

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP MEETING

February 12, 2024

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

Kari Suter – Present
Gabe Benvenuti – Present
Dawnlee Vaughn – Absent
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
Tom Plietz – Bldg/Fire Codes – Absent
Bob Palmosina, PW Director – Absent
Rob Shazer, Parks Director – Absent
Jennifer Foster, Finance 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 Cupples reported the following:

1. *Working with Senator Devlin Robinson's Office* for the Property Tax Rebate Clinic being held at the Collier Township Community Center on February 21, 2024, from 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what this is all about.

Commissioner Cupples explained that seniors of a certain age and certain incomes can get money from the rent rebate.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated Senator Robinson is a big fan of Collier Township and we are big fans of him.

Commissioner Cupples stated he will be on the ballot in November.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated Devlin Robinson is a good man.

Mrs. Slizik stated he will also be on the ballot in April.

2. *2024 Manager's Coffee Hour Schedule as follows:*

- February 19th and Parks and Recreation will be there to answer any questions.
- May 6th and the Police will be there.
- August 9th and the Public Works will be there.
- October 7th and Planning and Codes will be there.

These dates are subject to change if necessary and will be rescheduled.

All coffees will start at 9:30a.m. and last no longer than an hour.

3. *Working with the Parks Director on Community Day/Parade in Collier Township for 2024.*

Mrs. Slizik stated she and the Parks Director, Rob Shazer, are working together on a date, possibly in June to host a Community Day and a parade to kick off the summer.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated fire trucks, EMS, a band and everything. It will be a tradition that will last forever.

A discussion took place on June dates.

Commissioner Suter suggested since Collier is affiliated with flag day, which is in June, to have it then.

Everyone thought this was a great idea.

4. *Organizing and hosting Char Valley Regional Meetings with neighboring communities and elected officials.* This will be held on March 13, 2024, at the Township Building from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Mrs. Slizik stated this meeting may have to be moved to the Community Center because it is growing.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what this was and what is the purpose.

Commissioner Cupples stated it is the Route 50 corridor.

Mrs. Slizik stated it is the communities that represent the Char Valley region. We will talk about various different issues with Representative Kulik and Deasy, Senators Robinson and Fontana and Allegheny Councilman Pat Catena. The purpose is to try to work together as a community by bringing all of them together to try and get a couple of things done with the elected officials and bring some concerns to them.

Commissioner Cupples stated it is Bridgeville, Heidelberg, Carnegie and Collier. She went to two (2) meetings and at the last meeting they were talking about a lot of issues with garbage, fire and ems. She was planning on going to lunch with Anita Kulik and it led into us having this meeting. We invited a lot of people to help us and there is one gentleman from Heidelberg that wants to do a Route 50 corridor project with light posts and make it more walkable. We are hoping the State will help.

Mrs. Slizik stated we offered to host it.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what time of day this is.

Mrs. Slizik stated at 6:00p.m.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated this would be fantastic and encouraged the Commissioners to attend this meeting.

5. *License Reader* is fully operational in the Collier Police Department. Currently the Nevillewood system is functioning and may be upgraded in consideration to acquire the LPR system in all future neighborhood developments. We talked about all other neighborhoods to buy into this program.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if we are actively sending out notices to the HOA's about the license readers. It is going to be up to each HOA. We have not had any problems here in Nevillewood since installing them. He feels better. They work and it is good for every neighborhood and if you have to pay an extra \$50.00 or something in your HOA fees to connect them to Collier Township, it is worth it. Collier Township could be a model for this because we have to be this way in today's society.

Mr. Macino stated the piolet program we have with Nevillewood, we are waiting for the installation of the video cameras so we can see the vehicle and not just the plate. We would recommend this system to the HOA's and then supply them with vendors that can do this.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated we need to do this on main roads and throughout the Township where there is not an HOA. We need to do this for our residents because everyone deserves the same sense of security.

Commissioner Cupples stated the developer is putting in cameras at the top of Hilltop and the bottom at Thoms Run Road. She suggested having this put in the Comprehensive Plan that developers have to put the cameras in when they build their new developments.

Commissioner Chiurazzi felt this was a good idea.

6. *Working with GTE* reviewing possible traffic grants for two (2) major areas in Collier.

Commissioner Cupples had asked Mrs. Slizik and Pat Catena to look into the corner of Thoms Run, Prestley and Forsythe roads to possibly putting in an electronic no left turn sign from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. every day so traffic does not back up to the school. You would have to go straight or make a right-hand turn. It would come on at 4:00p.m. and go off at 6:00p.m. This was an idea that was brought to her and she felt it was not a bad idea. She had asked Mrs. Slizik to look into the turning lane that is supposed to be there. Pat Catena told her they are only on Phase 4 and that lane is not going in until Phase 12.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked if we can press this issue and bring it up on March 13th.

Mrs. Slizik said yes and it is on the agenda.

7. *Fish Fries*. There are two (2) fish fry's starting this Friday. Presto and Rennerdale VFD's are both having them.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned where can a person donate fish sandwiches to for people that cannot get there and when do they start.

Chief Wauthier stated Presto's is on Friday, February 16th, March 1st, 15th and 29th. Rennerdale's is Friday, February 16th and 23rd and March 1st and 8th.

Commissioner Cupples offered to help answer the phones at Presto VFD and take orders.

B. Building/Codes

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. Building Department:
 - 7 residential occupancies.
 - 2 new businesses. Premier Power Wash at 1 Lane Road, Vanscoy Rare Pharmacy at 310 Merchant Lane.

The Commissioners questioned what Premier Power Wash was.

Mr. Macino stated they are a company that power washes homes. In neighborhoods like his, we are required to keep our siding clean of mold.

2. Code Enforcement:
 - 3 Tenant inspections completed and 2 pending repairs for approval.
 - 15 Code enforcement items.
 - 3 hearings attended at the Magistrates Office.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked for an update on the skid loader sitting on Hilltop Road.

Mrs. Slizik stated it was not there this morning when she went past.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he did some research on things like the skid loader that was for sale and South Fayette Township has a good Ordinance that we need to look at. We need to look at people selling things in their front yards. It takes away from what the real intent is. We do not want to get into people's homes but at the same time, the skid loader sitting there as you enter Collier Township for a year and rusting away is not pleasing. We do not have a truth in advertising ordinance but we do have success on telling people to promote Collier Township. We do not want to cite everyone for doing something but something like the skid loader, we have to do something about it. It could have been sold at an auction or take it down to Trader Jacks and sell it.

Mr. Macino stated especially in a residential area.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated if the skid loader is really gone, we appreciate it and we should send them a thank you note.

Commissioner Cupples advised the Managers to ask Mr. Caun to put this in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Slizik stated she has South Fayette's Ordinance and she looked at it and it is put together very well.

C. COG

Commissioner Benvenuti reported the following:

1. *First meeting for the year* was held on January 18th and was the re-organization meeting. It was hosted at the Collier Community Center.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned how things went.

Commissioner Benvenuti stated things went well.

Commissioner Cupples stated everyone liked the food and commented how nice the facility was.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned who the caterer was.

Mrs. Slizik stated it was Waterfall Catering. They are located here in the Township.

Commissioner Benvenuti stated in addition to himself and Commissioner Cupples, Mr. Macino and Mrs. Slizik were there. It was a re-organization meeting, so the new officers were elected. Anita Kulik was there. Pat Catena was there. Devlin Robinson's Chief of staff was there.

2. Topics discussed.

- Garbage. How the different areas were dealing with it and dividing contracts different ways and trying different things. The garbage cost is

going up everywhere.

- Property Tax Assessments. Councilman Catena talked about what the County's plan is to rid themselves of the back log and challenges. They are looking within the next year trying to get through the challenges of property taxes.

3. *Next meeting* is three (3) days from now in Bridgeville at 6:30p.m.
Commissioners Benvenuti and Suter will both be going.

D. Finance

There was no report.

E. Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Benvenuti stated he did not get a report.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked the Managers for an update on Parks and Recreation.

Mrs. Slizik stated that Director Shazer is meeting with GTE, the engineers, on Thursday regarding the parks and baseball fields. Concerts in the Park are being planned. The newest thing is the C2YK basketball league that has been brought to Collier Township. We are the south location and Beaver is the north location.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that Mr. Shazer has been a big influence on this and is a super valuable person for us here in Collier Township.

Mrs. Slizik stated yes and this is a very strong basketball program to bring here and it is wonderful that Collier is going to be the south home for that location.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated this is fantastic and great for Collier Township.

Commissioner Cupples stated they are putting an awning over the patio at the community center. It will be navy blue. It will say Collier Community Center in white across the front and the logo will be on the one side. The logo cannot go on the other side because it will be blocked by the side of the building. It is ordered and should be installed in April.

F. Planning/Zoning and Land Use Development

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

- *Zoning Hearing Board*. Will meet here tomorrow night at 7:00p.m. There are three (3) items on the agenda.
 1. *Elite Firearms* – 580 Mayer Steet is requesting to expand their existing space being in an existing nonconforming use, they are required to go to the Zoning Hearing Board for approval.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if we are okay with this.

Commissioner Cupples stated it is not up to this Board.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated we need to send someone there. What is our position on this?

Commissioner Cupples stated that the business next to them, Nicholas Supply, did the same thing. Expand their business with an addition.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he has no problem with someone wanting to expand their business but is this a safety issue at all.

Commissioner Cupples did not know.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he is sure the Zoning Hearing Board will take this into consideration, but we need to send someone there. The Board needs to agree to send our solicitor there to make sure it is very clear what the Commissioners position is relative to this ask.

Commissioner Cupples questioned to the first one and the third one?

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated yes.

Commissioner Cupples stated she will be there and she already let Mr. Caun know the Boards position. The third item is a revisit. This went down to Judge McGinley and she sent it back to make sure that this is what we really want.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated the Zoning Hearing Board is going to hear the same thing they did before. We are going to spend money on this unfortunately. The Judge sent it back and we need to send a message on this and asked if all the Commissioners were on the same page.

Commissioner Cupples stated sometimes the Zoning Hearing Board will ask if the Commissioners have a position on this and she has already told Mr. Caun to make sure that he tells the Zoning Hearing Board. She will be at the meeting and can stand up and speak for the Commissioners if she is permitted to. The first item is not as important as the third item is in her opinion.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated the first one is just a few words, but the third one is different and he did not know the people but feels it is absurd to him.

2. *Anthony Caruso* – 718 Marigold Court is requesting to construct a roof over an existing patio that will encroach into the rear yard setback by approximately 12 feet.

3. *Robert and Judy Foster* of 2619 Hilltop Road are requesting to operate a landscaping business from their residence and are asking for relief from the Ordinance that states a no impact-based business shall employ no employees other than family members.
- *Planning Commission* continues to meet with Mackin Engineering on the third Tuesday of each month for the Comprehensive Plan update.
 1. *The PetsMart* final land development in the Chartiers Valley Shopping Center will be at the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night. PetsMart is proposing to build a store attached to the building that currently contains Burlington, Ross and Five below.
 2. *The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese* has submitted a proposal to construct a planned cultural center on Ridge Road at Baldwin Road Extension. This will include a museum, food court, gift shop, banquet hall, retreat center, a 300-space parking garage, a 225-foot bell tower, and an onion space sphere that will be approximately 250 feet in height. The Planning Commission is currently reviewing the letter from Allegheny County and will continue their review at the March 12th meeting.

Commissioner Cupples stated the pictures that Mr. Caun sent us; you will see it is quite an undertaking. This will be located by the cemetery over on Ridge Road. They own some of the property and are going to take a parcel of it and build what she just read.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if this is a permitted use right now.

Commissioner Cupples and Mr. Macino both stated no.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated how are they going to get this through.

Commissioner Cupples stated they have to go to the Zoning Hearing Board and then to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what the Boards position is on this.

Commissioner Cupples stated she did not have one at the moment.

Commissioner Cupples questioned if it would need rezoned.

Mr. Macino stated either that or an exception. A lot of considerations will come up on this. It is a large parcel. Collier does not benefit from this because all the activity of people coming from around the world to see this shrine will be staying in hotels and eating at restaurants in Robinson.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he did not care what it was and did not have an opinion on it however, he felt it was a hard ask for zoning to do something like this. Do we really want to have an opinion on this

because we are not educated enough on it? He could not believe that the Zoning Board would permit this but if they do, we will have to deal with it. We will see what happens.

G. Public Safety

Commissioner Chiurazzi reported the following:

There was no report, but Commissioner Chiurazzi stated we love Public Safety.

Mr. Macino stated Commissioner Cupples already talked about the fundraisers the Fire departments are going to have. We are also looking at acquiring vehicles for the police.

H. Public Works

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

- *Swept streets*, McClaine Drive for resident that spoke at the last meeting.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if the resident acknowledged that we cleaned the streets.

Mr. Macino stated he did hear anything back from him.

- *Swept Rennerdale streets.*
- *Crews* were assigned to clean the entire Township along with all Parks and Trails.
- *Installed new gutters* at Webb Park to elevate standing water issues.
- *Power washed* all floors at Webb Park.
- *New urinals and countertops* are scheduled to be installed by in house crews at Webb Park.
- *Installed crosswalks* (Noblestown at Walnut, Columbia at Noblestown). Several others have to be installed when the paint machine comes back from the repair shop.
- *Removed brush* along Kelly Park fence that borders Township property along Thoms Run per resident's request.
- *Cold patched* potholes on Township Roads.
- *Inspected 79* Township catch basins and 39 need some type of repair.
- *10 catch basins* were cleaned.
- *Work on catch basins* in need of repair will start on February 9, 2024.
- *Attended two (2)* Three Rivers Wet Weather training sessions.
- *Attended two (2)* team meetings with Township Engineers and Alcosan.
- *Created* a new filing system for sewers and MS4 for record keeping.

I. Sewer Department

Commissioner Suter reported the following:

- 19 Dye Tests
- 11 PA one calls documented and saved with pictures.
- \$35,711.95 was received from Jordan Tax Services collection of sewer liens.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider action to adopt Ordinance #733; An Ordinance adding provisions requiring CCTV inspections of newly constructed sewers and maintenance structures.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Chiurazzi, to adopt Ordinance #733 as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

2. Consider action to appoint Santicola, Steele and Fedeles as Township Solicitor effective February 12, 2024.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Benvenuti, to appoint Santicola, Steele and Fedeles as Township Solicitor as stated above. By a 3 to 1 vote, the motion passed. Commissioner Cupples was opposed.

3. Consider action to hire Andy Miller and Joe Zymroz as Public Works laborers effective February 12, 2024

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Benvenuti, to hire Andy Miller and Joe Zymroz as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

4. Consider action to hire Projeximc as the Township cyber security organization.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what this means.

Mrs. Slizik stated we are bringing cyber security to the Township to oversee all the resident's information and all the employee's information and the Boards and Commissions' information. This is something that at this point in time that everybody should be having.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if we bid this out and how many people applied for this.

Mrs. Slizik stated we did put a bid out for this last fall and had three (3) or four (4) bids come in.

Commissioner Benvenuti questioned if this was just covering the IT systems data and does it extend onto any other Township's systems.

Mrs. Slizik stated yes. It is for the sewers, police, public works, parks and recreation and admin.

Commissioner Cupples stated we met him at ALOM.

Mrs. Slizik stated Commissioner Cupples met him prior to ALOM and then Mrs. Slizik spoke with him and then put the bid out in the fall.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what are we paying them?

Mrs. Slizik stated she did not have it in front of her but thought it was...

Mr. Macino stated he thought it was 4...

Mrs. Slizik stated it was 498 or 468.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what 498 or 468 mean.

Mr. Macino stated dollars.

Commissioner Cupples questioned if it was a year, a month.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated \$498 a month for cyber security. What are they doing?

Mrs. Slizik stated they will be monitoring the emails and covering the servers.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if \$498 was a month.

Both Mr. Macino and Mrs. Slizik stated they did not have the information in front of them, but they could let the Board know.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he cannot believe it is \$498 a month for all these things in Collier Township. As Commissioners, we need to know. The motion is subject to the managers getting the information back to the Board. He would like to see credible resources that we should use this person for this type of thing. Can this be connected to the license plate reader system?

Commissioner Benvenuti stated he would like to see the contract and what it covers because cyber security is a very general term and can mean a lot of different things.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he signed something tonight for Tri Tech Software Systems for \$5,190.00. What is this relative to and what we are trying to do here? What is this company and what are they doing?

Mr. Macino looked at what Commissioner Chiurazzi signed and stated it was for the Police Department software system. The police department has a proprietary system. The other systems we have are more easily compromised because we do not have a way to protect it and that is why we got involved with this group. Mrs. Slizik did her homework and that is why we are at this point to hire.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Suter, to hire Projeximc subject to the managers getting more information back to the Commissioners. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

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

- Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested January 30, 2024, to February 12, 2024:
 - General Fund in the amount of \$552,946.34
 - Capital Fund in the amount of \$3,791.00, and
 - Sewer Fund in the amount of \$7,937.46

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cupples stated she signed off tonight on an invoice of \$800.00 for water and wanted to know how long it lasts, a year, a month?

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated it is \$8.00 a case.

Commissioner Cupples stated it is for everyone. Police, Public Works, Admin, Sewer...

Mr. Macino stated it is for everyone and it lasts as it lasts. The cases are bottles of water and when we get low on it, we reorder it. It could last 2 months to 6 months. This is one of the things we supply for the employees.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Suter; to adjourn the workshop meeting at 7:45p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.


Wayne M. Chiurazzi, President
Board of Commissioners


Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary