

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL VIRTUAL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

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; Allison Berger, Fourth Ward; Cassandra Eccles, Fifth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Absent: Greg Caprara, Third Ward

Also Present: 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.

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 2022 - 2031 Capital Improvement Plan.

The Manager proceeded to review each section of the Plan.

Mr. Denny, Jr. noted 7.55% of the capital improvements are for stormwater management. Manager Jakubec explained it is a capital project and includes the materials, legal fees, salaries. President Smith noted stormwater projects is larger than the road improvement program. The Manager noted the stormwater projects would be funded with American Rescue funds and the stormwater fee that was implemented last winter.

Mr. Stewart questioned the location of the Coxtown Stream, which Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated to be near Calmwood Bridge.

Items of note include:

Public Service - Parks and Recreation

Replace Failed Gabion Wall and Restore Trail in O'Hara Township Community Park

It was noted two grants were applied for and one grant would be used to reimburse the other, and possibly, pay nothing.

Mr. Stewart asked if something could be used other than gabion. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained soldier beam could be used but would exceed the budget.

Vice President Vogel asked if the wall had to be repaired before the bridge could open, which the Manager affirmed.

President Smith asked how the project would be funded if the grants are not successful. Manager Jakubec indicated general funds would be used for the project.

Maintenance of Driveways and Parking Lots at Meadow and Woodland Parks

Seal Coat Raymond A. Schafer Memorial Park Basketball Court and Acrylic Seal Coat Meadow Park Tennis Court

It was noted children can rollerblade on the acrylic surface, but not the floating surface used on the tennis court at O'Hara Township Community Park.

Replace Eight Wood Columns on the O'Hara Township Community Park Gazebo with New Fiberglass Columns

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. believed a steel column to be under the wood.

Ms. Eccles questioned the current condition of the columns. The Manager stated the columns are deteriorated and painting them would not help.

Mr. Stewart suggested treating the steel columns with a rust protectant.

Public Service - Roads

Continuation of the Road Improvement Program in 2022, including curbs and guiderail

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated an extensive program is planned in 2022 and includes Kappa and Alpha Drives, Joanne Street, Emily Drive, Papercraft Boulevard, and Field Club Road on the other side of Powers Run Road to the Fox Chapel Borough border.

Mr. Stewart inquired about newer technology to make the roads last longer, such as fibers. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated adding fibers to the mix is showing great promise. He may mill 1 ½" off the roads that fibers were first used on.

Mr. John Kight, RIDC Business Alliance, noted about 100-feet by the bridge at lower Alpha Drive is really deteriorated.

Possible Replacement of Sagging Gabion Basket Wall Along Creek in O'Hara Township Community Park

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted this wall is a couple feet long and was installed in 2006, but there were issues with the construction. Anchors were used to stabilize the wall. He recommended replacing the wall with soldier pile and concrete lagging. The Manager noted per an agreement with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Township is required to monitor the wall after every rain event.

Mr. Stewart questioned what are ‘piles’, which Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated are steel beams.

Replacement of Mary Street retaining wall, behind Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company

Mr. Stewart asked if the height of the wall had anything to do with flooding. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained this wall supports Mary Street. The wall is beginning to show signs of failure and anticipated replacement in 2023.

Ms. Eccles questioned the age of the wall, and staff indicated it was constructed prior to 2003.

Public Service - Stormwater Management

Epsilon Drive Stormwater Facility

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the facility will be located on the back lot of Bayer Corporation. The detention pond will help alleviate flooding for Margery Drive residents and should also impact some Fox Chapel Borough residents. Manager Jakubec added it would reduce sediment resulting in cleaner water.

Mr. Denny, Jr. asked what a stormwater facility is. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated this will be a surface pond. President Smith noted there are several types of stormwater management.

Greenwood I Stormwater Facility

The Manager indicated American Rescue Plan funds, grant funds and stormwater fees would pay for the facility. This facility will help alleviate flooding issues along Kittanning Pike and downstream in Sharpsburg, while reducing sediment and resulting in improved water quality.

President Smith requested staff to provide better descriptions on the stormwater facilities.

Mr. Stewart asked if the project had gone out for bid. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated after the Greyfriar Stormwater Facility is complete they would begin the facility on Gamma Drive.

Stormwater Removal on Delafield Road

Manager Jakubec stated Delafield is a County road. Allegheny County is **not** participating in this project. She has been very vocal about the County not participating. Stream removal is an Administrative Consent Order requirement. Money from the Army Corps of Engineers has been provided and they are very serious about doing this project.

President Smith questioned where the water will go. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the water would ultimately go to the river.

Stormwater Removal on Ravine Street

The Manager noted in addition to the Township, Penn D.O.T., ALCOSAN and Shaler Township are participating in this project. She hoped not to have to spend all of the money on this project which was to begin in August. The contract was awarded, but apparently has been delayed.

MS4 Stormwater Management Program

Manager Jakubec stated the program continues in order to reduce contamination of stormwater runoff and illicit discharges.

Greenwood 2 Stormwater Facility

The Manager noted plans to construct a new stormwater detention pond in 2023 to improve water quality and help folks on Kittanning Pike.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned if it would make sense to construct all the stormwater facilities next year and put other projects off to 2023. Manager Jakubec explained not all the facilities have been designed yet, and revenue is an issue, depending on the design. She noted a game-changer is the project with Penn D.O.T. The project is included in the bill, if the bill gets approved. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. also noted timing to apply for and receive permits, which has taken six to nine months.

Mr. Stewart questioned how staff knows if the stormwater facility is working. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the design has to prove a reduction of 5 to 10% in sediment. Manager Jakubec stated the Township purchased an industrial scale and will weigh the sediment pulled out of the stream.

Public Service - Sanitary Sewers

Sanitary Sewer Assessments, Monitoring and Improvements

The Manager stated each year money is set aside to monitor the pipes and make slip line repairs.

Vice President Vogel inquired about the status of camera-ing the lines. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated inspection all of the sewer system was completed in 2014, but the Township is required to review 10 to 20% of the segments over ten years. The Township can bid the work or use a contract.

Mr. Stewart asked if the Township would use Red Zone again. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained he is not happy with Red Zone because they will charge for the software, and he believed Traiser could be used instead.

Powers Run Sanitary Sewer Upgrade

The Manager stated the project would be funded with sewer revenue and a \$100,000 grant has been secured for this project.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. added this is a joint sewer project and will restore the first 100' of the channel. The next round of grants will be used to open the channel.

Sanitary Sewer Push Camera Replacement

Manager Jakubec stated the camera is used for sanitary sewer certification.

Ms. Eccles questioned the age of the camera. Mr. Kephart stated the camera is three years old. It is a small remote-control camera. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. added that the camera is used two to three times a day.

Public Service - Vehicles and Equipment

Replacement of:

- 2012 Dinkmar Leaf Loader (Vehicle #35)
- 2012 Dinkmar Leaf Loader (Vehicle #36)
- 2008 John Deere Lawn Tractor
- 2015 Ford F-250 Quad Cab 4x4 Pick-up with Plow

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

Mr. Kephart stated the leaf loaders are well used. Fox Chapel Borough has a Titan Plus. In conversation with the vendor, it was indicated they would drop the price by \$20,000. The pickup truck is used for Parks and is beginning to rust.

Fire Protection / Ambulance – Public Safety

Emergency Equipment Assigned Fund Balance

Manager Jakubec stated the Fire Funding Committee has not met due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Each year money is set aside for future equipment replacement.

Police – Public Safety

Replacement of Two Marked Police Response Vehicles

Police Superintendent Slagel stated the Police Department has five vehicles and would like to get one additional vehicle so when one vehicle is getting repaired, they would still have five vehicles to use. He suggested not trading in one vehicle. Police Superintendent Slagel also suggested not being dependent of the Ford Interceptor and expanding the fleet with possibly a Chevy Tahoe. He explained that Penn D.O.T. has been hiring the Police for traffic control at their construction projects.

Mr. Denny, Jr. asked if any police vehicles are available in electric. Police Superintendent Slagel stated Ford has a hybrid version, which Shaler Township Police Department has. He would inquire with them as to the vehicle's performance and opinion. He also noted City of Pittsburgh Police have one and do not like it.

Purchase of Drone with a Thermal Image Camera

Manager Jakubec stated Officer Sciacca has experience with drones as a hobby. She would need to take a test to become an authorized drone pilot for the Township. Officer Sciacca has volunteered her personal drone experience to assess a landslide situation. A grant application was submitted, but the Manager had not heard if the grant will be awarded. A drone with a thermal image camera would be very useful for search and rescue situations.

Handgun Replacement

Manager Jakubec noted new technology provides for a red dot on handguns. Due to the ammunition shortage, the handgun replacement is allocated for 2023. Police Superintendent Slagel explained an Officer is accountable for each round after they pull the trigger. The red dot improves sight on the target. It is not a laser beam and there is no dot on the target; only the Officer sees the red dot. Carrying

a weapon is a responsibility and safety and accuracy count. Police Superintendent Slagel stated he has to order ammunition now for 2023, and is hopeful the supply problems improve.

Police Superintendent Slagel also recommended changing from the 40 caliber to 9mm handguns. In researching ammunition, the trend is law enforcement is moving back to the 9mm guns.

Mr. Stewart asked if the Police had tested the gun. Police Superintendent Slagel stated Officer Benigni has and will be learning more about it in his fire arms training.

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. Nothing is planned for 2022.

Mr. Kight noted the Township has managed to control speeding on Fox Chapel Road due to the digital speed monitor. He noted speeding issues on Delta Drive, with people walking in the street, and one business has offices on both sides of the road so employees are crossing the road. He stated Aspinwall has smaller speed monitors. Mr. Kight also suggested possibly expanding the trail in some places.

Police Superintendent Slagel stated the Police are always rotating the speed monitor through RIDC and have had it on Delta Drive. He did not know what could be done about people crossing the road to get from building to building.

Manager Jakubec stated the Township has the smaller speed monitors. Staff just needs to find a place to put it. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted Delta Drive is a wide road and the Township may be able to implement some type of traffic calming measures, such as narrower lanes, but not so narrow the truckers have issues.

Mr. Kight also noted people walking in the street on Alpha Drive from Freeport Road.

Ambulance Replacement

Mr. Stewart recalled recently retrofitting an ambulance and asked if the older ambulances cannot be retrofitted. The Manager stated they always look at refurbishing equipment. The equipment replacement schedule needs to be reviewed.

Rifles

Police Superintendent Slagel noted the current rifles are planned to be replaced in 2024. The rifles are several years old. One rifle is assigned to each Officer trained; not just for each vehicle, plus two rifles for the S.W.A.T. Officers. The intent is to reduce the number of rifles and replace them with new technology, and the rifles can stay in the vehicle.

Mr. Denny, Jr. thought the current rifles were only three years old. Police Superintendent Slagel noted Officer Benigni was in his office and stated the rifles are ten years old. He added that Officer Benigni takes very good care in maintaining the weapons. He noted the rifles are not used very often, but are needed in certain situations.

E-Ticket Software/Hardware

The Manager indicated the technology is planned for 2025.

Taser Replacement

Police Superintendent Slagel recalled purchasing two Tasers to replace older Tasers. He preferred yellow Tasers to easily distinguish from a fire arm. The remaining Tasers are not due to be replaced until 2026.

Public Service - Municipal Building

Municipal Building Entry Doors

Manager Jakubec explained automated doors are recommended in order to comply with ADA requirements. The interior doors will be removed as an air curtain system on the new doors will prevent drafts.

HVAC Desigo Control Point

The Manager explained Oracle, the current control, is phasing out support and the Township will need to convert to the Desigo Control panel.

Ms. Berger asked if the software is obsolete. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained staff is allowed to get into the system via remote computer, but a new panel needs to be installed to see the system. Without the new panel staff will not be able to control the system. He continued to explain how the old system functioned, and stated this new software will be simplified and enable changes to settings for each room. It is also more user-friendly.

Municipal Building Assigned Fund Balance

The Manager noted money is set aside each year for improvements to the municipal building.

Administration – General Government

Long Range Plan

Manager Jakubec noted Pashek is working on a grant application.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned why the Long Range Plan is included in the capital budget. Manager Jakubec stated because it is such a large number.

President Smith questioned how much was spent this year on the Long Range Plan. The Manager estimated \$55,000. She explained this is just to prepare the plan.

Equipment Purchases

Manager Jakubec noted a new server has been installed.

Digital Mapping/GIS

Ms. Eccles questioned if they were updating software. Manager Jakubec indicated they would also be adding additional information. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated more features would be added to the software and modules.

The Manager noted rating sheets for each project are included in the back of the plan and requested the sheets be returned in order to prepare the budget.

President Smith noted the Township is planning to spend \$50,000 this year and \$30,000 next year on the Long Range Plan. He questioned if Fox Chapel Borough is also spending \$80,000. Manager Jakubec stated Fox Chapel Borough is also spending \$80,000. She noted Pashek is just getting started on a grant application. She also indicated the \$50,000 most likely will not all be spent this year.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Citizens

No comments.

B. Council

Mr. Stewart stated he talked with the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of America last night. The children had lots of good questions.

C. Staff

Manager Jakubec recalled meeting with Penn D.O.T. yesterday concerning Kittanning Pike. The Township will hold the contract with Pugliano. The estimated project cost is \$260,000, with \$130,000 coming from a Federal grant, Senator Williams is providing a \$65,000 grant, leaving \$65,000 to split between the Township and Penn D.O.T. Pugliano is authorized to begin work immediately. She requested Council think about the amount of money to split with Penn D.O.T., as the subject will be included on the October 5th Workshop Agenda.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned what amount the Manager thought should be the local government share. Manager Jakubec noted the Township got the easement executed by the Pringles, and paid for property appraisals, so she proposed \$30,000 from the Township and \$35,000 from Penn D.O.T. She recalled Penn D.O.T. wanted a 50/50 split, but the Township has already put out money.

President Smith indicated the Township should get some consideration because the Township will be stuck maintaining it forever.

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Workshop adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and Council entered into Executive Session.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary