

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2019**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:03 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, Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Brendan Lucas, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E., Township Engineer; Scott K. Slagel, Superintendent of Police; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Tom Powers, Powers Run Road, noted the City is cutting back on items to be recycled, and questioned if similar changes would occur in the Township. Manager Jakubec explained Waste Management, the hauler, has not contacted the Township. She explained the contract for trash and recyclables collection was bid through the North Hills Council of Governments ("NHCOC"). Waste Management would have to negotiate any change with all the NHCOC members. The Manager acknowledged environmental changes with the demand for recyclable items.

Mr. Powers asked if the Cooper Siegel Library had contacted the Township regarding space for archived records. Manager Jakubec had not been contacted by the Library staff. Mr. Powers questioned if the Library had requested additional funding from the Township. The Manager stated she had not received such a request, and if she were asked, the request for room to store the archived records would be formalized.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- A. Amending the Township Sewer Rates

Manager Jakubec stated the ordinance establishes a new sanitary sewer charge of \$2.35 per 1,000 gallons compared to the 2017 rate of \$2.25, and new customer service charge of \$5.75 compared to the 2017 rate of \$5.65. The increase is necessary primarily due to additional expenses related to the Administrative Consent Order. Staff requested Council's consideration of second reading and adoption this evening.

Motion by Vice President Vogel to adopt ordinance Bill No. B-69-2018 was seconded by Mr. Stewart.

President Smith inquired about the amount of additional revenue the sewer rate increase would provide, which the Manager estimated at \$100,000.

Ms. Berger clarified the Township's sewer rate is not impacted by ALCOSAN raising their rates.

Vice President Vogel inquired about ALCOSAN's rates, which Manager Jakubec stated \$7.94 per 1,000 gallons plus \$16.69 customer service charge.

On roll call the motion carried unanimously.

B. Requesting Authorization to Purchase Public Service Department Equipment

The Manager noted Public Service Superintendent Loren Kephart is requesting authorization to purchase a 2019 Ford F-550, 4 X 4 Dump Truck with Plow and Spreader in the total amount of \$66,150.00, which includes the trade-in of a 2012 Ford F-550, 4 X 4 dump truck with plow and spreader. The 2019 budgeted allocation to replace the dump truck is \$98,560.00.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the January 15th regular meeting agenda.

C. Requesting Authorization to Jointly Bid the 2019 Road Improvement Program

Manager Jakubec stated staff is requesting authorization to request bids jointly with Fox Chapel Borough for the 2019 Road Improvement Program in order to realize economies of scale. The Township roads recommended for milling and resurfacing include Cornwall, Sunridge, Falconhurst, N. Falconhurst Drives, Frick and Worthington Roads. The alternates include RIDC, Sigma, Gamma, and Zeta Drives, in addition to chip sealing Field Club Road from Powers Run Road to the Fox Chapel Borough border. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. clarified Gamma and RIDC Drives would definitely be resurfaced.

Ms. Eccles did not feel Falconhurst Drive was in need of resurfacing. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. indicated Falconhurst would be resurfaced from Cornwall Drive to North Falconhurst.

Vice President Vogel confirmed the Township owns RIDC Drive.

Mr. Stewart questioned what determines what roads can be tarred and chipped, and if all roads are tarred and chipped in the Township, which Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained.

The consensus of Council was to include a resolution on the January 15th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

D. Establishing a Plan for Reviewing the Revised/Restated Proposed Zoning Ordinance

The Manager recalled prior discussion with regard to how Council prefers to proceed with reviewing the ordinance. Options noted were following the end of a regularly scheduled

workshop, or on a Saturday morning. She preferred to have the ordinance enacted sooner rather than later, noting the process for adoption.

Mr. Denny, Jr. indicated his Saturdays in January are booked and Ms. Berger's Saturdays in February are booked, but could meet another week night.

The consensus of Council was to schedule a Special Workshop for Saturday, January 19, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to review the proposed restated Zoning Ordinance, and address any other matters that may be necessary.

It was noted the proposed restated Zoning Ordinance had been reviewed by the Township Solicitor as well as the Allegheny County Planning Agency.

It was suggested that Council Members read up to half of the ordinance prior to the Special Workshop.

E. Scheduling Interviews for Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy

Manager Jakubec suggested scheduling the subject interviews for Tuesday, February 5th beginning at 6:00 p.m. She recalled receiving at least five notices of interest.

Mr. Stewart inquired about the duties for the Alternate position, which the Manager explained.

F. Appointing Delegates to Various Boards and Agencies

President Smith noted the current delegates to the Boards and Agencies and inquired if the current Council Members wished to continue serving on the respective Boards/Agencies, to which a consensus of Council concurred.

G. Update on Saxonburg Sewers and Brownhill Bridge

Manager Jakubec informed Council that work on the sewers has begun. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the contractor is setting up across from Calmwood Drive for storage and a trailer. Work will begin at Country Club Lane with the force main.

Manager Jakubec noted the importance of communication with the residents and Township has been stressed to the contractor. The contractor is to notify the residents prior to any work on their properties. Once staff receives the construction schedule the residents will be updated. She anticipated discussion concerning sewer assessments would occur in May or June. The Brownhill Bridge construction is scheduled to begin in March.

H. Solicitor's December 10, 2018 Invoice

No comments.

I. Proposed January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda

Changes to the proposed agenda were noted.

IV. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Ms. Eccles noted so much water running down the hill along Powers Run Road, causing a landslide and a whole tree to come down. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated it is a private property issue and Penn DOT is dealing with the resident. He noted six or seven stormwater pipes were directed to that area.

Vice President Vogel questioned if crown vetch is used, noting problems with deer eating it next to roadways. President Smith noted crown vetch is an invasive plant. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. acknowledged, but noted it has deep roots.

Vice President Vogel inquired about the home renovations on Powers Run Road at Field Club Road. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. recalled an application and plans were submitted and approved, but was not familiar with the construction schedule. Manager Jakubec indicated she would ask the Building Inspector to investigate and if progress is not being made, the Township could cite the owner.

Vice President Vogel stated ALCOSAN is inviting all Council Members to the Northern Basin Group meeting to discuss regionalization and the transfer process. He would be in attendance. Ms. Berger questioned if the meeting has anything to do with the piece of sewer line they want that is in the Township, which the Manager affirmed and noted strong feelings that the Township may not want them to have it.

Mr. Stewart stated it is a big issue County-wide and it would be beneficial to attend the meeting. He noted a lot of informed people have told him one of the reasons why the stormwater situation/improvements is going to slowly is there hasn't been a good cooperation and understanding amongst all the communities, and asked Vice President Vogel if that were true. Vice President Vogel stated that is not correct; everyone understands what they need to do. In most cases it is a matter of getting the funding to perform the work that needs to be done. O'Hara Township is fortunate to have the ability to do what needs to be done. A lot of other municipalities just do not have the money and are behind schedule. Manager Jakubec noted the Township probably has the strictest sanitary sewer certification, along with Fox Chapel Borough, in the entire state.

Vice President Vogel stated the ALCOSAN meeting is open only to Council and Township Managers. The Manager indicated the Township Engineer would attend the meeting.

Mr. Stewart referenced an announcement about the Cooper Siegel Sharpsburg branch and questioned how they separate financing, noting hours have been cut back. Manager Jakubec stated the Township is not involved with their financing. She suspected they treat the two branches as separate profit centers.

V. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec indicated the Chairs of other Township Boards and Commissions would be invited to attend the February workshop to discuss plans for 2019, and afford Council an opportunity to ask questions.

Police Superintendent Slagel informed Council that the 2020 Ford police interceptor vehicles are being redesigned to accommodate batteries for hybrid models and the price of the vehicles will increase \$6,105 per vehicle. He found two 2019 Ford interceptors for \$29,000, compared to \$35,000 for the 2020 Ford interceptors. Police Superintendent Slagel explained he was seeking Council's approval to step out of the South Hills COG contract and purchase these two 2019 Ford police interceptors. The existing equipment could be moved to the 2019 vehicles without any changes.

Vice President Vogel thanked Police Superintendent Slagel for being so diligent.

Manager Jakubec explained Police Superintendent Slagel informed her about the vehicles late in the day and a resolution had not been prepared. She requested Council's approval for Police Superintendent Slagel to call and put the two vehicles on hold tomorrow, and a resolution would be prepared for consideration on the regular meeting agenda, to which Council concurred.

President Smith inquired of an update on the Crofton school crossing. Manager Jakubec indicated staff would move forward with constructing the pedway when the ground is frozen next week. She also noted the additional street lamp is on Duquesne Light Company's schedule, but did not know when the street lamp would be installed.

Mr. Frankowski asked if the work on Spring Grove Road was completed. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted some paving and gravel were still needed.

Manager Jakubec updated Council regarding flood damages. Work has begun on Division Street, and work will soon begin on Eton Drive. An open cut repair is less costly for Eton Drive. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. added a small repair is necessary on O'Hara Manor Drive.

Manager Jakubec requested Council to remain after the workshop to discuss a legal matter.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 8:03 p.m. and following a short break Council entered into Executive Session.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

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