

**WORCESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HALL
FAIRVIEW VILLAGE, WORCESTER, PA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019 – 7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair DeLello at 7:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:	RICK DELELLO	[X]
	SUSAN CAUGHLAN	[X]
	STEVE QUIGLEY	[X]

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Tommy Ryan, Township Manager, announced this evening’s Business Meeting was being video-recorded for rebroadcast.
- Chair DeLello congratulated Supervisor Quigley on his re-election to the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Christine Steere, Worcester, congratulated Supervisor Quigley on his re-election to the Board of Supervisors, and commented on voter turn-out and future volunteer opportunities.
- Jim Mollick, Worcester, commented on an application to the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, a Right-to-Know request submitted to Montgomery County by an official with the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission, past Township applications to the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, legal representation of the owners of properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, and public access to properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program. Supervisor Caughlan commented on public access to properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program. Supervisor Quigley commented on public access to properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program.

OFFICIAL ACTION ITEMS

- a) Consent Agenda – Chair DeLello asked if any Member wished to remove an item from the consent agenda. There were no requests to remove an item from the consent agenda.

Supervisor Caughlan made a motion to approve a consent agenda that includes (a) the Treasurer's Report and other Monthly Reports for October 2019, (b) bill payment for October 2019 in the amount of \$468,471.06; and, (c) the October 16, 2019 Business Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- a) Public Hearing – The Members conducted a Public Hearing to consider an ordinance to amend the Zoning Map to rezone a portion of 3103 Skippack Pike to the LPD Land Preservation District.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:44pm. A transcript of the proceedings was prepared by a court reporter.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:11pm.

- b) Ordinance 2019-281 – Supervisor Caughlan made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-281, to amend the Zoning Map to rezone a portion of 3103 Skippack Pike to the LPD Land Preservation District. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

The meeting recessed at 8:13pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:17pm.

- c) Resolution 2019-14 – Joe Nolan, Township Engineer, provided an overview of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program. The grant application scope of work includes various improvements to the Valley Green Wastewater Plant, Berwick Wastewater Plant, and Meadowood Pump Station. Mr. Nolan noted the grant amount and required municipal match.

Chair DeLello commented on potential conditions to a grant award.

Supervisor Caughlan commented on municipal match funding. Mr. Ryan confirmed municipal match funding would be provided by the Sewer Fund.

Ms. Caughlan made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-14, to authorize submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

Bob Andorn, Worcester, commented on project status if the grant were not awarded.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- d) Resolution 2019-15 – Mr. Nolan provided an overview of a grant application to the PA H2O Program. The grant application scope of work includes the extension of the storm sewer system in the Adair neighborhood. Mr. Nolan noted the grant amount and required municipal match.

Chair DeLello commented on project funding. Mr. Ryan confirmed project funding is included in the proposed 2020 Budget.

Supervisor Quigley commented on Township efforts to better manage stormwater.

Ms. Caughlan made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-15, to authorize submission of a grant application to the PA H2O Program. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- e) waiver – Mr. Nolan provided an overview of proposed improvements to the Aqua-owned wastewater treatment facility at Stony Creek Farms. Mr. Nolan noted Aqua is seeking a waiver of land development to construct a small building that will house electrical equipment. Mr. Nolan commented on the improvements required by the Whitehall Estates development, and DEP approval of the planning module for this development.

Fred Gerlach, Aqua, commented on the proposed improvements. Mr. Gerlach noted the Stony Creek Farms HOA is agreeable to that proposed.

Supervisor Quigley commented on improvement installation oversight.

Supervisor Caughlan made a motion to grant a waiver of land development to Aqua, for proposed improvements to the wastewater treatment facility at Stony Creek Farms. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- f) waiver – Chair DeLello commented on a request to waive the rental fee for Community Hall, as submitted by the Farmers' Union Horse Company.

Supervisor Quigley commented on insurance coverage for the use of Community Hall.

Supervisor Caughlan made a motion to waive the rental fee and security deposit for the use of Community Hall by the Farmers' Union Horse Company. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- g) Settlement Stipulation – Mr. Brant provided an overview of a proposed assessment appeal Settlement Stipulation for property at Cassel Road.

Supervisor Caughlan made a motion to approve a Settlement Stipulation for Trainor, et. al. v. Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeals, et al., Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Docket No. 2018-27480. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Quigley.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

- h) 2020 Budget – Mr. Ryan provided an update on the 2020 Budget. Mr. Ryan noted the proposed budget does not include an increase in taxes and does not include new taxes. Mr. Ryan noted the budget proposes the elimination of the Per Capita Tax.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget includes one additional full-time employee, an entry-level Public Works laborer. Mr. Ryan noted the hire was anticipated during the previous three years, given the increased amount of “in-house” work the Public Works Department has assumed during this time. Mr. Ryan commented on the lower cost of utilizing Township personnel as compared to utilizing private consultants.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview of primary receipts. Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes a no increase in Earned Income Tax receipts. Mr. Ryan noted the budget assumes a modest increase to Real Estate Transfer Tax and building permit receipts due to the recent start of construction at the Whitehall Estates and Reserve at Center Square developments.

Mr. Ryan noted health care expenses will decrease by 10% in the coming year, thanks to the Township's positive claim experience with the Delaware Valley Health Trust.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget provides a 5% increase in operating contributions to the Norristown Public Library and Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, and an additional \$100,000 capital contribution for the Fire Department. Mr. Ryan noted the budget includes an up to \$500 per month stipend to Township employees who volunteer with the Fire Department during the work week, the time of the week that volunteer firefighters are in most need.

Mr. Ryan commented on proposed capital improvements, including the replacement of Public Works vehicles and equipment that have reached the end of their useful life – which includes a 2008 dump truck and a 2008 mower.

Mr. Ryan noted the Capital Fund also provides for a storm sewer system extension in the Adair neighborhood, the replacement of two culverts at Berks Road, and various bridge and roadside safety improvements.

Mr. Ryan noted the Capital Fund provides \$876,000 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 budget includes a 0.5% increase to sewer service fees, which equates to an approximate \$0.25 increase per month for each home connected to the Township’s sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Ryan commented on the State Fund, and on the 2020 estimated Liquid Fuels allocation.

Mr. Ryan noted the budget is ready to be advertised for public inspection, before its consideration at the December 18 Business Meeting.

Chair DeLello commented on the budget preparation process, and the inclusion of multi-year schedules for road, parks and other capital projects in the budget document.

Chair DeLello and Supervisor Quigley commented on staff efforts to prepare the budget.

Supervisor Quigley made a motion to authorize advertisement of the proposed 2020 Budget for public inspection. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Caughlan.

There was no public comment.

By unanimous vote the Board adopted the motion to approve.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair DeLello commented on the appointment of a planner for the Comprehensive Plan Update Project. This matter will be considered by the Board at the December 18 Business Meeting.
- Chair DeLello commented on the appointment of volunteers to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force. This matter will be considered by the Board in January.

- Chair DeLello noted the open space funding study will be presented at the December 18 Work Session. Supervisor Quigley commented on the scheduling of this presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dr. Mollick commented on public access to, and use of, properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, the inspection of properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, legal representation of the owners of properties preserved through the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program, current and past legal fees and Right-to-Know legal fees paid by the Township, and current Right-to-Know legal fees paid by the Methacton School District.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the Board, Chair DeLello adjourned the Business Meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tommy Ryan
Township Manager