TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL COMBINED
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2019

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:18 p.m.
B. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Smith.
C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Charles A. Vogel, Vice-President of Council; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Scott Frankowski, Third Ward; Allison Berger, Fourth Ward; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Also Present: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Dan Garfinkel, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Scott K. Slagel, Police Superintendent; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Manager Jakubec noted Treasurer Curran was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment.

II. ANNOUNCEMENT

President Smith stated Council convened at 6:00 p.m. this evening in order to interview residents that have volunteered to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. He noted very qualified people have volunteered. Volunteers not chosen for the Zoning Hearing Board vacancy will have an opportunity to serve on other boards.

III. VISITORS

A. Chairs of Township Boards/Commissions

Manager Jakubec introduced the Chairs of Township Boards and Commissions that were in attendance. President Smith expressed thanks to the Chairs for their service. He acknowledged the Township is very lucky to have a great pool of volunteers.

Mr. Dave Schaffner, Chair of the Civil Service Commission, recalled the formation of a Police Officer Eligibility List last year and four individuals were hired. The Commission will be working

on preparing for a Sergeant Exam, since Sergeant Slagel has been promoted. It was noted Mr. Schaffner has served on the Civil Service Commission for 23 years.

Mr. Ed Crates, Chair of the Planning Commission, noted the Commission has not yet conducted a meeting in 2019. He explained the Commission reviews land development plans. The Commission also completed its review of the proposed restated Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Eccles noted Council has reviewed the ordinance. It was noted Mr. Crates has served on the Planning Commission for 27 years.

Mr. Scott Duffy, Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board, stated the Board is very knowledgeable. The Zoning Hearing Board's work is to hear variance requests and find a solution. He believed the last case heard had been appealed to the Court of Common Pleas. It was noted Mr. Duffy has served on the Zoning Hearing Board for seven years.

IV. CITIZENS COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Anita Trasatti, 314 Fox Chapel Road, stated someone has been digging in her back yard over the past two weeks. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained there is a swale behind Ms. Trasatti's property. After surveying the area, the Township is trying to reestablish the swale.

Ms. Carol Alvino, 316 Fox Chapel Road, noted all the rain and flooding, and asked if anything could be done. She was afraid to park her car in the garage and parked it in the yard. The car got stuck in the mud. Manager Jakubec stated the Township is working to reestablish a swale in the back of those homes. In addition, staff is working with Fox Chapel Borough on stream restoration, and the Army Corps of Engineers is working to prepare a study. Once the study is complete staff will review the recommendations and implement. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the study is a long process to collect all the necessary data.

Manager Jakubec informed Ms. Alvino the next time she could park her car in the municipal lot.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council Workshop – January 8, 2019
B. Council Regular Meeting – January 15, 2019
C. Council Special Workshop – January 24, 2019

Motion by Mr. Denny, Jr. to approve the subject minutes as presented was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously.

VI. FINANCE

A. Vouchers –January 2019

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve the subject vouchers was seconded by Vice President Vogel.

Ms. Eccles and Mr. Frankowski presented questions which the Manager answered satisfactorily.

On voice vote the motion carried unanimously. The vouchers totaled $841,137.85.

B. Receipts and Expenditures Records – December 2018

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve the subject receipts and expenditures records was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously.

C. Treasurer's Report

Manager Jakubec explained that the numbers are unaudited. The Auditors will arrive March 4th.

VII. REPORTS

A. Other Organizations and Agencies Reports

Vice President Vogel noted an ALCOSAN Meeting to review the transfer agreement. Manager Jakubec explained ALCOSAN wants to take over 13' of a Township line which was recently relined. If the Township signs the agreement, ALCOSAN will be able to put tanks on any property, such as Squaw Valley Park; and the Township would not be able to restrict flows from upstream communities in the line. She recommended the Township not sign the agreement.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about what other communities have done. The Manager indicated a lot of communities did not fully understand the agreement. Vice President Vogel noted a lot of the lines are combined stormwater and sewage. The Manager noted other concerns, such as debt and asset; does the debt go away if ALCOSAN takes over the line. She was not satisfied with ALCOSAN's answers and indicated it might not be worth letting ALCOSAN take over such a small pipe.

Manager Jakubec informed Council that she attended a Penn D.O.T. meeting regarding the sound barrier wall in Aspinwall. She stated without the Township's knowledge, Penn D.O.T. sent a survey to Township residents. Penn D.O.T. did not inform the residents what their view will be with the walls. She also questioned who would maintain the residents' side of the wall. It was noted some sections of the wall are 20' high. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted 45 O'Hara Township residents will be affected by the barrier, but only one resident on Valley Drive will have a vote on the wall. Manager Jakubec stated Penn D.O.T. has already received some survey responses.

It was noted the sound barrier would extend from the Highland Park Bridge past the Delafield Road Exit and stops short of Central Avenue. Penn D.O.T. has said none of the noise would leave that area.

B. Monthly Department Reports
C. Township Manager's Report

President Smith inquired about an update on the Delafield Stream Removal Project. Manager Jakubec recalled a meeting with ALCOSAN, Fox Chapel Borough and Aspinwall Borough.

However, no one from Allegheny County or Penn D.O.T. attended and they also contribute water. It was noted the project is part of the Administrative Consent Order. The stream starts in Fox Chapel Borough. Delafield Road is maintained by Allegheny County. O'Hara Township does not add water to the stream. The municipalities agreed to continue discussion, and that all involved should attend the meetings.

III. REVIEW / DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL FOR ACTION

A. Amending the Township Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 B-5-2019

Manager Jakubec explained a budget amendment in the amount of $780,000 is needed as a result of the July 2018 storm damages and severe flooding. A portion of the funds will come from the Bond Fund.

Motion by Mr. Frankowski to introduce for first reading ordinance Bill No. B-5-2019 was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously.

B. Recognizing Alexandria Morton on Her Achievement of Girl Scout Gold Award B-6-2019

The Manager stated Council is requested to acknowledge the achievement of Alexandria Morton to Gold Award Girl Scout status. Alexandria's project engaged seniors residing at Longwood at Oakmont Retirement Community and AHAVA Memory Care Center of Excellence in music therapy, with help from high school orchestra members and members of a younger Girl Scout Troop. Three concerts were conducted, with each concert having more than 40 senior residents attend. After the concerts, the senior residents gained positive motivation, and some dementia patients remembered memories that was sparked by the music.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve resolution Bill No. B-6-2019 was seconded by Vice President Vogel and carried unanimously.

Council requested information concerning the ceremony so that maybe a Councilmember could attend.

C. Requesting Authorization to Request Bids for Grass Mowing, Landscaping and Related Services B-7-2019

The Manager noted the contract for Grass Mowing and Landscaping Services with Steel City Landscaping expired December 31, 2018. Staff is requesting authorization to prepare bid specifications and advertise to receive bids for said services.

Motion by Ms. Berger to approve resolution Bill No. B-7-2019 was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously.

D. Requesting Authorization to Participate in the State Road Salt Contract B-8-2019

Manager Jakubec stated in order for the Township to continue participating in the Pennsylvania Department of General Services ("DGS") sodium chloride (road salt) contract, a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement must be executed and submitted to DGS by March 15, 2019. It is recommended that the Township continue to share the road salt contracts with the North Hills Council of Governments and the State for the upcoming 2019-2020 winter season in order to maximize cost savings, needed tonnage and delivery.

Motion by Mr. Denny, Jr.to approve resolution Bill No. B-8-2019 was seconded by Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Frankowski inquired about the Township's salt supply. Mr. Kephart indicated the Township has used 500 tons of salt so far this month and more salt is on order. Manager Jakubec noted issues with water runoff and icing on county and state roads. Phone calls to discuss the water runoff and icing conditions have been made to state and county officials.

On roll call the motion carried unanimously.

E. Naming Lauri Ann West Community Center as a Township Recreation Partner B-9-2019

Manager Jakubec stated representatives of the Lauri Ann West Community Center have requested the Township's partnership to provide summer programs in Township parks in 2019.

Motion by Ms. Eccles to approve resolution Bill No. B-9-2019 was seconded by Mr. Frankowski.

Mr. Denny, Jr. asked if the Township would receive a list from the community center as to what projects they will be doing in Township parks, which the Manager affirmed. She indicated Keith from the community center would be visiting Township parks. Baseball and basketball camps are possibilities.

On roll call the motion carried unanimously.

F. White Tail Deer Management Annual Report

Manager Jakubec stated 14 deer were removed from the Township through the White Tail Deer Management Program. She noted every third deer is donated to the Jubilee Kitchen.

G. Update on Saxonburg Sewers and Brownshill Bridge

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. informed Council that the contractors had begun working but had to stop due to the cold weather. They are back to working and almost done on Calmwood Road. While working on Saxonburg Boulevard they had one lane closed. The only other closure anticipated is Brownshill Road.

Mr. Schaffner questioned when the residents would know their share of the cost. Manager Jakubec indicated not until June, after potential change orders.

H. Update from Waste Management Concerning Recycling

The Manager stated fliers were sent to residents from Waste Management without the Township's knowledge, indicating different provisions for recycling than what is in the contract. Staff will need to meet with Waste Management representatives to negotiate any change to the contract. An apology letter was received from Waste Management, and they will honor the contract. She referenced a written guaranty that glass and plastics would be collected.

I. Update on Request from Cooper Siegel Library for Monetary Donation

Manager Jakubec referenced an email received from Jill McConnell and a letter the Township had sent last year, listing conditions for the donation. Some conditions were addressed and some were not. They agreed to house some of Tom Powers' archive collection; they did not address cooperation with the Lauri Ann West Community Center programs.

Mr. Stewart noted the significantly reduced hours of the Sharpsburg branch. He suggested Tom Powers talk with the library staff about storage space. He had talked with three or four people at the Cooper Siegel Library and they were not receptive at all.

Ms. Eccles recommended restricting a $5,000 donation to the Sharpsburg Library branch.

Mr. Frankowski feared the Library would not provide storage for Mr. Powers' archives. Ms. Eccles stated then maybe the Township doesn't contribute the $5,000.

Manager Jakubec noted the library does not receive revenue like the community center. She added that Fox Chapel Borough is matching donations.

Ms. Berger questioned how long the library had been operating prior to asking for financial assistance last year. The Manager believed the library opened in 2007.

Vice President Vogel recommended donating $5,000; keep the same four conditions previously noted and add a fifth condition that the money is restricted to the Sharpsburg Library branch to which Mr. Denny, Jr. concurred.

President Smith suggested the Township Manager and Mr. Powers meet with Jill McConnell to discuss storage space for the archive collection.

Mr. Stewart inquired of what other communities contributed last year. Manager Jakubec recalled O'Hara Township was the first community approached.

President Smith questioned if there was a way to get the library to agree to the conditions before giving them the money. The Manager suggested giving the Library one more opportunity this year to cooperate with the community center, to which Council concurred.

J. Solicitor's January 16, 2019 Invoice

No comments.

IX. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Vice President Vogel questioned what happened to the house on Powers Run Road. Manager Jakubec explained the fire departments conducted a training exercise. The Township would apply for a demolition permit. She also indicated the other house along Powers Run Road that was stripped down no longer has a top floor and back wall. That owner would also be applying for a demolition permit.

Mr. Crates questioned what would happen with the natural gas well on the property at the bottom of Powers Run Road. Manager Jakubec indicated the Township would receive the gas royalties.

Ms. Eccles inquired about the status of the adjacent property. The Manager stated she had talked with the owner, but the owner is not interested in selling the property.

Manager Jakubec indicated staff would be searching for grants to help pay for the stream repairs. Ms. Eccles questioned what if the Township were to do nothing. The Manager indicated Powers Run Road would collapse. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. added there is an unnatural bend in it and the pipe is exposed.

X. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec recalled meeting with Darla Cravotta of DCNR about extending the trail along the river. They are at an impasse with the railroad. The Manager suggested that Ms. Cravotta look at delinquent tax parcels in Harmar and Springdale.

The Manager requested Council to remain after the meeting for an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Eccles to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mr. Denny, Jr. and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. and following a short break Council entered into Executive Session.

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Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Attachment(s): Sign-In Sheet(s)