

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL MEETING

October 12 , 2020

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Williams-Zabicki called the workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 P.M. This was a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 regulations.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Dan Styche – Present
Debra Zymroz –Present
Rick Ruffennach – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq.– Absent
Dawn Williams-Zabicki – Present

STAFF

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

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

II. Board Discussion for Committees

A. Administrative/Public Affairs

Commissioner Zymroz reported the following:

1. *Fall Leaf Collection.* Leaf collection will start on October 19th and run through the end of November. These dates are approximate and subject to change depending on the weather. Leaves must be raked to the curb. The Township Leaf-Vac will pick up along residential streets only. Leaves can be bagged only in a brown leaf and garden bag. NO PLASTIC bags. After November 30, 2020, all leaves must be bagged in brown leaf bags. Leaves will be collected on Mondays and Fridays unless scheduled otherwise with the Township.
2. *DCNR Grant.* The Township received a grant for upgrading playground equipment at Hilltop Park and Kelly Park, ADA accessibility to the facilities and an electronic sign at the Community Center entrance. This project will start in the spring of 2021 and hope to be completed by August of 2021.
3. *Noblestown Roadwork.* Surface and slide repair work is expected to continue through October with paving of the road in early November, weather permitting.

4. *Manager's Coffee Hour.* Will be held on Monday, November 2nd at 9:30 a.m. We will try to hold this indoors but will only allow those who have RSVP'd online. More information will be on the Township website later this month.

B. Building/Codes

No report.

C. COG

Commissioner Ruffennach stated the summer break has ended and reported the following:

1. *Virtual Meeting.* Will be held on Thursday, October 15th, 2020 at 6:30p.m.

D. Finance

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated this report will be in the discussion on the 2021 Budget.

E. Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Styche reported the following:

1. *Pickle Ball.* The Public Works Department painted new lines on the Tennis Courts at Webb Field so Pickle Ball can use them.

A motion was made by Commissioner Styche, seconded by Commissioner Chiurazzi to have the fireworks this year. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

F. Planning and Land Use Development

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki reported the following:

1. There will be a Planning Commission Meeting on October 15th.
 - Topics of discussion will be the *Legacy Development* Final PRD approval.
 - Collier Land and Coal Company rezoning application for the McHugh Land on Noblestown Road. They are requesting changing the zoning from R1 to R2. They are proposing single family homes in an empty nester type of community. They are single level homes with common areas maintained by and HOA (Homeowners Association).

G. Public Safety

No report.

H. Public Works

Commissioner Zymroz reported the following:

1. *Bocce Courts.* Limestone was installed around the Court at Hilltop Park.
2. *Discovery Trail.* Mulch was added and stone was added around the pipes to eliminate erosion. Also installed new blockades to the Discovery Trail so no vehicles can get on to it.
3. *Webb Park.* Sealed cracks and painted the tennis courts.
4. *Trees.* Water bags were installed around some of the tress to help stop the deer from damaging them.
5. *Hilltop Park Workout Area.* Removal of the damaged elliptical and installing a new one.
6. *Highland view Road.* Will be re-based and paved.

I. Sewer Department

Mr. Thauvette reported the following:

1. *Ordinance 715*. This is on the Agenda tonight for approval to be advertised so the Township will have the abilities to update any sewage fees.
2. *Dye Testing*. The sewer department does require a dye test even when a person is refinancing their home or selling their home. This is to ensure the sewage system is working properly.

J. Township Manager / Township Business

Mr. Thauvette reported the following:

1. *Manager's Coffee Hour*. The October coffee hour was held outside at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center outdoor pavilion. It was a little cold and he thanked the people that came out with their blankets and earmuffs. We will try to move it indoors but do it safely and follow CDC guidelines and not have too many people show up. For the November meeting you will have to RSVP on the Township website for this event so we can be prepared.

II. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. *2021 Budget*.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki explained the revenue for the budgets from years 2018 to 2021.

Mr. Thauvette stated we would like to have a balanced final draft 2021 Budget no later than the November 9th, 2020 Workshop meeting to keep the Township on schedule for adopting the 2021 Budget by the end of the year.

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki asked Mr. Hinds to talk about the Revenue parts of the Budget.

Mr. Hinds explained the finances being affected by COVID19.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the 2021 Budget.

The Board all agreed they need to meet with the Directors to discuss their portions of the 2021 Budget and discuss the budget at the next meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Mr. Thauvette informed the Board on the following public comments.

1. **From:** Dan Pisula
Subject: Noise and Air Pollution from Northeast Paving

Hi Collier Board of Commissioners,

I would like to bring to your attention to the constant high-volume construction noise generated at all hours of the day and night by Northeast Paving. I have notified Kyle, and made record, of daily noise violations from loud machinery (blower machine) as well as front loader back up beeps that generate much higher than allowable noise volume (dB levels) as per defined in our Municipal Code under Performance Standards for Noise 2102.3.

Northeast Paving is running these machines that can be heard all throughout the neighborhood (miles away) and sound like giant buzz saw. The backup beeps can be heard all hours of the night and weekends making it difficult to sleep for some in the neighborhood. Do they have a variance signed that allows them to break the defined Municipal code and break noise levels after 9pm?

Northeast paving is also generating large amounts of air pollution. I have concerns on the way we are monitoring the amount of pollution, the effects of the pollution, and how far it can travel. I have concerns with the agreed upon operating hours (3000 hours) which allows them to operate close to 60 hours a week. I have concerns that our agreement only mandates 1 pollution test per contract which is 5 years. That is not enough!

I would like to have a more detailed conversation about how we can control the noise and air pollution generated by this facility. I would also like to discuss why this has been zoned and allowed to operate so close to residential living (1500ft) and public schools (3000ft).

*Regards,
Dan Pisula*

Mr. Thauvette did speak with Mr. Pisula before the meeting and informed him that the Township does not have any Ordinances on Air Pollution. The Township relies on the Allegheny County Health Department and the Department of Environmental Protections (DEP) to monitor this. The Township can not monitor or enforce any fines or citations. The Township can notify the health department and the DEP of the complaints. In this case, it was monitored and inspected by a certified air quality inspector and the air was not being polluted. It was in compliance. The second item was for the amount of dust on the road at Prestley and Forsythe Roads. The company was notified regarding the amount of dust that was left on the roads and the trucks are being sprayed down and they are running a street sweeper to clean the streets of the dust. The noise pollution coming from North East Paving made provisions to quiet down the mechanism that was making the noise, but this has not resolved the problem of the noise being made through the night. Mr. Pisula would like the Township to enforce a time frame for businesses to be able to work overnight.

The Board discussed the work times, health and safety of the residents and the noise.

The Board will continue to work with Northeast Paving to resolve these issues.

Mr. Thauvette also informed the Board the trucks loaded with asphalt coming and going from the plant are using Steen Road as a short cut to get to Interstate 79 North and South. Steen Road is a narrow road and there have been several near miss accidents. Residents in that area are asking that Steen Road be paved and weight restricted to be 10 tons with allowances with local deliveries only.

All Board members agreed to make this change for Steen Road.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruffennach, seconded by Commissioner Styche to authorize the Collier Solicitor to draft the appropriate Ordinance to restrict Steen Road to a 10-ton weight limit with the appropriated restrictions. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

2. John Peters at 6011 Carnoustie Court.

This is Jon Peters at 6011 Carnoustie Ct. My understanding is that there is a township meeting tonight. As such, I'm writing to kindly request an update on the township's plan for moving forward regarding the recent engineering survey that was done for the water drainage system in my neighborhood.

Currently our only defense against the flooding is the sandbags that we have set up in 4 locations in our yard and basement, but we would certainly prefer a more permanent solution (please see attached images).

It has been our good fortune that our basement has not flooded again as of late. However, we realize that without help from the township to address the root of the drainage issue, it is inevitable that the problem will reoccur.

Thank you very much for your time and effort in this matter.

Best regards,

-Jon Peters

Commissioner Williams-Zabicki stated a study was done by the Township Engineer to solve the problem. It is going to take coordination among three (3) parties which includes the Township, the homeowners and/or the homeowners association and the Club at Nevillewood. The next step is for the Township to talk with management for the Club at Nevillewood and the homeowner's association for the Nevillewood community and determine what type of alignment will be done. There will be more information to give by the next Workshop meeting.

Commissioner Zymroz thanked Mr. Peters for being patient and always coming back with a positive response instead of a negative response.

As President of the Board, Commissioner Williams-Zabicki read an email that did not go through the proper channels to be read at tonight's meeting. The email is from a resident of Nevillewood on Carnoustie asking about the excess road that goes from the public street of Carnoustie Road and cuts down into the golf course. At the bottom of that road is a pump station and a storm water drain area that collects water. This resident is asking the Township to clean this excess road of any debris on the road that is clogging the storm water grates. Currently public records show that this excess road and property is owned by CMS Nevillewood which was the previous owner of Nevillewood and is now bankrupted. The Township Solicitor will need to determine who owns this and where the responsibility lies. This is the process that the Township is going to take to see if the Township has any responsibility for cleaning the debris up before the Township does anything for this property. The Township currently has an easement to where the pump station is located but the Township does not own the property. The Township will wait for guidance from the Solicitor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider action to advertise Ordinance #715; An Ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Township Code of Ordinances to add a new Part 4. Establishment of the Collier Township Sewer Department, including provisions for fees and rates relating thereto, and for rules and regulations relating thereto.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruffennach, seconded by Commissioner Styche to advertise Ordinance #715 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

V. Approval of General Fund Operating Account items:

1. Invoices paid and checks written from September 29, 2020 to October 11, 2020 in the amount of \$135,582.73.
2. Bills requested for payment for October 12, 2020 in the amount of \$112,834.50.

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

VI. Approval of Capital Investment Account items:

1. Invoices paid and checks written from September 29, 2020 to October 11, 2020 in the amount of \$14.95.

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

VII. Approval of Sewer Account items:

1. Invoices paid and checks written from September 29, 2020 to October 11, 2020 in the amount of \$726.62.
2. Bills requested for payment for October 12, 2020 in the amount of \$91.71

Motion was made by Commissioner Styche, 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 Styche; seconded by Commissioner Ruffennach; to adjourn the workshop meeting at 8:45 p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

Dawn Williams-Zabicki, President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary