

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING

March 22, 2021

7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: President Chiurazzi called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 P.M. This meeting was held virtual due to the COVID-19 (aka CoronaVirus) Regulations.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Mary Ann Cupples – Present
Debra Zymroz – Present
Rick Ruffennach – Absent
Daniel Styche – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq. – Present

STAFF

Kate Diersen, Solicitor - Present
Kevin Brett, Engineer - Present
Craig Campbell, Police Chief – Present
Robert Caun, Planning Director – Present
Jeff Hinds, Finance Director – Present
Tom Plietz – Bldg/Fire Codes – Present
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Present
Jim Nordquest, NIRA Engineers - Present
Kyle Thauvette, Twp. Manager - Present
Valerie Salla, Twp. Secretary – Present

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Was held to discuss legal and personnel issues.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 8, 2021 – Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting

Motion was made by Commissioner Styche, seconded by Commissioner Zymroz, to approve the minutes as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

B. February 22, 2021 – Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to approve the minutes as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

III. REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES:

All reports were submitted to the Board prior to the meeting.

- A. **Solicitor:**
- B. **Engineer:**
- C. **Manager's:**
- D. **Building/Codes:**
- E. **COG:**
- F. **Finance:**
- G. **Parks and Recreation:**
- H. **Planning/Development/Zoning:**
- I. **Public Safety – Fire:**
- J. **Public Safety – Police:**
- K. **Public Works:**
- L. **Sewer Department:**

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that instead of going through each individual report, he asked if any of the Commissioners had any questions regarding any of the reports.

There were no questions or comments made.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated the reports were all approved.

IV. Public Comment/Comment on New Business Items:

3-minute duration to each signed up participant. Any comments were submitted via email to the manager prior to the meeting and by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Mr. Thauvette read the following emails as public comments.

1. ***From: 368 Monteverdi Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071***

March 10, 2021

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am asking you to vote against the development and construction of the Dogwood Charter School within the borders of our district.

Working tirelessly, as educators, we meet the needs of a diverse population of learners daily. The dedication and commitment to our craft is unequivocal.

My colleagues and I create student-centered classrooms, facilitating dialogue, writing, computation and reflection on mathematics and literacy content and application. Teachers engage and develop prior knowledge to assure children bridge the gap between academics and real-life applications. Our literacy and mathematics programs institute formative assessments that inform and drive instruction to correspond with summative and high-stakes state testing. Finally, study skills and work habits are explicitly taught to create students that become life-long learners and scholars. These reflective practices

permit greater student agency and self-efficacy that augment and promote academic success.

Finally, in a time of crisis, as our society was gripped by a pandemic, Chartiers Valley teachers restructured and redesigned the way that the school district operates and instruction is delivered instinctively. As we have coursed through this academic year, we have delivered instruction across several learning paths. Members of our district have met the needs of students face-to-face, hybrid and full remote learning. This is most often accomplished simultaneously.

Using a variety of synchronous and asynchronous approaches, from direct, explicit whole-group instruction of fundamental skills to delivering remedial and enrichment instruction to remote flexible groups, grade five instructors have met the academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs of all students.

We create a nurturing and welcoming learning environment, constructing school and classroom communities that foster friendships and joy. Instructors develop authentic relationships with their students, understanding individual wants, needs and aspirations.

For these reasons, we feel confident that a supplemental school does not warrant construction and development within the confines of our community. We have, are and will continue to provide our children with the highest quality public school education.

Sincerely,

Carrie Tenney

Chartiers Valley 5th Grade Teacher and resident of Collier Township

2. From: Meredith Kladakis

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 8:27 PM

To: Collier Public Meetings

Subject: Charter school

Good afternoon. I am writing to express my concerns over the possibility of a charter school. I am not for it in any way. All it will do is take away opportunities and resources from the Chartiers Valley school student. This is definitely not needed in our community.

Regards,

Ross and Meredith Kladakis

Nevillewood residents

- 3. From: William Mihm Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 7:38 PM**
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: Zoning law change

Commissioners,

I fully support to alter the zoning law to prohibit any new schools from opening in residential areas zoned in Collier Township. I'm opposed to the proposed Charter School moving in on behalf of maintaining the safety, quality and value of our community.

Ruth & Bill Mihm
1907 Cambridge Drive

- 4. Dear Sirs and Madams,**

I am writing in regards to the Dogwood Charter School trying to become established within the borders of our district and particularly in Collier Township. I highly oppose the thought of a charter school trying to start in our township.

I am a teacher of Chartiers Valley and I also live in Collier Township. I believe that my colleagues and I work tirelessly to meet the needs of a diverse population of learners daily. The dedication and commitment to our craft is unequivocal.

My colleagues and I create student-centered classrooms, facilitating dialogue, writing, computation and reflection on mathematics and literacy content and application. Teachers engage and develop prior knowledge to assure children bridge the gap between academics and real-life applications. Our literacy and mathematics programs institute formative assessments that inform and drive instruction to correspond with summative and high-stakes state testing. Finally, study skills and work habits are explicitly taught to create students that become life-long learners and scholars. These reflective practices permit greater student agency and self-efficacy that augment and promote academic success.

Finally, in a time of crisis, as our society was gripped by a pandemic, Chartiers Valley teachers restructured and redesigned the way that the school district operates and instruction is delivered instinctively. As we have coursed through this academic year, we have delivered instruction across several learning paths. Members of our district have met the needs of all students whether it is face-to-face, hybrid or full remote learning. This is most often accomplished simultaneously.

I am concerned that the Dogwood Charter School will not meet the needs of all learners, only a very specific clientele. Charter schools are not required to follow state guidelines and they are not held to the same standards as any public school system. Ultimately, charter schools pull funding and valuable resources from public schools and can jeopardize the well being of students who attend those public school systems. The institution of the public school system works vigorously to meet the needs of all students in the areas of academic, social, emotional and behavioral.

We create a nurturing and welcoming learning environment, constructing school and classroom communities that foster friendships and joy. Instructors develop authentic relationships with their students, understanding individual wants, needs and aspirations.

For these reasons, I feel confident that a supplemental school does not warrant construction and development within the confines of Collier Township.

Sincerely,

Kari Suter

Chartiers Valley 5th Grade Teacher and resident of Collier Township

- 5. From:** *Edwina Kinchington >*
Sent: *Saturday, March 20, 2021 11:52 PM*
To: *Collier Public Meetings*
Subject: *I support the zoning ordinance*

Hello, my name is Edwina Kinchington and I live at 5010 Carnoustie drive in Collier township. I support the zoning ordinance to disallow new schools into the township.

Thank you, Edwina Kinchington

- 6. From:** *Kip Kinchington*
Sent: *Saturday, March 20, 2021 11:50 PM*
To: *Collier Public Meetings*
Subject: *School no!*

My name is Paul kinchington and I live at 5010 carnoustie drive presto pa 15142. I am Against a charter school moving into our area and so I support the zone change to disallow the school to take over the property on Boyd's run road.

- 7. From:** *gary mcnut*
Sent: *Friday, March 19, 2021 4:45 PM*
To: *Collier Public Meetings*
Subject: *Charter School*

Kyle, I'm vehemently opposed to a Charter School opening in this School District. Please note my concern thanking you in advance Gary McNutt.

- 8. From:** *Fred Branovan*
Sent: *Friday, March 19, 2021 10:58 AM*
To: *Collier Public Meetings*
Subject: *charter school @ 215 Boyds Run Rd.*

I am against the organization that is seeking to rent the house at 215 Boyds Run Road and convert it to a charter school!

- There will be a lot of the additional traffic up here, thus diminishing community safety.*
- This will pull students from our school district and ALL of the tax funding that follows along per student.*

- *The impact to borough and school tax increases will be real, spreading fewer public school students among our fixed number of homes.*
- *All of this because this single home owner is seeking a financial solution for his substantial house.*
- *The value of every home in the community will be negatively impacted in value and increased in taxes.*

I'm opposed to this.

Respectfully submitted,

***Fred Branovan
3120 Annandale Drive
Presto, PA 15142***

- 9. *From: joe blattner
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 12:43 AM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: Charter School***

Kyle:

We are in full support of the Collier Commissioners changing zoning in R1 & R1A districts to NOT allow schools.

Makes no sense to degrade valuable tax paying communities with a move that they intend to do, not to mention the increased safety concerns and hazards by increased traffic in R-based residential communities.

This charter school is intending to plop itself down in the heart of 500 - million dollar homes so that one resident can garner some economic value for his over-built one?

And the traffic and safety concerns? This is an R1A very high-end community. They'll destroy the hand that supports Collier!

More traffic. Less safety. Diminished value. Lose, Lose, Lose!

The K-Mart is a nice large empty space!

***Joe & Jane Blattner
6120 Turnberry Dr
Nevillewood, PA 15142***

10. From: Jeff Stengel
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:06 PM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: Charter School

Hi Kyle Thauvette

I live on Muirfield Circle in Nevillewood. I would like you to know I support **The Township in altering the zoning law to prohibit any new schools from opening in residential areas zoned up here.** (R1, R1A, etc.)

I appreciate the Township taking this stance to keep schools out of our residential neighborhood.

Best regards
Jeff Stengel

11. From: Joe Veilleux
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:14 PM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: subject: zoning changes to prohibit charter schools

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please consider this email as support for the change of zoning to prohibit charter schools in the area. My wife and I support this change.

Pat & Joe Veilleux
3201 Annandale dr
Presto PA 15142

12. From: Robert Hapanowicz
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:12 PM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: Private Charter School proposal at rental house located at 215 Boyds Run Rd.

Dear Kyle Thauvette, Township manager:

I am opposed to a Charter School at 215 Boyds Run Rd because of the following:

- We will get a lot of the additional traffic, diminishing our safety.
- They will pull students from our school district and ALL of the tax funding that follows along per student.
- The impact to borough and school tax increases will be real, spreading fewer public-school students among our fixed number of homes.
- The value of every home in the community will most likely be negatively impacted in value and increased in taxes

Thank you

Robert E. Hapanowicz

Founder, President
Wealth Advisor

13. From: David DeMarino
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: zoning ordinance

*I support the zoning ordinance that the commissioners support
Thank you
Dave DeMarino
Resident of Collier township*

14. From: Dan Long
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:00 PM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: Proposed Charter School

*Hi Kyle,
This is Dan Long. I live at 3130 Annandale Drive. I am on the Annandale Board with Andy. Everyone knows Andy! Lol. I wanted to touch base with you regarding the possibility of that charter school moving into our community. I definitely want to voice my opposition to this. I am very much concerned with the devaluation of our homes and most importantly the loss of tax revenue not only to our township but also to the school district. The increase in traffic cannot be favorable either. I would appreciate you making our commissioners aware of any opinions that oppose this. Thanks for your time! I hope to meet you down the road.
Best regards,
Dan Long*

15. From: Chuck Reiff
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Collier Public Meetings
Subject: Opposition to Charter School in my neighborhood/Support of ordinance to Alter zoning Law

Dear Mr. Thauvette,

I am a resident in the Nevillewood community. I live at 7081 Pinehurst Dr. My lot backs up to Boyds Run Rd and almost the exact entrance to the property where it is my understanding there is a proposal to convert a single family home into a Private Charter School.

I am opposed to this for a number of reasons:

- *Additional traffic directly behind my property diminishing our safety and creating unwanted noise.*
- *Potential of students being pulled from Chartiers Valley School District and ALL of the tax funding that follows along per student.*
- *The impact to borough and school tax increases will be real, spreading fewer public school students among our fixed number of homes.*

- *All in this in the name, of one individual/family seeking a financial solution for their substantial residential home that is now vacant due to them moving out of the house to an area closer to the North Catholic Private School where they chose to send their children...while the value of every home in the community will most likely be negatively impacted in value and increased in taxes.*

I support the zoning ordinance being considered or already instituted, altering zoning law to prohibit any new schools from opening in residential areas zoned in or around the Nevillewood community.

*Thank you,
Charles T. Reiff*

V. New Business:

1. Consider action to adopt Ordinance No. 718, An Ordinance accepting the dedication of Cambridge Court and Fairacre Court within the Nevilleside Plan as public Streets and appurtenant storm sewers.

Motion was made by Commissioner Styche, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to adopt Ordinance No. 718 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

2. Consider action on Resolution 032221-00; A Resolution authorizing the execution and implementation of a Grant and Declaration of Conservation Easement between the Township and Developer, Maronda Homes, LLC, for the Amalfi Ridge Conservation Subdivision Plan, to create a conservation easement over those properties designated as Greenway Space in the Plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Styche, to approve Resolution 032221-00 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

3. Consider action to approve the updated Collier Township Parks and Recreation Board Bylaws.

Motion was made by Commissioner Styche, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to table approving the bylaws until further review. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. Consider action on Resolution 032221-01; A Resolution establishing that effective March 22, 2021, it became public policy in the Township of Collier to adopt the National Incident Management (NIMS) concept of emergency planning and unified command and it shall be the policy of this Township to train public officials responsible for emergency management.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to approve Resolution 032221-01 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

5. Consider action on Resolution 032221-02; A Resolution for the Sanitary Sewer Transfer Agreement, Federal Aviation Administrative Parcel 33-J-1 - Easement Agreements (394-02)

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Styche, to approve Resolution 032221-02 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

6. Consider action on Resolution 032221-03; A Resolution adopting the Allegheny County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Styche, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to approve Resolution 032221-03 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

VI. Account Transfer:

- Approval of the transfer of \$30,000.00 from the General Fund Account to the Capital Fund Checking Account.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Styche, to approve the transfer as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

VII. Approval of General Fund Operating Account items:

- Invoices paid and checks written March 9, 2021 to March 21, 2021 in the amount of \$279,555.40.
- Bills requested for payment for March 22, 2021 in the amount of \$127,788.46.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to approve the General Fund Operating Account items as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

VIII. Approval of Capital Investment Account Items:

- Bills requested for payment for March 22, 2021 in the amount of \$29,721.63.

Motion was made by Commissioner Styche, seconded by Commissioner Zymroz, to approve the Capital Fund Account items as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

X. Approval of Sewer Account items:

- Invoices paid and checks written from March 9, 2021 to March 21, 2021 in the amount of \$1,364.56.

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

XI. Adjourn

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Styche, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25p.m. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Wayne M. Chiurazzi – President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary