

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 7, 2018

PUBLIC MEETING

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors meeting held at the municipal building on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 was called to order at 7:00 PM. by Chairman, Raymond P. Kendrick. There were nine persons present in the audience. The Officials present were:

Raymond P. Kendrick, Chairman	Donna L. Snyder, Supervisor
George P. Allen, Vice Chairman (via conference call)	Dean E Bastianini, Township Manager
John A. Marshall, Supervisor	Tina L. Shaw, Recording Secretary
Barton D. Miller, Supervisor	Donald Palmer, Township Solicitor

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the Supervisors' Organizational Meeting of January 2, 2018. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Kendrick acknowledged the Boy Scouts from Troop 150 who were in the audience to earn a citizenship and community badge.

Mr. Marshall made a motion to approve the December 2017 Financial Statement which included balance sheets and revenue/expenditure reports for all funds, as well as, a list of the following checks issued in December, General PLGIT, Fund 01: #47377 - #47450, PLGIT Mastercard, #91966 - #92016, ACH Transfer Account, #1132 - #1145. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Marshall made a motion to approve the bills payable in the following amounts: General PLGIT, \$49,549.86; Sewer Fund, \$732.05, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund, \$2,836.00 and General Capital Reserve Fund, \$322.75. Mrs. Snyder seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jeffrey Walzer, Building/Zoning Code Enforcement Officer

A letter announcing his retirement effective July 2, 2018. In his letter Mr. Walzer thanked the Supervisors, staff and the members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board for the support they have given him for the past nineteen years. Mr. Bastianini acknowledged Mr. Walzer for his good work and dedication. He wished him well on his retirement and said that he would be missed.

Ms. Snyder made a motion to accept Mr. Walzer's retirement effective July 2, 2018. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Ms. Snyder made a motion authorizing Mr. Bastianini to advertise for a Building Code Official/Zoning Officer to serve as Mr. Walzer's successor. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Todd M. Kravits, P.E., District Traffic Engineer, PennDOT

A letter reporting that the traffic counts obtained the intersection of William Flinn Highway and Willow Creek Drive did not warrant the installation of a traffic signal. Since neither the eight (8) hour or four (4) hour warrant were satisfied, PennDOT did not recommend signalization at this time.

As part of the study PennDOT reviewed the guidelines for the installation of a northbound auxiliary left turn lane. Mr. Kravits indicated that based on current volumes, the guidelines for the northbound left turn lane were satisfied. He also said that PennDOT currently does not have a project planned to construct a left turn lane at this intersection. He further recommended that the Township plan appropriately and secure necessary funding for this improvement as part of its Transportation Capital Improvement Planning. The Township traffic engineer will be asked to include the turn lane project in the next Capital Improvement Plan update.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Palmer described a program offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection which provides liability protection for entities, such as the Township, who participate in abandoned oil and gas well plugging projects. At the conclusion of the discussion Mr. Miller made a motion authorizing the submission of an Environmental Good Samaritan application to the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Miller made a motion to accept a proposal from DTI Inc. to replace a portion of the damaged carpet in the municipal offices with carpet tiles purchased and installed under Costars Contract # 4400011823; for the price of \$13,171.66. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

The Supervisors also authorized the Township Manager to obtain bids to paint the office walls. The painting will take place prior to the installation of the carpet tiles.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bastianini and Mr. Shoup explained that the Pennsylvania Sewerage Facilities Act (Act 537) requires every municipality in the State to maintain an up-to-date plan to protect the health of citizens and to prevent future sewerage disposal problems from occurring. The intent of an Act 537 Plan is to 1) identify solutions to resolve existing problems, 2) protect ground and surface water and 3) provide for planned growth. Richland's last Act 537 wastewater plan was completed in 2003. It replaced a 1990 update which was used to establish a series of intergovernmental agreements which still exist today.

Using maps and handouts Mr. Bastianini and Mr. Shoup explained the arrangements which are in place for the transportation and treatment of sanitary waste within the Township's portion of the Deer Creek, Crouse Run and Willow Run watersheds. The Township has approximately 4,000 sewer customers within these areas whose waste is transported to regional sewerage plants operated by Hampton Township and the Allegheny Valley Joint Sewer Authority (AVJSA).

Hampton Township and AVJSA have hired engineers to update their respective Act 537 Sewerage Facility Plans. Both Plans evaluate options to upgrade and replace sewerage facilities which are either near the end of their expected useful life or limited in terms of the amount of hydraulic and organic flow they can adequately treat. These facilities service Richland sewer customers. Consequently, before the Plan can be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Richland Board of Supervisors must consider whether or not to accept the recommendations contained in the Plans.

The Hampton Township project is estimated to cost \$45.1 million dollars. The AVJSA project is estimated at \$64.92 million dollars. These figures contain large contingencies and conservative projections for inflation and potential interest rates. The actual costs will not be known for certain until competitive construction bids are solicited in 2020. What is clear, however, is that since construction of both projects is scheduled to occur simultaneously they will combine to trigger an immediate and significant cost increase for Richland sewer customers. If the figures in the Plan hold true, then by 2022 the amount Richland pays annually to Hampton and AVJSA will increase \$1,235,400.

The discussion concluded with consideration of steps the Township can take to prepare for, and ease the impact of the increase. Topics included a) working with Hampton and AVJSA to make sure the projects are designed properly and implemented economically, b) efficiently managing the operating and administrative functions of the sewer department, c) implementation of a two-step rate increase (2019-2023) and d) using proceeds from the sewer fund year end account balance to create a rate stabilization reserve which can be used to subsidize rates and reduce peak increases between 2023-2027.

All of these subjects will be topics at future Board of Supervisors' meetings. Resolutions approving the final recommendations of both Act 537 Plans will be considered at a Board meeting in either March or April.

At 8:20 p.m. the discussion concluded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina L. Shaw
Recording Secretary