

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2022**

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; Cassandra R. Eccles, Vice President of Council; Richard S. Hughes, First Ward; George H. Stewart, Second Ward; Michael F. Hammill, Third Ward; Olivia T. Payne, Fourth Ward; John R. Denny, Jr.*, At-Large

Also Present: Greg Caprara**, Township Treasurer; Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Brendan Lucas, Township Solicitor; Charles W. Steinert, Jr., P.E.**, Township Engineer; Christopher Komora, Code Enforcement / Storm Water Coordinator; Loren R. Kephart, Public Service Superintendent; Police Sergeant Benjamin Wolfson; Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

(*) denotes late arrival

(**) denotes attendance via zoom.com

II. VISITORS

- A. Introducing Police Officer Natalie Richards

Police Sergeant Ben Wolfson introduced Officer Natalie Richards, who began working for the Township in May 2022. He noted Officer Richards has extensive experience and has been teaching the other Police Officers a few things.

Manager Jakubec noted one thing Officer Richards enjoys is policing at community events.

Vice President Eccles inquired about Officer Richards' favorite thing in the Township. Officer Richards stated the people are so nice and wave 'hello'. Manager Jakubec recalled Officer Richards' interactions with a little girl at the Pizza with Police event.

- B. Hampton Township Police Social Worker Program

President Smith recalled learning about the Social Worker Program at the Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference. After informing the Manager about the program, she and Sergeant Wolfson met with members of the Hampton Township Police Department to discuss the program. Manager Jakubec noted it is a very different program in support of the Police. It helps the Police provide additional services to folks who may need them.

*Mr. Denny, Jr. arrived at 7:08 p.m. and took his seat.

Chief Paul Vulakovich, of Hampton Township Police Department, stated Police are trained to deal with drug and alcohol issues and mental health issues, but can only do so much. A response from an outside agency could take a while. Chief Vulakovich received a call from Dr. Stahl of Slippery Rock University, asking if he would be interested in an internship. After hearing about the program, Chief Vulakovich approached his Police Sergeants, Township Manager and Council, and they were all supportive of the internship. After interviewing potential interns, Chief Vulakovich selected Angela Kenbok, and he now has another intern. When Angela started working with the Police Department, they had to create policy, rules and a place for the Social Worker interns to work. Angela created all the forms and did all the administrative work for the position. He and Angela determined how the Social Workers would work with the Police, with safety in mind. The interns rode in the cars with the Officers, got to know people in the community, responded to calls with Police, and ultimately created a personalized service. After tracking the information over eight months, the program was presented at a strategic planning meeting, and Angela was hired. He noted various situations Angela has assisted.

Ms. Kenbok noted her eight years of experience with mental health issues, including drug and alcohol, in-patient and out-patient, individual and group therapy. She wanted to provide specialized services in collaboration with law enforcement; to reach individuals before they entered into facilities to encourage them and start off on the right foot. When people that need help reach out to county services and are put on a waiting list or have to wait to have a phone call returned, it discourages people from moving forward. She is able to provide immediate, individualized services through a network with other agencies, including housing, therapy, psychiatric, doctors, or financial assistance and is able to connect people immediately, noting the average wait time for mental health services is three to six months.. She has built collaboration with code enforcement and the Magistrate. If someone gets to the Magistrate level, the Magistrate will give the individual an opportunity to work with her for so many days. If the individual makes positive progress, that report is submitted to the Magistrate and sometimes charges are dropped. In addition to responding to individuals, she holds events, such as yoga as a coping strategy, youth events, therapy dog training where kids with learning disabilities can read to the dogs, she takes dogs into schools, and has provided training to Police Officers on mood disorders, substance abuse and domestic violence, which was MPOTEC accredited. Ms. Kenbok noted other Police Departments that have or are getting into program.

Mr. Stewart commended both Ms. Kenbok and Chief Vulakovich and recommended Council's consideration of the program for O'Hara.

Manager Jakubec noted Hampton Township is willing to share everything, including the Social Services Manual to help others get started in the program.

Ms. Payne stated it seems like a job for multiple people. Ms. Kenbok noted a lot of her cases come from the high school, which started with truancy and expanded to include bullying.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Richard Ranii, Coral Drive, stated a guardrail at the end of Coral Drive needs some attention. He also suggested allowing left turns from the Mike's Jerseys located across from Alpha Drive during off hours. Manager Jakubec recalled prior negotiations with RIDC concerning that turn. Mr. Ranii also indicated a dead deer has been lying along Powers Run Road for three days. Sergeant Wolfson indicated he had called Penn D.O.T. twice about the deer and their response was they have 72 hours to deal with it. The Manager suggested the 'road vandals' pick up the dead deer. Mr. Ranii suggested

the Township partner with the water authority on the parcel that the authority is dumping dirt, along River Road. He acknowledged the Township does not own the parcel. President Smith indicated that may be something for the two Council representatives to the Long Range Comprehensive Plan Committee to address.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A. Requesting Authorization to Execute a Contribution Agreement with Penn D.O.T.

Manager Jakubec stated the Contribution Agreement allows for the Township to withdraw funds from the Keystone Communities Program Grant for the Kittanning Pike Culvert project in order to pay Penn D.O.T.

The consensus of Council was to include a resolution for consideration on the June 14th regular meeting agenda.

B. Requesting Authorization to Participate in the North Hills COG Sodium Chloride Contract

The Manager recalled for the past several years the Township has shared contracts for the purchase of sodium chloride with the State and North Hills Council of Governments ("COG"). Bids for the purchase of sodium chloride were received and opened by the North Hills COG on May 25, 2018. This year is an option year under the contract and the cost per ton has been determined by terms and conditions of the COG specifications. Morton Salt was the lowest responsible bidder and the cost for rock salt is \$75.02 per ton, delivered, compared to \$72.83 for the 2021-2022 winter season. She also recalled receiving an email recommending the Township stock up before the price increases.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution on the June 14th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

C. Requesting Authorization to Execute an Agreement with Duquesne Light Company

Manager Jakubec stated the proposed resolution authorizes the execution of an agreement with Duquesne Light Company in order to provide electrical service through Township property to Denis J. and Francis J. Meinert along Village Drive.

The consensus of Council was to include the resolution for consideration on the June 14th regular meeting agenda.

D. Parks and Recreation Commission Discussion Concerning Nancy Werner Park (a.k.a. Six-Mile Island)

The Manager noted the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed potential uses for the Nancy Werner Park during the April 17th meeting. The consensus of the Commission was for the Nancy Werner Park to remain as a nature preserve, and non-profit organizations could bid on a lease. She noted the Commission is planning a trip to the island in June or July. Manager Jakubec stated the Lazy Day Islanders has been leasing the island for the last number of years.

Mr. Stewart questioned the possibility for the Township to better advertise so the public can stop over there. He noted there are no docks. The Manager noted there are no trash receptacles. Council could review the ordinance and may reconsider once the R-47 Plan is developed.

President Smith thought the island could be opened up; Mr. Hughes advised caution, as no structure could be put on the island, and it would have to be maintained. Mr. Denny, Jr. noted by opening the island, it opens the Township to liability.

Manager Jakubec indicated she had suggested donating the island to a land trust, but the Parks and Recreation Commission was not interested.

Solicitor Lucas advised advertising when the lease is open; the Lessee is liable since it is a restricted use.

Mr. Hughes noted the Township has people to maintain parks, but not the island. Manager Jakubec noted potential workers' compensation issues.

Mr. Hammill recalled the R-47 developer has plans that include the use of the island. The Manager noted you have to figure out how to get there.

E. Update on Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment Concerning Chickens

Manager Jakubec noted the subcommittee met last week and some wording was tweaked. The Solicitor will need to review the proposed ordinance, followed by Planning Commission review. A committee member will be away in July so Council might not see the ordinance until August.

F. Update on Storm Water Facilities Under Construction

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained the status of the Gamma Drive, Epsilon Drive and Greyfriar Drive storm water retention facilities. Mr. Kephart indicated there had been some erosion but he had not yet talked with Mr. Steinert. Manager Jakubec noted the split rail would have a black chain link fence behind the Greyfriar storm water retention facility.

G. Reminder - June 11 Historic Markers Dedication

The Manager stated the dedication ceremony for the Historical Marks located in O'Hara Township Community Park is scheduled for this Saturday, June 11, 2022 beginning at 11:00 a.m. by the Gazebo. Also happening is a pop-up Touch a Truck Event featuring Public Service. Light refreshments will be served in Shelter No. 2. The ceremony and event have been posted to the Township website and social media.

H. Solicitor's May 12, 2022 Invoice

Mr. Stewart inquired about the Woodland situation, which Solicitor Lucas indicated they filed the appeal and it is up to them to move forward.

I. Proposed June 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda

Manager Jakubec indicated a resolution pertaining to the Articles of Agreement for the fire study would be added to the agenda.

V. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Mr. Denny, Jr. suggested preparing a proclamation for a neighbor of his on Eton Drive, and recalled a huge story about the Air Force Pilot's event.

Mr. Denny, Jr. commented about the number of "For Lease" properties in RIDC, which is the Township's 'cash cow'. He suggested staff reach out to RIDC to see if they have any concerns. Manager Jakubec noted RIDC has covenants, and the Long Range Plan Committee should review.

Mr. Stewart indicated he, two people from RIDC, John Kight, 'Kapp' and his architect/planning person had met to discuss the covenants. Manager Jakubec stated she wished she would have been included for the meeting.

Mr. Denny, Jr. stated he does not think that is appropriate; staff needs to meet with RIDC; not just one member of Council.

Mr. Stewart explained he considered it a kick-off meeting, adding Chuck was also at the meeting. He apologized and stated he had no intention to exclude anyone.

Mr. Denny, Jr. stated the concern is the perception of one Council person representing the Township.

VI. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec requested to Council to remain after the workshop for an Executive Session to discuss a labor matter.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 8:10 p.m. and Council entered into Executive Session.


Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

Attachment: Attendance Sheet