go. Until now it has been the dog park committee and is fine with that but sorry to say they dropped the ball." "The location was a horrible spot." Commissioner Durisko said from the beginning it was a horrible spot and that is way it is sitting there today. "The new site is a good location but it will require work but doesn't want to leave it in the hands of someone that may leave again because it will affect this Board. It will be Collier's dog park. It won't be so and so's." "We have already \$40,000 dollars for this dog park that is going on where and now we are going to put another \$13,000 plus public works and maintaining it. Who is going to pick up the garbage? Who is going to pick up the doggie bags left there? So if we are going to say yes and the Township is going to take it over than let's go for it. He wants everyone to understand it is the Township's.

Mr. Thauvette stated he thinks the dog park committee would echo that with an email that he received from Rea Torres who is kind of the lead for them. He met with Rea Torres and gave her information which she took back to the committee. The committee said once the park opens, Friends of Collier Parks and Recreation will be responsible for problems that occur outside for the usual up keep such as grass cutting, etc? They want to know why because it is Township property and should be treated like any other Township Park. It sounds like the dog park committee is completely fine with giving the Township complete control over the dog park.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki questioned if this dog park was already approved by a Board prior to this one and is a commitment to the community.

Commissioner Durisko replied yes.

Commissioner Macino stated the only issue is the cost has changed a bit from what we initially understood would cost. The other consideration of investment is Public Works having to maintain and do the up keep, the benches and all the different things. Who will pay for all of those?

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated she has the money for those. Only three (3) benches. The girl scouts where going to do some kind of water there.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated he heard the girl scouts were going to do that a long time ago.

Mr. Thauvette stated there were a lot of ideas.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated “and no commitments”

Mr. Thauvette stated Friends of Collier Parks had the money for the benches.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated “absolutely and a little bit more from pole that donated a little here and there.”

Commissioner Ruffennach stated the dog bags are a definite investment.

Commissioner Macino asked Mr. Thauvette and Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski to get a piece of paper stating this is how it is going to work.

Mr. Thauvette questioned is the Board going to move forward with this and make it a Township dog park.

Commissioner Durisko questioned who it would fall under after it is open. Rochelle Barry or Bob Palmosina.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated Rochelle was originally supposed to do training; the dogs and owners would have to go through some type of training because the liability is there.

Mr. Thauvette stated he doesn't know if any of those things are necessary.

Commissioner Durisko stated the fence has to be put on the right side. That was missed the first time around.

Mr. Thauvette stated if we are going to honor the requests of those who donated at this point but the Township is going to take over the responsibility at some point, he thinks it is good that Friends will still raise money for projects. He doesn't know if the input from Friends and the dog park committee can hold up the process of this moving forward. To discuss things in terms of signs and training. If you put up a fence and a sign that you are entering at your own risks, if anything happens to your dog or anyone else's dog than you are responsible. The Township will make sure the grass and weeds are cut, let's see how it works. If it ends up being a disaster and poop everywhere and people are vandalizing the fence, we did a dog park and this is why we stopped the dog park. If we get so logged down in the what if's, protection of the dogs and the owners, public works employees and everyone else, it will be another four (4) years before it goes in.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated even it is a very basic thing, you will get people using it and they will respect it. He sees it on a daily basis at Carnegie's dog park. People put out totes with toys and then pick them up.

They have stackable chairs they set out and then put back. People take care of it and they pick up after their dogs.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki questioned who supplies the dog bags.

Commissioner Ruffennach stated the Township does.

Commissioner Durisko stated we do not have to clear the entire site. Leave some trees for shade. Get someone to look at the trees to keep.

Mr. Thauvette stated we are probably still a year out.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated that already happened when Karen was here. The trees were marked that were to be kept. Lynn Heckman went with them.

Mr. Thauvette stated that was the dog park committee.

Commissioner Macino asked for Mr. Thauvette's recommendation on what the next step will be.

Mr. Thauvette stated the Board should determine whether they want to give the money back that has been donated or if they want to spend the \$13,600 dollars to move the fencing with an understanding that the Township will be the decision maker moving forward to erect this dog park.

Commissioner Durisko stated he is for it and it will be a Township run dog park.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated the Friends do not want to be involved in this. We only took it because of Karen.

Commissioner Durisko stated we still want your input.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated the Friends will still raise money but if you are going to do it right, it needs to go back to Parks and Recreation because that is where it belongs. Tim Eckenrode wants to really be involved and the Friends Board will be the fund raiser. We will do a bake sale. We made over \$1,000 last time on it. The Friends Board does not want to run it.

Commissioner Macino stated the Board should take control of the dog park through Parks and Recreation board. The Parks and Recreation Board will take control of the dog park, follow up to see how we get the fence moved doing it right.

Commissioner Durisko stated if we put this on Rochelle's shoulders, he will help her; Kyle will help her do whatever we need to. Bob Palmosina will help time permitting.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated is the officially on Rochelle’s shoulders.

Commissioner Durisko stated yes.

Mr. Thauvette questioned what is the Parks and Recreation Board’s involvement on this.

Commissioner Durisko stated they are an advisement board.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated they will provide input to Rochelle and Rochelle will execute.

Commissioner Macino stated the ultimate decisions will be with Rochelle, Kyle and the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Macino questioned if Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski feels that is the way it should be.

Mrs. Cupples-Wisnioski stated that is the way it should be.

Commissioner Macino questioned if everyone on the Board is ok with this.

All of the Commissioners stated yes.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was discussed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Durisko; seconded by Commissioner Williams-Zabicki; to adjourn the work shop meeting at 8:25 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

George E. Macino – President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary