

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 7, 2019**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. Call to Order by President Smith at 7:02 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: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager; Brendan Lucas, Township Solicitor; 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 noted Treasurer Curran was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- A. Update on Recycling Program

Manager Jakubec referenced a letter received from Waste Management through the North Hills Council of Governments ("NHCOG") concerning a request for consideration of a contract amendment concerning recyclables. The topic was discussed last Friday during the NHCOG meeting and a meeting will be scheduled with all COG members under contract with Waste Management. The Manager noted receiving a phone call from Al Pasquerelli of Waste Management, though he had intended to call someone else. He inquired of the Manager's thoughts concerning the letter. She noted since there is a request to renegotiate the contract, she asked Mr. Pasquerelli what he was proposing to give the municipalities in exchange for renegotiating the contract. Mr. Pasquerelli was not prepared to answer the question. Manager Jakubec indicated the seven COG members are to come up with ideas of what would be fair for negotiations.

Vice President Vogel asked if Waste Management offered to decrease the pricing. Manager Jakubec answered, "No", and indicated she made it clear that O'Hara Township would not be involved in negotiations without a 'give and take'.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about timing for the change. The Manager indicated the Township would prefer one year to transition.

Mr. Stewart asked if recycles and trash are separate items in the contract. The Manager stated, “No”, adding Waste Management pushed for single stream.

Ms. Eccles confirmed if the Township does not negotiate Waste Management would have to continue to recycle the items listed in the contract. She questioned when the contract would expire, which the Manager stated in three years.

President Smith recalled when the State mandated recycling for municipalities with a certain number of residents and questioned if the types of recyclables was defined. Manager Jakubec noted there was a list at that time and there is a list of items to be recycled with the Recycling Performance State Grant. She believed the items required to be recycled by the State would change, as the market for recyclable items has changed.

Ms. Berger suggested putting a dumpster for glass items in the municipal building parking lot. Manager Jakubec noted issues of people placing things that do not belong in a dumpster and broken glass outside of the dumpster. However, a pop-up dumpster could be provided occasionally.

B. Update on Discussions with Indiana Township and Deer Creek Basin Authority Concerning Saxonburg Sanitary Sewers

Manager Jakubec referenced information regarding the meeting that was to be with Lynn Biery, Executive Director of Deer Creek Drainage Basin Authority and her Engineer. Not only did Ms. Biery and her Engineer attend, but also the Foreman, Chairman of the Board, Dan Anderson, Dan Taylor, President of Indiana Township Council, and Indiana Township’s Engineer. Ms. Biery, requested additional information. The Manager stated the cost to buy in upfront, based on a letter from 2010 is \$3,300 per edu for 41 homes. Indiana Township officials stated there has been no development in ten years and the septic systems are not failing. Ms. Biery indicated there are nine houses that would be easy to connect to the system. Manager Jakubec advised that the \$3,300 had been held since 2010, but is most likely to be going up.

Vice President Vogel did not agree that 9 homes could connect easily. He questioned the size of the pipe needed, which Township Engineer Steinert indicated would be at least an 8-inch main. Vice President Vogel stated Indiana Township would have to install about ¼ mile of an 8-inch pipe to connect with O’Hara Township’s system, which will be the basis for anything beyond there. They cannot just connect the nine homes. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. noted a few homes along Berryhill Road in Indiana Township could also connect.

Manager Jakubec noted numerous residents of Indiana Township have called O’Hara Township staff. One lady that lives just across the Township border has a failing septic. The Manager does not want to be the person to tell the lady she will have to put in a \$25,000 to \$30,000 on lot system. Indiana Township residents cannot be O’Hara Township customers. She also stated a discussion about transportations charges will be needed.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about a drop-dead date. The Manager noted that is one item for discussion. She questioned if Council wants to establish a date that the \$3,300 cost is only good until. After

that date we are going to re-evaluate and the cost will increase per edu. Vice President Vogel indicated the new rate would increase for Indiana at the same time it increases for O'Hara residents. Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned when the cost would increase for O'Hara residents. The Manager explained when the sewers are all in, there will be a rate study performed and recalculate the tap-in fee, which could be next year. Vice President Vogel noted the new rate would apply to anybody who is not currently connected, or has not signed an agreement.

Manager Jakubec indicated she would continue to work with Ms. Biery.

Mr. Stewart asked if there was any discussion at the last meeting about extending the payment of \$131,000, or whatever, over six months. Manager Jakubec recalled Indiana Township representatives indicated that was too expensive. Mr. Denny, Jr. commented it will cost a lot more later.

It was noted the drop-dead date could be considered sooner than next year. Vice President Vogel stated the Township will have to justify the number. It's probably best if possible, to estimate what it might be once completed. Manager Jakubec stated the window for up-sizing is closed. Too much pipe is already in the ground and Indiana Township won't provide the number of edu's they may need.

Council and staff continued discussion about sewage capacity and potential construction of new homes in the Saxonburg Boulevard area.

C. Authorization to Participate in the North Hills COG Sodium Chloride Contract Option Year II

Manager Jakubec noted the North Hills Council of Governments received and opened bids in 2018 for the purchase of sodium chloride. This year is Option Year II 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 \$69.36 per ton, delivered, which is the same price as the 2018-2019 winter season.

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

D. Proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 1272 which Established Tobacco-Free Zone Areas in Township Parks

Manager Jakubec stated TobaccoFreeAllegheny has notified the Township about the popularity of e-cigarettes growing among youth. The effects of vaping are harmful to the user, and expose risks associated with second-hand smoke.

Mr. Stewart questioned if some sort of study had been done. The Manager noted some e-cigarettes are nicotine-based, called "Juul" and some are water-based.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about a fine for violation, which the Manager indicated to be up to \$500.

Ms. Eccles stated it is a real issue in high schools.

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

E. Proposed Amendment to the Township Park Rules and Regulations

Manager Jakubec stated as a result of various vandalism occurring in Township parks, and to provide regulations regarding the future installation of electronic vehicle charging stations, the Township Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending updates to the Park Rules and Regulations. Verbiage has been added to address people stuffing things in water fountains and clogging drains. She noted the Township has been awarded a \$10,000 grant to install two charging stations in Squaw Valley Park. The revised Park rules require cars to be actively charging in order to park at a station. Electric cars may charge at the station for a maximum of eight (8) hours. Staff will be able to determine how long a car is charged via the cloud. The first hour of charging is free and each hour after is \$2.25. A 2% discount in charging fees would be available if the fee is paid up front. She hopes the charging stations will be active by the end of June. Manager Jakubec indicated two charging stations would also be installed at the Lauri Ann West Community Center. The grant money is from the Volkswagen settlement.

Mr. Denny, Jr. inquired about the status of the baseball fields. Mr. Kephart explained the weather has not cooperated. The Public Service crew needs to dig up the infield to laser it. The Manager indicated staff has allowed some use at Schafer Field.

Manager Jakubec informed Council that a private donation has been secured for a gazebo, electric for lighting and plaque at Squaw Valley Park in memory of Melissa Kratsa.

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

Mr. Stewart continued to further review the park rules and regulations and staff provided clarification as requested.

F. Proposed Amendment to the Township Fees Resolution

Manager Jakubec noted the changes to the fees are the new car charging stations and sewer repair permit.

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

G. Discussion of Unadopted Roads and Potential Policy for Possible Township Adoption

President Smith deferred discussion to the end of the workshop.

H. Application for Banner Community Status

The Manager explained part of the requirements for the Township to be considered a “Banner Community” include promoting local government, teaching a class about local government, and

adopting a resolution or proclamation recognizing local government. The Township's bi-annual collection of leaves and brush and "Movies in the Park" summer series are activities that promote local government.

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

Mr. Stewart suggested coordinating classes about local government with the Library.

Mr. Denny, Jr. suggested establishing a Junior Council Member, as other local Councils have done. Manager Jakubec indicated she could reach out to the AP Government teacher at the High School. She recalled recruiting two students for a summer internship that had attended another meeting.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned what a Junior Council Member's roll would be. Manager Jakubec indicated the Junior Council Member could report back to Council about students' concerns or ideas.

I. Scheduling a Public Meeting to Review Proposed Restated Zoning Ordinance

Manager Jakubec explained a desire to have one more meeting dedicated to reviewing the proposed zoning ordinance. After the ordinance is introduced it will be posted on the Township website, and a Public Hearing would be scheduled to receive public comments.

After checking availability, the consensus of Council was to meet on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at the Township municipal building at 7:00 p.m.

J. Veteran's Fish Rodeo – May 8, 2019

Manager Jakubec informed Council that the Morningside VFW Annual Veterans' Fish Rodeo is scheduled for tomorrow at Squaw Valley Park. There will be music, hot dogs, burgers and fish. All are welcome.

Ms. Eccles questioned when the Hometown Banners would be hung. The Manager stated the banners would be hung for Memorial Day until Veterans' Day. She was awaiting permits to be issued by Duquesne Light Company. The banners would be hung along Fox Chapel Road and Kittanning Pike. Some of the names of individuals on the banners were noted.

K. Update on Saxonburg Boulevard Sanitary Sewer Project

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated the project is moving along. Three crews put the pipe in the ground, and the footer for the pump station foundation has been poured. People will not be able to connect to the sewer system until at least October, after the pump station has been tested and is in working order.

Manager Jakubec noted assessments and payment options would be discussed with Council in the future.

L. Solicitor's Invoice – April 18, 2019

No comments.

M. Proposed May 14, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda

The consensus of Council was to approve the proposed agenda.

G. Discussion of Unadopted Roads and Potential Policy for Possible Township Adoption

Manager Jakubec stated staff has not been approached by any residents of Berryhill Extension concerning the Township adopting the road. Vice President Vogel recalled telling Mike Rosewell to “take the bull by the horns” if he wants to make it happen. Vice President Vogel preferred allowing the residents that would be impacted to comment. He thought about mailing the policy to residents, but there are several hundred affected residents. Manager Jakubec indicated it would affect residents only if they want their private road adopted by the Township.

President Smith understood the purpose of the policy is to provide an opportunity to residents that live along private roads, but did not see private roads as an issue. However, he did note modifications to the proposed policy provided to Council.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned if this was an old policy to update or a new policy to consider. Vice President Vogel stated the old policy was the Township would not adopt a private road.

President Smith explained the current policy is if someone living along a private road wants the Township to adopt a road, they have to bring the road up to Township standards. Evidently now some of Council want to adopt a policy allowing the adoption of substandard roads which would involve a lot of staff's time.

Mr. Denny, Jr. clarified after the resident has drawings prepared on how to upgrade the road to Township standards, the resident(s) would have to agree to pay to have the road brought up to standards.

Vice President Vogel stated the proposed policy formalizes the process and lays out the steps of the process.

Mr. Denny, Jr. questioned if past Councils had adopted roads that were not brought up to standards. Manager Jakubec stated Council could grant a waiver from the standards because the topography does not allow for meeting standards.

President Smith stated most private roads have two or three homes.

The Manager did not anticipate a flood of people would request the Township to adopt their private road. If someone comes in to inquire, it would be good to have something to hand them. Vice President Vogel referenced a recent request to adopt a private road. Ms. Eccles believed people would be overwhelmed by the process, as there is a lot of information. Manager Jakubec stated Berryhill Extension is different because with the sewer going in a majority of the road will have

to be paved. The residents would have to put in stormwater facilities. Mr. Kephart estimated the cost to install a catch basin.

President Smith noted redundancies within the proposed policy. Manager Jakubec indicated staff would redline President Smith's comments about the policy and provide to Council for further discussion.

IV. CONCERNS OF COUNCIL

Ms. Berger noted the RIDC Alliance meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. During the last meeting the Alliance was happy that liaisons were appointed and future paving would be done. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated Gamma Drive from Alpha to Zeta Drives would be paved, and RIDC Drive from Zeta to Beta Drives would be paved, along with all of Sigma and Zeta Drives.

Ms. Berger noted a dangerous situation with regard to the inbound flyer bus picking up and dropping off riders on Route 28. Bus riders walk Gamma Drive and then there is no sidewalk or shoulder so people are walking in the road.

Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained Public Service crews were replacing catch basins in preparation of paving. A walking area could be created, but trees would have to be removed. Staff would need to obtain and review cost estimates.

Ms. Berger suggested installing a temporary crosswalk. Vice President Vogel indicated people would not use a crosswalk.

Ms. Berger suggested the bus pick up at the on ramp. Manager Jakubec recalled talking with Dan DeBone of Port Authority, who indicated new personnel have been hired to do the routes. She suggested staff review and prepare a letter of suggestions for Port Authority's consideration.

Police Superintendent Slagel suggested increasing police presence.

Ms. Berger asked if there was a list of business contacts for RIDC. Manager Jakubec indicated the Emergency Management Agency would have the list but it is not available to the general public.

Ms. Berger stated the lack of food places in RIDC is impacting the businesses in RIDC. The Manager suggested they have a food truck on private property; in the Township cart way; or on vacant property with permission from the property owner.

Ms. Berger indicated she would convey to the Alliance that the Township would write a letter to Port Authority.

Vice President Vogel stated he received a letter from Donte Fusaro requesting a Township street sign for his private road. The Manager suggested Mr. Fusaro contact Township staff. Mr. Kephart indicated he would order the sign online once he knows what the sign needs to say.

V. CONCERNS OF STAFF

Manager Jakubec informed Council of the passing of retired Police Officer Dennis Szafranski. She indicated two police cars would escort the funeral procession.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary

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