

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP MEETING

June 12, 2023

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

Tim Young – Present
Dawnlee Vaughn – Present
Debra Zymroz – Present
MaryAnn Cupples – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq.– Present

STAFF

Kate Diersen, Solicitor – Absent
Travis Stanczyk, Engineer – Absent
Craig Campbell, Police Chief – Absent
Bob Caun, Planning Director – Absent
Amy O’Neill, Finance Director – Absent
Tom Plietz – Bldg/Fire Codes – Absent
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Absent
Rob Shazer, Parks Director – Absent
George Macino, Twp. Mgr. – Present
Dana Slizik, Asst. Twp. Mgr. – 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 from the June 12, 2023

Managers Report:

1. Met with In Magazine to discuss communication plans for 2023. This is one way we are trying to get social media out to our residents. Mrs. Slizik is doing a really good job at networking to keep the residents updated on things we are doing in the community.
2. Met with Parks and Recreation to discuss Collierfest which will be held on September 22 and 23.
3. Met with the Engineers to discuss parks and recreation and the sewer department.
4. Hosted the annual Memorial Day celebration. She thanked everyone that participated. Thanked Samantha Durisko for doing a great job singing the National Anthem and we hope she will do this again next year. We would like to see more residents and share this amazing heart felt experience and

it is a way to say thank you to our Veterans who have either retired, passed, or are currently active. We also had a veteran with a dog that spoke. Senator Devlin Robinson and State Representative Anita Kulik were in attendance. Also in attendance was the Police Department, Fire and EMS Departments, the Honor Guard, the Boy Scouts, and a bag piper. It was a really nice event and we hope that more residents show up next year. We also collected \$485 dollars for the Veteran's dogs that are trained for veterans with PTSD or other symptoms. Each dog costs \$20,000 to \$25,000 to train. Friends of Collier are going to match this to give them an even \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he would like the Police force and the Police Chief to participate in the Memorial Day event and other events the Township has.

5. Met with Republic Services to discuss trash collection issues.
6. Met with plumber and public works about sprinkler systems needing to be updated and repaired.

B. Building/Codes

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. Building Department:
 - 51 permits issued.
 - 14 New Residential construction
 - 2 Residential Occupancies
 - 3 New Business – The Roof King at 1190 Washington Pike; Quill Tools at 107 Merchant Lane; Sonya Mehmood Family Daycare at 2601 Arno Drive.
2. Codes:
 - 28 Code actions
 - 3 Hearings attended.
 - 19 New Tenant Registration Inspections

Commissioner Chiurazzi thanked the Township for getting rid of the dumping that was done on Hilltop Road.

Mr. Macino stated he will let Mr. Durisko know.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he still would like the PennDot bridge with all the mulch spilled on it cleaned up. It looks terrible and is the entrance way to Collier. He stated if the Township gives him the brooms, he will clean it up.

C. COG

Commissioner Vaughn reported the following:

1. *Meeting.* Was held on Neville Island. A very informative speaker from Alcosan was there. The COG will be taking summer break. The last meeting will be held this Thursday, June 15th in Carnegie and it is the summer party at 6:30p.m.

D. Finance

Commissioner Young reported the following:

1. *Township Debt.* We are less than 5 million on the Community Center/Collier Park and will be paid in early 2032. Less than 9 years.
2. *Net Income.* From all forms of taxes is almost on chart from what is expected. The major income of real estate taxes comes in at the end of August.
3. *Expenses.* Several will occur at specified times a year. One of the costs projected is roads and new leased vehicles for the police, public works and administration.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned the home that caught on fire a few years ago. The people have moved in and has the Township given back the money that is withheld in escrow from them rebuilding.

Mr. Macino stated once the home is completed, the money is given back to them. He will check with the building department and let him know.

E. Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Zymroz reported the following:

1. *Flag Football and Dek Hockey.* Finished up last week.
2. *Summer Camp.* Starts Monday, June 19th.
3. *Basketball Camp.* Starts June 19th. There are over 60 kids signed up.
4. *Basketball League.* Has over 375 kids and starts June 24th.
5. *Concerts in the Park.* The first one was a success with over 150 people attending.

Commissioner Cupples stated the concert for Sunday is cancelled due to rain. Friends of Collier sells 50/50 raffle at the concerts.

6. *Chess Camp Trial.* Starts June 13th from 11:00am to 12:15pm.

Commissioner Cupples stated she got a lot of good compliments on the new pickleball courts and how lovely they are. She asked this be passed on to the Public Works Department. She also heard the Tennis Courts are looking good as well.

F. Planning/Zoning and Land Use Development

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. *Planning Commission.* Beginning the Comprehensive Plan update at their meeting on Tuesday, June 27th.
2. *Zoning Hearing Board.* Will meet on Tuesday, June 20th to review the following variance requests:
 - The resident at 651 Ridge Road is requesting to construct a detached garage and a home addition to their existing single-family home. The home is in a PEDD district that no longer allows single family dwellings as a use. Therefore, a variance is required to construct the addition and the garage.

G. Public Safety

Commissioner Young reported the following:

1. *Police Department.* The Police Chief is on vacation this week and the Sergeants are covering. Sgt. Sabin is the main contact. The three (3) newest hires are working out great and are a welcome addition to the department. The Chief has been asking for six (6) new vehicles because he used to get two (2) a year and has only got one (1) in the last three (3) years. There is money set aside for leasing some new vehicles and specifically police vehicles. As of last Thursday, every vehicle in the police department was back online operating. None are at Woltz & Wind. The SRO's are back on patrol since it is the end of the school year. Officer Elway will be patrolling on bicycle whenever possible. Officer Oslick will be patrolling on motorcycle.
2. *Fire Departments.* All three (3) departments have had a busy month but nothing serious. The last serious incident they had was a tractor trailer accident on Interstate 79 the South Fayette Township section. On June 4th, a lady was walking her dog behind Big Lots. The dog saw a rabbit and chased it and fell down a bank. The fire department had to rescue the dog. The EMS covered the Pirate game this past Sunday. The EMS will be covering for the Taylor Swift concert on June 16th and 17th.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he was at the Nevillewood Golf Outing the other day and an alarm went off and Chief Wauthier came. "Chief Wauthier is a great guy!" "He was fully dressed and drove up on his own." "What a wonderful human being and a special guy."

Commissioner Young questioned if anyone else showed up from Presto VFD.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated they did not because it was a tripped alarm and was not needed. Chief Wauthier was offered to take food for the fireman, but he declined.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that if the fireman ever needs anything relative to food, the Board is open for them.

Commissioner Zymroz mentioned Presto VFD is doing fundraisers to try to get money for the building they want to build. The goal is \$200,000.00. Anyone to stop at the Presto VFD and donate money towards the new building. Both Rennerdale and Presto VFD's have a tip board going on right now. Please support your fire departments.

Commissioner Young questioned if Chief Wauthier still sends out cards to people to contribute money like was done in the past.

Chief Wauthier stated this was done in the Fall. The fund drive is done in September.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated if they ever want to do something here at the Township, they are welcome.

Commissioner Cupples stated Presto has a very nice hall and they just repainted it.

H. Public Works

Commissioner Vaughn reported the following:

1. Power washed all shelters.
2. Planted pumpkin seeds at Collier Park for Collierfest.
3. Cut back retention pond at Community Center.
4. All Ballfields have been dragged and cut.
5. Power washed Webb Field dug outs for Boy Scouts to paint.
6. Patched Township roads including Scotts Run.
7. Public Works scheduled to work night turn to repair the sewer in front of the Presto VFD.
8. Repairs to manhole on Thoms Run Road.
9. Community Center mulched.
10. Painted letters white on the Township Office sign on Hilltop Road.
11. Cut back overgrowth on all Township Roads.

A discussion took place regarding lights at Presto Sygan Road and Thoms Run Road. This is part of the Newbury Development. Commissioner Cupples asked management to ask the Engineer to speak to South Fayette Township about getting the light installed.

I. Sewer Department

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. 22 Inspections are completed. 15 dye, 6 lateral and 1 deduct meter. Two (2) inspections resulted in failures and the repairs have been completed.
2. Sewer Department procedure manual is completed and updated.
3. Two (2) virtual meetings attended for Three Rivers Wet Weather

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

There was no public comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider action to hire the following part time Summer Recreation Employees Ava Antonnucci and Angelina Wilson at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective June 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Young to hire the part time summer recreation employees as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

2. Consider action on Resolution 061223-01; A Resolution of Policy and Procedure for Consultant selection.

Mr. Macino explained this is the PennDot procedure for the Steen Road Bridge project. It had to be advertised on their website and any engineering firm could apply to be our consultant. PennDot said only GTE applied and this will be assigned to GTE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Zymroz to approve Resolution 061223-01 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

3. Consider action to approve the Developers Agreement with Jim Moretti for a Sanitary Sewer Line Extension along South Cowan Road to Bryna Lane. The Township Solicitor and Township Engineer have reviewed and find the agreement acceptable.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve the Developers Agreement with Jim Moretti as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

4. Consider action to amend the 2023 trash agreement with Republic Services.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked for a summary of what this is.

Mr. Macino stated this involves a number of streets in Neville Manor and Prestley Glen (part of the Neville Park Development) that have historically floated back and forth if the Township contract picks up their trash or they are privately picked up (meaning paying for their own trash). The Board needs to vote on whether to move those five (5) streets, 150 trash pickups, into the Collier Township contract.

Commissioner Young asked what the Solicitor said about it and if it is just those five (5) streets.

Mr. Macino stated the Solicitor recommends the Board to move those five (5) streets into our trash contract.

Commissioner Chiurazzi advised Mr. Macino to give Ms. Salla the names of those five streets to be put into the minutes.

Mr. Macino stated he needs to contact Republic Services first for an easy move in date for those five (5) streets to our contract. We need to see what the billing cycle is and if it can be done by July 1st, we will do it and if not, it could be August 1st.

Commissioner Cupples asked if the HOA's will be notified.

Mr. Macino stated we will notify the HOA's and so will Republic Services that they are no longer responsible for paying for trash pickup.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn to amend the 2023 trash agreement with Republic Services. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

5. Consider action to advertise the 2023 road improvement plan.

Mr. Macino stated this is to advertise for bids. When the bid comes back, we will present it to the Board and the Board will have to approve it.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked for a summary on this.

Mr. Macino stated we reviewed our roads and there are eleven (11) roads that need to be addressed. Some will be done with a micro surface or a topcoat product. Some will be milled and paved. One (1) will be tar and chipped. He will present the recommendation to the Board and it is about \$850,000.00 total. We will fund this through our budgeted money, the liquid fuels account and the balance from our stimulus fund. This will cover all the streets that we have in the plan for 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn to advertise as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

6. Consider action on Resolution 061223-02; A Resolution to enter into an agility agreement with PennDot for state road landscaping.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that coming up Forsythe Road, that vegetation needs to be cut down immediately. It is really bad.

Mr. Macino stated the agility agreement is between Collier and Penndot. Collier will maintain the State roads for a fee. We would cut those roads once a year and then bill PennDot. We will cut them twice if they become a hazard. PennDot can not get to them and to maintain the safety, the Township has taken that responsibility on. Historically we do it and the agility agreements have run a couple of years and this one is up now.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he knew about the snowplowing agreement but never knew about the cutting. When the tree companies are cutting back the trees along the road, is that PennDot's deal.

Mr. Macino stated yes, that is different and that is PennDot's deal.

Commissioner Chiurazzi advised Mr. Macino to get our Public Works department to cut the weeds on Forsythe Road.

Commissioner Young questioned how many years the agility agreement was for.

Mr. Macino stated it is for two (2) years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zymroz, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn to approve Resolution 061223-02 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

7. Consider action to add item number 8 to the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Chiurazzi to add item number 8 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

8. Consider action to approve Grant Contract 2021-GEDTF-209 in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the Public Works Facility Sanitary Sewer extension.

A motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Zymroz to approve Grant Contract 2021-GEDTF-209 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

V. Approval of General, Capital and Sewer Fund Operating Account items:

- Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested May 23, 2023, to June 12, 2023:
 - General Fund in the amount of \$346,966.12
 - Capital Fund in the amount of \$1,783.48.
 - Sewer Fund in the amount of \$0.00

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Young questioned how many miles of roads we are doing this year, is it more than last year and has anyone thought about the roads for 2024.

Mr. Macino stated we felt we will have the same issue next year as we do this year. Roads that may be fine this year will progress and need maintenance next year. It is difficult to do this far in advance, but we are starting to look out years now. We are trying to say what roads are 2 years out or 3 years out and so on. Mr. Macino stated we hope that within a 7 to 10 year period we have completely redone all our roads.

Commissioner Zymroz stated the roads that are currently tarred and chipped throughout the Township are a pain and are kind of dangerous and asked for people to drive carefully. We asked the people doing the roads to sweep them and they said the stones need to stay on the roads for a little while, so they go into the road. We need to be patient and let the stones get into the road.

Mr. Macino stated they do try to put up signs when they do a tar and chipping project but most people cruise right over the roads.

Commissioner Zymroz asked for people to be careful.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated “the esthetic and the decrease in value to our entire Township relative to this tar and chipping must be looked at by PennDot. We are proud of the way we plow and salt our roads throughout the winter. This tar and chipping are out of hand and is detrimental to our beautiful community. It is not good and does not know the benefit of this. There is a huge detriment to every vehicle that drives on these roads in Collier Township. It is to the detriment of every vehicle. Your tires, your undercarriage and it is enough. They pounded us these last two (2) weeks in Collier.”

Commissioner Zymroz stated “it is the other cars that pass you.”

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated “the cars and the trucks going by are crushing your vehicle with rocks and dust and then they come and paint the lines. Right now, they forgot about the one white line. Why do they do this? Just pave the road. How much money are they really saving not paving the roads? He would love to talk to the PennDot person in charge of the roads and would like to go see the roads where they live.”

Commissioner Young stated several people asked him why the Township was tar and chipping the roads. He tells them it is not the Township. The Township has not even decided on the roads yet. It was just voted on here tonight.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he has a friend that lives in West Virginia and they have worse weather than we do and they have no tar and chipping at all. Whoever came up with this concept is probably good for the roads that are unbelievably inclined. He hopes that by the next meeting, all the lines are painted.

Commissioner Cupples stated it is not patchwork anymore. They scraped the roads and the stuff that was dark black now looks like the rest of the road. That is the only advantage to this and the lines are too light.

Mr. Macino stated that all State roads in Collier and the surrounding areas are being tar and chipped. The message from the Board will get back to PennDot. We will deliver the Board’s message to them.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughn, seconded by Commissioner Zymroz; to adjourn the workshop meeting at 7:39p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.

Wayne M. Chiurazzi, President
Board of Commissioners

Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary