

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA  
COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

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**I. OPENING PROCEDURES**

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:04 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Smith.
- C. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Robert John Smith\*, President of Council; Cassandra R. Eccles, Vice-President of Council; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Michael F. Hammill, Third Ward; Olivia T. Payne, Fourth Ward

Absent: Richard S. Hughes, First Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Also Present: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Christopher Komora, Code Enforcement / Storm Water Coordinator; J. Todd Giammatteo, Public Service Superintendent; Jay R. Davis, Police Superintendent; Cathy Bupas, Manager's Secretary

(\* - attended meeting via zoom.com)

Manager Jakubec noted Mr. Denny, Jr. and Mr. Hughes were attending business commitments.

**II. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

- A. Requesting Authorization to Order Police Vehicle

Manager Jakubec explained Police Superintendent Davis has requested authorization to order one 2023 AWD Police vehicle based on availability, due to recent supply chain demands. The requested vehicle is a 2023 Ford Interceptor at a price of \$38,745.88. Council was requested to consider authorizing the order this evening.

Motion by Mr. Stewart to approve resolution Bill No. B-65-2022 was seconded by Mr. Hammill.

Mr. Stewart questioned which vehicle the new vehicle would replace. Police Superintendent Davis stated car number 4 would move to the Public Service Department and the Public Service Superintendent's vehicle would be sold on Municibid.

On roll call the motion carried unanimously.

- B. Review of Proposed Capital Improvements Plan

Council and staff proceeded to review each section of the proposed 2023-2032 Capital Improvements Plan. Items of interest included:



## Parks and Recreation

### **Meadow Park Tennis Courts**

The courts need to be repaved, acrylic-sealed, lines painted and new fencing. After surveying residents, it has been determined the courts should be painted with tennis and pickle ball lines. The project would be bid in the spring unless the Township could piggyback on another contract.

### **O'Hara Township Community Park Trail Stabilization**

The Township has been awarded \$65,000 in grant funds for the project. The trail connects the park to Rockingham Road. Additional grant requests would be submitted for the project.

### **Park Pavilion Roof Replacement**

The pavilion roofs at Woodland and Meadow Park need to be replaced. Public Service Superintendent Giammatteo hoped to do the work in-house.

### **Park Court Resurfacing**

The sport court at Beulah Frey Park needs to be sealed in 2023 in order to comply with the warranty.

### **Parks Parking Lot Bituminous Surface Treatment**

The cartway around Meadow Park would be done this year with millings, chip and tar.

It was also noted the budget would contain funds for a few fresh pieces of play equipment.

## Roads

### **Comprehensive Road Improvement Program**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. due to the price increase for asphalt this year, he recommended increasing the budget allowance each year. He noted expensive roads in RIDC would need paved in the coming years. Several residential roads are at a point that they need paved now.

### **O'Hara Township Community Park Retaining Wall**

Grant applications have been submitted. The project would also be funded with general funds and stormwater funds. If a grant is awarded, the project could proceed.

### **Mary Street Retaining Wall**

This retaining wall is located behind Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company and needs to be replaced to stabilize Mary Street.

## Stormwater Management

### **Greenwood 2 Stormwater Facility**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the proposed facility would be located east of the Greenwood Cemetery. The stormwater facility will help to alleviate flooding issues affecting residents of Lower Road, Kittanning Pike and Sharpsburg. Manager Jakubec added that a grant application was submitted for the project, but preferred to do the project with or without grant funds.

### **Coxtown Run Stream Restoration**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained that Saxonburg Boulevard is part of the Township's MS-4 requirements to be in compliance. The project involves a small section of the stream.

### **Grove Street Stormwater Facility**

Manager Jakubec stated someone may donate land for this project. The Township Solicitor is in negotiations with the Executor due to delinquent taxes. Vice President Eccles questioned if the property was wetlands. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the property has held water and there could be some wetlands. Additional work would be necessary prior to applying for a permit. If needed, the wetland could be relocated. Mr. Hammill noted the property is on top of a hill and would be a perfect location for a retention pond.

### **Alpha Drive Stormwater Facility**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained by redirecting some stormwater from the existing facility, changing the outfall and raising the earth and dam, the water would be released at a slower rate to drain over several days and would help residents of Margery Drive during heavy rain events.

### **Ravine Street Stormwater Removal**

The Township has contributed \$100,000 to this regional project to remove stormwater from the ALCOSAN interceptor. Additional funding may be needed.

### **MS-4 Stormwater Management Program**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted maintenance, education, and staff training is involved. Mr. Komora enforces violation.

### **Mary Street Pipe Replacement**

It is recommended to increase the size of a 24" pipe from Grove Road and Meadow Park Lane to Kittanning Pike to a 36" pipe. The Manager recalled during the last storm there was debris on the road. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. added a new stormwater facility up on the hill could also help.

### **Greenwood 1 Stormwater Facility**

Staff is trying to negotiate easements with Mr. Weir for a new stormwater facility. The Manager noted these projects add up to the stormwater fees to be collected in 2023.

### **Woodland Park Stormwater Facility**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted the proposed stormwater facility would be located at the entrance to the edible trail and involves the construction of earth and dam.

President Smith questioned how it was determined that all the stormwater facilities are needed. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled when implementing the stormwater fee, there had to be a plan on where to spend the money. These parcels were identified and require minimal easements. He suggested noting in the Newsletter what the Township is doing and where the money is coming from. Manager Jakubec added Lennon Smith Souleret Engineers is in the process of designing the facilities.

### **Delafield Road Stormwater Removal**

The Manager noted a stream from Fox Chapel Borough flows into Aspinwall. The goal is to remove the stream water from the sewer system. ALCOSAN is paying for the design and it is anticipated to bid the project in 2024. The Township, Aspinwall Borough, Fox Chapel Borough and Allegheny County are involved in the project and have committed monetary contributions.

### **Sanitary Sewers**

#### **Sanitary Sewer Assessments, Monitoring and Improvements**

It was noted the monitoring pertains to the Administrative Consent Order. Mr. Stewart questioned if the allocation would cover the cost increase of the liner. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated the bulk for 2023 involves more CCTV and cleaning.

#### **Powers Run Sanitary Sewer Upgrade**

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the sanitary sewer comes down Powers Run Road to Montrose Hill. The project involves relocating an exposed pipe at the bottom of Powers Run Road in conjunction with stream removal. He noted it has taken two years to get the permits.

### **Vehicles and Equipment**

#### **Truck and Major Equipment Replacement**

The Manager referenced equipment that had been ordered in 2022 for delivery in 2023 with Council's approval. The 2004 Vactor tank needs retrofitted. Mr. Giammatteo noted the fans have to be inspected every so often because if they explode, there will be shrapnel everywhere. Manager Jakubec noted equipment is evaluated every year and will be tracked in TRAISR.

### **Fire Protection / Ambulance – Public Safety**

#### **Emergency Equipment Assigned Fund Balance**

Each year the Township puts \$110,000 aside to replace emergency equipment for fire and EMS. The Manager noted Parkview EMS would be coming before Council to request a new chassis. It was noted Parkview EMS serves other communities, but O'Hara Township is the only entity that contributes to equipment purchases.

## Police Public Safety

### **Police Response Vehicles**

Manager Jakubec noted one Police Interceptor vehicle would be replaced, and Council just authorized the ordering of a 2023 Chevy Tahoe.

### **Lexipol**

The Manager explained the Lexipol system reviews Policies and Procedures as the law changes and manages updates. Police Officers also have the availability of on-line learning. The initial cost is \$31,000 and yearly maintenance fees. Police Superintendent Davis noted Lexipol is recognized by MPOETC and Police Officers can meet required standards while maintaining training. Ms. Payne questioned if the Police Officers would train on their own at home or on paid time. Police Superintendent Davis stated the Officers have to do it on paid time. He noted most training is less than an hour and incorporates testing. If an Officer has to respond to a call, they can come back to it. Ms. Payne asked if the cost is per person. Police Superintendent Davis noted the major cost is comparing Township Policies to other policies. The cost of training is \$192 per Officer per year. Manager Jakubec indicated if an additional Police Officer is hired, an additional charge may be incurred. Vice President Eccles inquired about required continuing education for Police Officers. Police Superintendent Davis stated 72 hours of continuing education is required by MPOETC. Lexipol has over 1,500 training videos. From a risk management point, it is the cheapest way to meet the requirements.

### **Taser Replacement**

Police Superintendent Davis stated the Police are using two different taser models. The battery for some of the tasers can only be ordered from Amazon.

### **Handgun Replacement**

Currently the police use 40 caliber handguns. The national trend is 9 mm handguns with “red dot” sights, which have proven to be much more proficient. The handguns would be traded in for new handguns. However, Officers have the opportunity to buy their current weapons.

### **Electronic Speed Signs**

Manager Jakubec stated the biggest complaint in the Township is speeding. It is recommended to purchase more speed monitoring devices. Police Superintendent Davis explained the proposed signs are fixed and use a solar panel with battery backup. The Manager noted the Township still has one portable speed monitor and one that is attached to a trailer. Vice President Eccles asked if the new speed signs record the speeds. Police Superintendent Davis stated these do not record. Vice President Eccles questioned if it would be better to have the speed monitors that record. Police Superintendent Davis indicated not for this particular plan. In his experience, it is the perception of speeding and not actually a problem. Once he has the numbers to review, he could assign manpower appropriately.

### **Preliminary Breath Testing Device Replacement**

The Manager stated the breath testing devices need to be replaced. Vice President Eccles questioned how Police would check for marijuana. Police Superintendent Davis explained there is no test, but the

laws are changing. He stated Sergeant Wolfson is certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (“DRE”), which is the only form of testing. Ms. Payne asked if it would fall under DUI (driving under the influence), which Police Superintendent Davis confirmed, explaining it impairs ability depending on when it was last smoked and how much is in a person’s system. It is not as simple as alcohol.

### **Traffic Complaint Monitor**

The monitor maintains a record of traffic complains and analyzes the speed data over a period of time.

### **E-Ticket Software / Hardware**

The Township needs to purchase the hardware and printers to print tickets from the Police vehicle. Police Superintendent Davis noted the software is coming from the County at no cost to the Township. Any traffic citation would be automatically sent to the Magisterial District Judge.

President Smith inquired about the qualifications for projects to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan. Manager Jakubec stated anything that costs \$5,000 and has a useful life of over two years.

### **Fire Protection / Ambulance – Public Safety**

#### **Engine / Pumper Replacement**

The replacement schedule would be updated in conjunction with the fire study for 2024.

### **Municipal Building Assigned Fund Balance**

The Township allocates \$10,000 each year for anything that may be needed.

### **Public Service Municipal Building**

#### **Public Service Storage Building Replacement**

The storage building is scheduled to be replaced in 2024. Ms. Payne requested a tour of the Public Service backyard.

### **Community Development Planning and Zoning**

#### **Digital Mapping / GIS**

Updates to the GIS Mapping include TRAISR and software. President Smith asked how the redistricting ward maps were prepared, which Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the maps were done on GIS.

Manager Jakubec referenced the rating sheets and requested the sheets be returned by October 4<sup>th</sup>. The rating sheets determine what projects to include in the 2023 Budget. The Budget document is required to be available on display by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Hammill asked if the purpose of the Capital Budget is because costs increase. He acknowledged roads are costing more and questioned what it cost ten years ago to mill and resurface a typical road.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated he would look up the costs. Manager Jakubec stated 15 years ago the Township did not have to use SuperPave.

Manager Jakubec noted the new trash contract will have sticker-shock. There are a few new service providers.

Mr. Hammill recalled there was less competition for the Landscaping bids.

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Citizens

There were no comments.

#### B. Council

Vice President Eccles referenced information provided by the North Hills Special Response Team ("SRT") and asked if the team has enough people trained, which the Manager affirmed. She noted Police Superintendent Davis has been reviewing and making training available when it is offered. It was noted two Township Police Officers are on the SRT. Vice President Eccles recalled seeing an O'Hara Township Police Officer at the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting, and noted Parkview EMS has tactical EMS. Manager Jakubec stated Allegheny County has a SRT, but the team members have to go to North Park to collect their gear, resulting in significant lead time. When the Township's SRT Officers working, they have all their gear with them and can respond quickly. Though the whole team may not be there, they are able to take control of the situation and help the other officers responding. Manager Jakubec recalled a large hostage situation competition in which the Township's SRT won. Vice President Eccles asked if the Township Officers would respond to a high school active shooter situation, which the Manager affirmed. Vice President Eccles questioned if that plan was shared, which Manager Jakubec confirmed, adding the Police Superintendent Davis would be reviewing active shooter protocols and meeting with other Police Chiefs to make sure they are all on the same page. He has also met with the school district Police Chief and understands how they would react. There will also be active shooter training in the spring and other departments would be invited to attend. Police Superintendent Davis noted Officer Frank Benigni has gone through the leadership courses. He stated the SRT will be invited to come in and help with the training. The school district police will be involved in the active shooter training. Police Superintendent Davis noted in his report there will be additional information from the SRT so Council has a better understanding of what they go through.

Vice President Eccles questioned if each school would have their own plan. Police Superintendent Davis stated the response would be the same. Mass casualty / active shooter training are pretty much set on how to handle. They need to be trained and able to react without thinking.

Manager Jakubec stated that is her biggest fear. The Police have door breaching kits and will break a door down. Police Superintendent Davis stated what people saw on television in Uvalde was a lack of training. The Manager recalled nothing happened until the tactical unit arrived.

Ms. Payne stated she was looking forward to Police Superintendent Davis' community policing. The Manager noted the Police have appeared at the movies and upcoming events are scheduled to meet the new Police Superintendent and Public Service Superintendent, and more events will be planned for next year.



Mr. Stewart stated people at RIDC Business Alliance have had some conversation with the prior Police Superintendent and others about active shooter training. Police Superintendent Davis stated he would be happy to meet with the RIDC Business Alliance and create a plan of how to lock down. Moving forward he could offer a security walk through; explain how the businesses could make it easier for the Police.

Treasurer Caprara stated if the Township is going down the path of electric cars, he questioned how much is certified green energy. He noted 66 pounds of coal is needed to charge a battery. The Manager indicated when staff looks for new vehicles the next time, they can look into green energy.

C. Staff

Manager Jakubec requested Council to remain after the Special Workshop for an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Stewart to adjourn the Special Workshop was seconded by Ms. Payne and carried unanimously. The Special Workshop adjourned at 8:25 p.m. and Council entered into Executive Session.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet

  
Cathy Buhas, Manager's Secretary

10119



## SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE 9-20-2022

## TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA

Council Special Workshop  
Meeting

NameAddress or Organization

