

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL VIRTUAL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:00 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: Ted Curran, Township Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; 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 read a statement regarding virtual meeting procedures.

President Smith noted the purpose of the meeting is to review the Capital Improvement Plan.

II. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- A. Review of Proposed Capital Improvements Plan

Manager Jakubec stated the main purpose of the special workshop is to review the 2021 - 2030 Capital Improvement Plan. Rating sheets are provided for completion by Council in order to rate proposed projects and suggest other projects that may not have already been identified. She noted the overview of the plan and past funding requests.

Treasurer Curran stated COVID-19 has resulted in reduced projects which are being pushed into 2021. Manager Jakubec noted roads, sanitary sewer monitoring, Powers Run sewer upgrades, the sewer camera and drone were deferred to 2021. She stated \$3,800,000 was budgeted and \$2,200,000 has been spent.

The Manager proceeded to review each section of the Plan. Items of note include:

Public Service - Parks and Recreation

Replace gabion wall and restore the trail at O'Hara Township Community Park.

Acrylic seal courts at O'Hara Township Community, Meadow and Raymond A. Schafer, Jr. Memorial Parks.

Meadow Park parking lot would be maintained with asphalt millings.

Public Service - Roads

The Road Improvement Program will continue in 2021. If revenue is better than anticipated, additional roads may be considered.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated roads that were skipped this year will definitely be paved in 2021. Treasurer Curran inquired about progress with experimental additives. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted fibers have been added to the SuperPave mix with hopes of milling off ½” and adding 1 ½” so the road lasts for 16 years. He also noted Penn D.O.T. is forcing the use of a warm, not hot, mix which is supposed to last longer. Mr. Stewart asked if SuperPave was used on all roads. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained there are three levels of SuperPave depending on the amount of traffic. A stronger mix is used for roads in RIDC Park. Mr. Stewart questioned if it would be worth doing a more exhaustive search of other materials to get better results. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled a study done by a Florida corporation that shows greater longevity and strength.

Public Service - Stormwater Management

Epsilon Drive Stormwater Facility is a joint project with Fox Chapel Borough to reduce sediment in Squaw Run Creek. Staff applied for a grant but was not successful; will reapply. Funds for stormwater improvements will come from the new fee.

Bids will be opened on Thursday for the Ravine Street Stormwater Removal. The project involves Penn D.O.T., ALCOSAN, Sharpsburg Borough and Shaler Township.

Construction of a stormwater retention facility on vacant Township property on Gamma Drive Extension.

Preliminary talks have begun concerning Delafield Road Stormwater Removal with ALCOSAN, Fox Chapel and Aspinwall Boroughs and Allegheny County.

Continuation of MS-4 Stormwater Management Program to eliminate illicit discharges.

Awarded a grant for \$100,000 for the Powers Run Sediment Removal Project.

Public Service - Sanitary Sewers

Monitoring showed some infiltration; will reline sewers using North Hills COG Contracts.

Mary Street pipe will be replaced when the retaining wall is replaced. Pipe may need upsized.

Need to relocate Powers Run sanitary sewer line to safer location.

Replacement of Rigid tractor camera.

Public Service - Vehicles and Equipment

2016 Ford Crew cab with utility body to be replaced.

2014 Ford F250 4x4 pickup truck to be replaced.

1998 Case Backhoe with bucket and extendable hoe to be replaced.

It was noted several pieces of equipment are on the Extended Life Program.

Police – Public Safety

Replace 2014 Dodge unmarked police vehicle with Ford fully equipped marked SUV.

Replace 2019 Ford Interceptor with new 2021 fully equipped, marked Ford SUV.

Replace five dash and rear seat cameras that sync with body cameras and emergency lights.

Mr. Denny, Jr. asked if the new technology would put the O'Hara Township Police ahead of neighboring Police Departments, which Police Superintendent Slagel affirmed, noting the other Police Departments are reaching out for information on the technology.

The Manager indicated she would continue to apply for grants to purchase cameras and a drone. Mr. Denny, Jr. suggested multi-municipal use of a drone which would also help with funding the purchase. Manager Jakubec noted it is a good topic for the North Hills COG and Chiefs of Police meetings.

Fire Protection / Ambulance – Public Safety

Manager Jakubec noted the Fire Funding Committee has not been meeting due to COVID-19. She planned to meet with the committee in the Fall to review capital improvements.

It was noted the new ambulance is expected to be delivered late fall. Replacements follow the schedule established by the Fire Funding Committee. Mr. Stewart asked if it is a new ambulance or refurbished. Manager Jakubec stated the plan is to refurbish the box.

Public Service - Municipal Building

Replacement of yard gate and fence.

Manager Jakubec noted employees can work on the fence and a contractor would install the gate.

Administration – General Government

Replacement of server.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned the need for additional technological improvements if meetings continue via zoom.com, even when in-person meetings resume. The Manager stated she had talked with the supplier but had not heard back with what would be needed. Treasurer Curran questioned the need to redesign the Township website. The Manager indicated the Long Range Comprehensive Plan Review Committee would discuss the matter. She noted some services are paid over time and would not be considered a capital expenditure. Mr. Denny, Jr. and President Smith agreed that funds should be allocated toward a redesigned Township website.

President Smith inquired about the status of the Ordinance Codification Project which the Manager indicated staff was currently working on.

Community Development – Planning and Zoning

Continuation of digital mapping and web-based GIS services, updates.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the online platform uses TRAISR and ARC GIS, which includes building information, road paving, building permits, etc. President Smith inquired about the new street and zoning maps. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted Lennon Smith Souleret has the expertise in that field. Vice President Vogel questioned why it is a capital expense and not operating expense. Manager Jakubec explained the cost exceeds the threshold.

Mr. Denny, Jr. noted the rating sheets are to be returned to staff by October 1st. The Manager explained the rating sheets are used to prepare the budget.

B. Proposed Guidelines for Halloween Trick-Or-Treating

Manager Jakubec referenced a **Boo To You** Program for Halloween with suggested guidelines for Trick-Or-Treaters and residents participating in Halloween. She recalled reading several articles, some by medical professionals, on how to safely trick-or-treat. Vice President Vogel stated the Montrose Hill Halloween Parade was canceled. He questioned how people would be informed. Manager Jakubec stated the information would be posted to the Township website and an article in the Herald. Signs would also be available to print from the website, or pick up at the municipal building.

Ms. Berger questioned the hours for trick-or-treating. Mr. Stewart noted benefits of daylight; Ms. Berger supported keeping the same hours as in the past. She also commented that the guidelines are very thorough as people are getting used to living in a COVID world, to which Mr. Frankowski and Mr. Denny, Jr. agreed. Treasurer Curran suggested trick-or-treating from 5 to 7 pm, which would provide one hour more of light. Ms. Berger noted changing the hours could have the opposite effect, with trick-or-treaters going to Blawnox from 2 – 4 pm, the Township from 5 to 7 pm, and Fox Chapel Borough has not made a decision. The consensus of Council was to allow trick-or-treating from 6 to 8 p.m.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens

Ms. Holly Natali, 831 Field Club Road, stated she had talked with Police Superintendent Slagel and Township Engineer about safety concerns along Field Club Road and if there is a way to have a stop sign on Field Club Road at Colquitt Drive. She felt her situation warrants special consideration. It was noted stop signs may not be used for traffic control.

Mr. Denny, Jr. suggested including the topic on the October workshop agenda. President Smith recalled a detailed email from Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. about the request.

Manager Jakubec stated if a stop sign is not warranted, it is not enforceable. People could fly through the stop sign and the Police may write a citation, and the District Magistrate throws out the citation. She referenced the Township's Traffic Calming Policy, and considered this a request for traffic calming

measures. The Police would post the speed monitoring trailer along Field Club Road. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the small speed device was requested so it is not noticeable.

Ms. Natali recalled her near-miss last December while walking with her pet and daughter. She noted the downhill side of Field Club Road is where people speed and in the opposite direction people whip a right turn onto Colquitt Drive, where kids are riding bikes and people walk. Police Superintendent Slagel stated he would assign specific patrols, and noted the speed monitor is currently on the 900 block of Field Club Road.

Ms. Natali stated the speed monitor and Police presence are cycles and not a permanent solution. People tend to go back to old habits.

Mr. Denny, Jr. acknowledged Ms. Natali's case and hoped staff could recommend a long-term solution. Vice President Vogel inquired about a pedestrian walkway. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the cartway is 24' wide and the right-of-way is 50' wide. Trees and shrubs make it difficult to widen the road. Ms. Natali noted the type of evergreen trees that are valuable to people and the environment. Ms. Berger appreciated the descriptive problem, but also requested flexibility on Ms. Natali's part and her neighbors, as it may mean trimming some trees. Ms. Natali hoped the trees would not be removed.

B. Council

Mr. Denny, Jr. stated the Army Corps of Engineers told Joe Paravati, of S. Margery Drive, that the Township should apply to FEMA for back flow preventers. President Smith questioned if Mr. Paravati gets sewage up through the basement. Vice President Vogel stated Mr. Paravati's residence is at the low point, and recommended investigating for those homes. Manager Jakubec indicated she would check FEMA's website. Mr. Denny, Jr. noted he would provide contact information for Mr. Paravati, so the Manager could respond.

C. Staff

Manager Jakubec requested Council to remain after the Special Workshop for an Executive Session to discuss labor and legal matters.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice President Vogel to adjourn the Special Workshop was seconded by Ms. Berger and carried unanimously. The Special Workshop adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary