

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
FAIRVIEW VILLAGE, WORCESTER, PA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 – 6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Caughlan at 6:31 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: SUSAN G. CAUGHLAN [X]
 STEPHEN C. QUIGLEY [X]
 ARTHUR C. BUSTARD [X]

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Tommy Ryan, Township Manager, announced the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session on September 18 to discuss the following issues: a matter of litigation, in specific Mollick v. the Worcester Township Board of Supervisors and individual Board members, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, docket number #15-13760; a matter of litigation, in specific The Cutler Group v. Worcester Township, Commonwealth Court, #1223 C.D. 2016, and Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas docket #15-13769; a matter of potential litigation, in specific a property that is in violation of the Township Code; a personnel matter, in specific potential revisions to the terms of employment and to the benefits provided to Township employees; and, a personnel matter, regarding the Township Manager. Mr. Ryan noted a decision on the matter of Mollick v. the Worcester Township Board of Supervisors and individual Board members, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, docket number #15-13760, is expected to be made at this evening’s Business Meeting.
- Mr. Ryan noted the request for a waiver of land development to install a utility shed at a Shearer Road property will not be considered at this evening’s Business Meeting, at the request of PECO, the Applicant. This matter will be considered at the October 18 Business Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jim Mollick, Worcester, commented on the Township auditor presentation at a public meeting, past year receipts and expenditures, past year surpluses, and Township financial statements.

PRESENTATIONS

2018 Budget – Mr. Ryan provided an update on the 2018 Budget. Mr. Ryan noted the draft budget does not include an increase in taxes and does not include new taxes, and he noted the budget does not include additional full-time employees.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview of primary receipts. Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes a conservative 1.5% increase in Earned Income Tax receipts. Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes a 14% decrease in building permit fees, as construction at active subdivisions is expected to conclude in 2017.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget provides a 5% increase in operating and capital contributions to the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, and funds the purchase of permitting and asset management software.

Mr. Ryan commented on proposed capital improvements, including a new trail and pedestrian bridge at Defford Road Park, improvements to traffic signals at Valley Forge Road and Germantown Pike, and the replacement of existing, and the purchase of new, Public Works equipment. Mr. Ryan noted the budget provides \$825,000 for the Township's annual Road Program, which is in addition to dollars budgeted for program design, bidding and inspection, and which is in addition to funding for smaller roadway fixes to be made throughout the year.

Mr. Ryan commented on Sewer Fund operations, and efforts made by Township staff and the contracted sewer operator to lower system expenses. Mr. Ryan noted the draft budget includes a 1% increase to sewer service fees, which equates to an approximate \$0.45 increase per month for each home connected to the Township's sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Ryan commented on the State Fund, and the 2018 estimated Liquid Fuels allocation.

Chair Caughlan commented on restoring an administrative charge to the Sewer Fund. Mr. Ryan noted this charge was removed from the 2017 Budget, and he noted the additional cost to ratepayers if the charge was restored to its previous level. Mr. Ryan noted this matter is for the Board to decide.

Supervisor Quigley commented on sanitary sewer system work performed by Public Works personnel.

Mr. Ryan noted he would provide an update on the proposed 2018 Budget at the October 18 Business Meeting. He noted the Budget would also be presented at the November 15 Business Meeting, and then made available for a 20-day public inspection hearing, before being considered at a Public Hearing at the December 20 Business Meeting.

proposed sign ordinance – Bob Brant, Township Solicitor, commented on a US Supreme Court decision that requires content-neutral municipal sign regulations. Mr. Brant provided an overview of a proposed sign ordinance that amends current Township Code so to comply with the Court’s decision.

Chair Caughlan commented on the permitted posting duration for temporary signs. The consensus of the Board was to permit a 30-day posting period.

Chair Caughlan commented on the permitted size of temporary signs. The consensus of the Board was to permit a total of 35sf for all temporary signs posted at each residential or non-residential property.

Chair Caughlan commented on the Township’s ability to remove illegally-posted signs, and Mr. Brant noted the Township’s ability to remove illegally-posted signs.

Chair Caughlan commented on signage for accessory uses. The consensus of the Board was to amend the Township Code to delete the accessory signage classification.

There was general discussion regarding development identification signage at the entrance of certain subdivisions, and the maintenance of same.

Mr. Brant will revise the proposed ordinance, for continued review at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- There was no other business discussed at this evening’s Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Board, Chair Caughlan adjourned the Work Session at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tommy Ryan
Township Manager