

**MINUTES
COLLIER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP MEETING

May 13, 2024

5:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Chiurazzi called the workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:00 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. ROLL CALL:

BOARD

Kari Suter – Present
Gabe Benvenuti – Present
Dawnlee Vaughn – Present
MaryAnn Cupples – Present
Wayne Chiurazzi, Esq.– Present

STAFF

Michael Santicola, 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:** No executive session was held.

- D. Proclamations** for the Chartiers Valley Hockey Team.

Mr. Macino read the Proclamation for the team. The Coaching Director gave each player a Proclamation. Pictures were taken.

- E. Elected Officials:** Proclamation for Banner Community 2024.

Representative Anita Kulik presented Collier Township with a Proclamation and congratulated Collier Township for being a banner community for 12 years.

Mrs. Slizik read a proclamation from Senator Devlin Robinson's office for Collier being a banner community in 2024.

Mr. Macino read another proclamation from Allegheny County Council for Collier being a banner community in 2024.

II. Board Discussion for Committees

A. Administrative/Public Affairs

Commissioner Vaughn reported the following:

1. Arranging proclamations for the Chartiers Valley Hockey Team.
2. Working with Parks and Recreation and Township staff on Community Day, scheduled for June 28th from 5PM to 10PM at Collier Park.
3. Chamber Luncheon attended on behalf of the community and discussing development.
4. Working with Township Comprehensive Plan firm with marketing plan.
5. Finalizing details for the second half of 2024 for community relations and developments with Collier businesses.
6. Hosted Managers Coffee hour on May 6th with Chief Campbell and had 11 attendees.
7. Discussing Grants and funding and grant opportunities with Congressman Deluzio, Representative Kulik and Senator Robinson's offices.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked the Board if they would be in support of doing signs for the Hockey Team's undefeated season and winning the president's cup.

A discussion took place on where to place the signs in high visibility areas. It was decided that the best place for the sign is off the Carnegie exit from Interstate 79.

B. Building/Codes

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. Building Department:
 - 33 permits issued.
 - 9 permits for new residential construction.
 - 1 residential occupancy.
 - 2 permits for new commercial construction. Eat N Park at 1197 Washington Pike and PetsMart in Chartiers Valley Shopping Center.
 - 2 Business Occupancies. Wicked Widow Tattoo at 1190 Washington Pike, Suite 2 and Tabacco & Vape, LLC at 1190 Washington Pike, Suite 1.
2. Code Enforcement:
 - 2 Tenant Inspections completed.
 - 31 Code enforcement items.
 - 302 Nesbitt Street was demolished.
 - 2 hearings attended at the Magistrate's.

C. COG

Commissioner Suter reported the following:

1. The meeting was held on March 21st at Crafton Borough building. Representative Kulik was in attendance and advised that if any municipalities need any money, now is the time to ask because it is budget season.

2. Red Cross was at the meeting promoting an Open House to be held on April 25th. They want to educate people on their services that are provided and what they offer. From the recent flooding, they provided 241 clean up kits, serviced 266 families at a cost of about \$45,000.00 in assistance to local areas after the two (2) recent floods. They can help those on active duty, veterans by connecting them to their families that are overseas and cannot get in contact with them.
3. Flooding issues were discussed by all the communities. It was suggested that everyone read a study that was done called Ohio River Basin formulating, climate change. mitigation, and abduction strategies through regional collaboration with the ORB Alliance that was done on the Ohio River. The Army Corp of Engineers will do a study of an area of potential flooding concerns but you have to ask them to do it. Bridgeville has developed three (3) phases of their flooding improvement. The first phase is complete. They got all their phases funded.
4. Charwest COG meeting on the 27th. COG representatives want to offer help with Police training sessions.
5. Salt Contract is due May 1st.
6. Next meeting is on May 16, 2024, at North Fayette at 6:30p.m.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that if we have a situation where both our representatives can not go to the meeting, any other Commissioner can go or can we send another representative or get their minutes to read at our meeting.

Commissioner Suter stated she has seen Managers and other Township employees attend the meetings.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated we can send other Township staff and pay for their mileage.

Commissioner Cupples stated that she, Bob Palmosina and Colleen from Congressman Deluzio's Office road around Collier last week and looked at the flooding area and we hope to hear something soon from the Army Corp of Engineers. The area going down Gregg Station at the fence line, you could see where the water came up.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated Scotts Run Road floods also and the Public Works has to dig out the area.

Commissioner Cupples stated Noblestown Road area floods pretty well also. She received a phone call from one of the residents saying it looked like a raging river and that was down by Collier Stone, the church and Scotts Run Road.

Commissioner Suter questioned if we reached out to the Army Corp of Engineers.

Commissioner Cupples stated that is a question for Mr. Palmosina.

Mrs. Slizik stated she did not hear anything and thought he was still waiting.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated there has been an argument that we dump a lot of water down on Bridgeville.

Commissioner Suter stated that at the COG meeting, North Fayette was there and they commented on how Oakdale is going back and forth with North Fayette. It is actually North Fayette, Oakdale and Collier that is a domino effect.

Commissioner Cupples stated Collier is either lower or higher than Oakdale. So, it should not be Collier. She heard the Mayor of Oakdale was here looking for answers but she did not know if Collier was involved or not.

Mr. Macino stated stormwater continues to be a major issue and all the communities have to deal with it and we are doing the best we can right now.

D. Finance

Commissioner Benvenuti reported the following:

1. Revenue taken in through April was 1.6 million. This was without property taxes and Jordan Tax Services is running behind on LST taxes. Once those numbers come in, we will see where we are compared to last year.
2. Expenditures through the end of April are 3.8 million. There are a few accounts running over budget that we are aware of. Emergency Services, Solid Waste Contract, Public Works because of the expenditures for retirements and the Engineering budget. Mrs. Foster is looking into the coding of invoices for the engineering to see if the invoices were coded to the proper account.
3. Sewer Budget revenues through April is 1.7 million. Expenses out is 1.6 million.

E. Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Vaughn reported the following:

1. Davis Davis started the installation of cameras at Webb Park. Still waiting on Comcast to install the internet. Set up license plate reader.
2. Friends of Collier agreed to sponsor the camera system at Webb Park.
3. Fixed and replaced LED's at Webb Park.
4. Mill Climber was installed and set up by G & G Fitness.
5. Replaced tennis nets at Collier Park.
6. Sportscape quoted \$8,100.00 to resurface basketball courts at Webb Park.
7. Received a \$5,000.00 sponsorship from Smoke and Bottleshop for Concerts in the Park.
8. Working on vendors and food trucks for Community Day.
9. Letters were mailed out to local businesses and organizations for Community Day.

Commissioner Chiurazzi advised Mrs. Slizik to contact Kona Ice for Community Day.

Mrs. Slizik stated she would.

10. Travis updated the field project with three (3) new price options.
11. Summer basketball registration is open and we have over 150 kids registered.
12. Basketball camp is scheduled for June 24th through June 27th.
13. New Assisted Stretch one on one sessions with Fitness Instructor Erica.
14. Volleyball clinics are May 22nd and June 3rd.
15. Chess summer camp June 24th through June 28th and August 5th through August 9th. There are currently 15 kids registered and registration is still open.
16. CV softball is finished playing games at Webb.
17. CJ2K summer basketball league is starting at the end of May.
18. We are hiring 11 kids for summer camp starting June 3rd at \$11.00 per hour.
19. HVAC units had 6-month service call. The filters were changed.
20. State required semi-annual elevator inspection was completed.
21. All 12 summer concerts are set with food vendors and Grist House.
22. Scheduled Kool Rides Car Show for August 31st.

Commissioner Chiurazzi asked for an update on the baseball fields project.

Mr. Macino stated he met with First National Bank for funding. The estimated cost depending on which level we choose, we will have those numbers tomorrow.

Commissioner Vaughn stated she signed off on two (2) significant requisitions to pay the engineers to put these quotes out. We are spending money on them and we need to watch. She asked if the Board members looked at the 3 quotes.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated we need to get something we can live with.

Commissioner Cupples stated she looked at them and when we talked to FNB Bank, she asked for quotes of 4 million, 6 million and 8 million so we have a range as to where we want to go. She is not interested in streamlining the project so much that we do not have something of quality.

F. Planning/Zoning and Land Use Development

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. The Planning Commission will meet on May 14th at 5:00 p.m. for the following:
 - Proposal for the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese to rezone property and a text amendment to construct a planned cultural center on Ridge Road and Baldwin Road extension that would include a museum, food court, gift shop, banquet hall, retreat center, a 300 space parking garage, a 225ft bell tower, an onion shape spiral that would be approximately 250 ft. in height.
 - Tas Ma Hall final land development for a restaurant located on Prestley Road.
 - Planning Commission continues to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month for the Comprehensive Plan update.

2. Zoning Hearing Board to meet on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00p.m. for the following:
 - PetsMart at Chartiers Valley Shopping Center is requesting a wall sign that exceeds the allowable square footage limit.
 - James Moretti and Tag Towers are requesting to construct a cell tower immediately adjacent to Collier Park.
3. The Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 4:30p.m. for the proposed billboard amendment.

G. Public Safety

Commissioner Vaughn reported the following:

1. There were 939 calls for service in the month of April.
2. Year to Date calls for service are 3,823.
3. Officers performed 154 business checks, 212 park checks, 271 school checks and attended 1 Community Event.
4. Made 4 arrests and wrote 38 citations.
5. Order was placed for 6 new police SUV's. They are tentatively scheduled to be built this month. It is unknown when the vehicles will be delivered.
6. Repair costs for current vehicles remain high due to their age and mileage.
7. Up fit costs have been approved however, there is currently a 4-month wait for an appointment.
8. The body and in car camera company went out of business. The current cameras continue to operate but there is no technical support or replacement parts available. We received bids and specifications for a new provider and Axon was chosen as the new supplier. New cameras have been ordered and we are waiting on delivery. In car cameras are backordered for up to four (4) months and should arrive in time for placement in the new vehicles.
9. We received a \$40,000.00 grant from Allegheny County to offset the cost of the new body cameras.
10. With the arrival of warmer weather, there will be an increase of patrols on motorcycles and bicycles. Officer Kyle Kelsch has requested to be certified to ride a police motorcycle and we anticipate having him train sometime in July. This is an intense two (2) week course put on by the City of Pittsburgh Motor Unit at Collier Park. The Motor Unit will also be putting on a week long, 40 hour, service classes in the month of June for currently certified Motor Officers.
11. We have increased neighborhood patrols due to increased traffic complaints.
12. New vascar lines are being painted on several area roadways.

Commissioner Cupples stated that on Thursday, she was stuck on Route 50 for a long time and then on Friday, there was a car accident and a car ended up in the Kirwan Heights VFD. There should be some kind of monitoring by our police. People were driving places they shouldn't be and people could not get out of the parking lots.

Mr. Macino stated the Contractor for Penndot is responsible for traffic control. He did contact our Chief of Police and asked him to go there and possibly do something in the shopping center to keep people moving in and out of the centers. The issue is on Route 50 and there is no way to get to the centers. The biggest problem is we did not get notified of this pattern in advance. We did put it on the website for people to expect delays when traveling Route 50. This is the best we can do at this point. There is no way to move the cars. The bigger issue is for EMS services. He was not sure how they would get through.

Commissioner Vaughn questioned why they would not do this at night.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated there is no traffic control.

Mr. Macino stated we asked the Contractor to contact us if they need support to get traffic control.

Commissioner Cupples suggested someone should be monitoring the lights. The lights kept changing but no one could move anywhere.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated the poles and wires are almost all transferred. They have one that is still needed.

Mr. Macino added the SRO contract with the school district was approved.

H. Public Works

Commissioner Cupples reported the following:

1. *Clean Up Day*. Was held on April 20th. There were 170 bags of trash and 18 tires picked up.
2. *Zip Line*. Is still out of order and we are waiting for parts.
3. *Public Works Booth*. Working on ideas for the booth at Community Days.
4. *Cleaned* all parks and trails.
5. Cold patch crews assigned to patch on Township Roads.
6. All parks and ballfields were cut and dragged.
7. Starting grass cutting.
8. Installed four (4) Friends benches and waiting for two (2) bench plaques that will be put on.
9. Notified and met with State at Forsythe and Hilltop Roads regarding potholes and constant flow of water. The water was tested and does not need to be a PA American Water issue. It is a possible spring or homeowner issue.
10. Baldwin Road landslide.
11. Moved signage at Gregg Station bridge.
12. Storm Sewer work. Repaired 18 catch basins, inspected catch basins before paving begins.
13. Wet Weather meeting coming.
14. Attended sewer meeting with Township personnel.
15. Met with Congressman Deluzio's office and toured the Township for storm damage. Army Corp of Engineers.
16. Minor damage from storm.

Commissioner Vaughn mentioned on Hilltop Road near the apartments, the road is caving in and it seems to be getting worse.

Mr. Macino informed the Board that the public works non-overtime weekend shifts have now started. There are two (2) men both Saturday and Sunday as a regular crew to work weekends through September.

I. Sewer Department

Commissioner Suter reported the following:

1. 22 test inspections performed.
2. 17 dye and lateral inspections with 2 failing and pending repairs.
3. 5 new construction laterals
4. CCTV alliance has begun. Excavation and repair will begin soon.
5. Two (2) Three Rivers Wet Weather virtual meetings attended.
6. \$830.29 received from Jordan Tax Services.
7. 23 Sanitary Certification letters sent. 14 resident and 9 new construction sales.
8. Received, recorded and processed 34 grease trap records from establishments and one (1) is still outstanding.
9. There are backup pumps for each station. Hilltop, St. Andrews and Centennial on hand if needed.
10. All three (3) pump station wet wells were cleaned and debris, slug and grease were removed by CWM.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chip Misner of 2 Dorothy Street approached the Board with concerns about flooding to his property that has gone on for a long time. There seems to be a question of who is responsible for this issue. The Board is saying they do not know if this is Collier's problem. What has to be done to see whose problem it is? Does it take three (3) years to find out because it has been going on since last April when the Board said they did not know if it is Collier's problem. Mr. Misner had a copy of the land assessment of the landowner where all this water is getting dumped and the agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Frampton and Collier Township. If it is not Collier Township's problem, what does this piece of paper say?

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if that was for his property.

Mr. Misner stated it is my neighbors.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated if it were a Collier issue from three (3) years ago, we would have done something about it. He then asked the Managers and Directors where we were on this because this resident keeps coming here wanting to know who is responsible. This must be at the top of getting done. There must be an answer regardless of the Frampton agreement that it is not Collier Township. We need to know. We cannot have this resident keep coming here. If it is ours, let's fix it. Is there any news we can give Mr. Misner?

Mr. Macino stated we went back to figure out what it cannot be to figure out what is causing this. We had the pond inspected up above and it was determined that the pond is working fine and there is no issue. The pond is not creating the issue.

Mr. Misner questioned if this is the retention pond at Prestley Heights.

Mr. Macino stated yes. The pond is working.

Mr. Macino stated we believe the issue is down below where the water is dumping out and today we saw a sketch that we think we may be able to address the issue. The Engineer is coming here on Wednesday.

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned what the Frampton agreement was about.

Mr. Misner stated it is an agreement between the Frampton's and the Township that the Township can come onto his property legally and do what the Township needs to do to fix the problem. All of the water from Prestley Heights storm sewers comes directly down Shadow Drive and that water is dumped out of a pipe into woods. Where did we think the water would go downhill?

Mr. Macino stated we have assigned specific direction to our Engineer and to our Director of Public Works and have taken this on ourselves to get a solution. We have to figure out what we have to do to make this work. We road up there and it is a long drop to get down to Mr. Misner's property. There is so much water and even the water that is captured by the storm sewers can not capture all of the water coming down that hill. It is a very steep slope.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated he only cares if it is a Collier issue and this Board needs to know that. If it is, no matter how steep the slope is, everyone is entitled to live in comfort. If it is not a Collier issue, this has to end. If it is a Collier issue then we need to fix this. This needs to be figured out by the next meeting.

Mr. Misner stated he did not understand how it is not a Collier issue. Collier put the pipe in. The pipe that runs down his field and into the pond, Collier Township put it in and Collier has maintained it by removing the debris over the last 12 years. Collier Township put in the storm sewer pipes. Could Collier have designed it different, a different direction to push the water.

Commissioner Chiurazzi stated that is the developer that would do that. It sounds like the pipe into the woods needs another pipe. It needs another pipe so it goes somewhere else and doesn't effect anyone. We need to figure this out.

Mr. Misner agreed with Commissioner Chiurazzi. All the debris that comes down through the woods plugs up the drain. He found a car part this morning. The drain will not work if it is clogged up.

Mr. Misner asked Commissioner Cupples to talk to the Amry Corp of Engineers.

Commissioner Cupples stated if it is a Collier issue we will talk to them.

The Board thanked Mr. Misner for coming in.

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider action to execute the Developers Agreement with Eat'n Park Hospitality Group.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to execute the Developers Agreement as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

2. Consider action to direct the Planning Commission to explore rezoning Thoms Run from Presto to KP Hollow from the current R-1 and R-2 Residential Zoning Districts to a Zoning District that would permit Commercial development.

Commissioner Benvenuti questioned if this was multi-use of residential and commercial or strictly moving it over to commercial.

Commissioner Cupples stated as far as she knows they are planning on making it all commercial.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chiurazzi, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, to direct the Planning Commission to explore rezoning Thoms Run Road from Presto to KP Hollow as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

3. Consider action to hire the following Parks and Recreation Summer Help at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective May 28, 2024: Luca Giovanni, Jayden Davis, Jackson Schultz, Eddie Bosenberg, Danny Slizik, Valerie Suter, Ava Shazer, Logan Helfrick, Ethan Henderson, Ava Antonucci and Natalia Palumbo.

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughn, seconded by Commissioner Cupples, to hire all the individuals as stated above. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

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

1. Invoices Paid, Checks Written and Bills Requested April 23, 2024, to May 13, 2024:

- General Fund in the amount of \$452,162.87
- Capital Fund in the amount of \$17,313.73, and
- Sewer Fund in the amount of \$6,028.82

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.

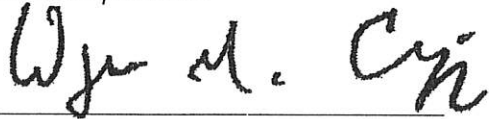
III. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Chiurazzi questioned if we are going to talk about the properties in South Fayette Township.

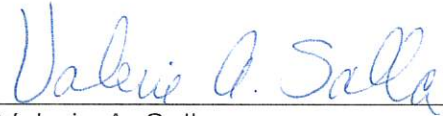
Mr. Macino stated not yet.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Cupples, seconded by Commissioner Suter; to adjourn the workshop meeting at 5:56p.m. By unanimous vote of the Board the motion passed.



Wayne M. Chiurazzi, President
Board of Commissioners



Valerie A. Salla
Township Secretary