

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 6, 2023**

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

A. Call to Order by Vice President Eccles at 7:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

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

Absent: Robert John Smith, President of Council; Richard S.
Hughes, First 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, Special
Projects Coordinator/Code Enforcement Officer; Todd
Giammatteo, Public Service Superintendent; Jay
Davis, Police Superintendent; Cathy Bubas, Manager's
Secretary

(*) - Attended meeting via zoom.com.

II. VISITOR

A. Mark Rothert, Executive Director of Lauri Ann West Community Center

Mr. Rothert thanked Council for inviting him to the meeting to speak about the community center. He noted personal information as well as his service to the community as a Council Member and Council representative to the community center, and currently the new Executive Director for the community center.

Mr. Rothert noted membership status between the library and community center. The community center serves all the school district communities, and is open seven days a week. The community center employs six full-time staff members and part-time staff for a total of 30 employees. To date, approximately \$11,000 has been available for membership scholarships and \$5,000 in discounts for first responders.

Mr. Rothert referenced several programs offered at the community center, including, but not limited to, Arts and Enrichment for children participating in the afterschool programs; half or full-day Summer Camps; Early Education; School Age Arts and Culture; School Age Sports; Pittsburgh Ballet Theater; Adult Enrichment; Speaker Series which include different topics of interest in the local community or film interests; fitness classes; personal training; silver sneakers and pickle ball.

Mr. Rothert stated 52 families participate in the State Certified after school programs. State Certification has specific requirements based on credits and experience. Scholarships are also available for the after school program. Currently 70 children are enrolled for full-day camp.

It was noted the After School Y programs are still offered at each of the schools. Ms. Payne inquired about Keystone Stars Certification, which Mr. Rothert was not aware of but would research.

Mr. Rothert informed Council that the audit was completed and the management letter indicated no findings.

Mr. Rothert explained the Community Center Board consists of representatives from each of the school district communities. Each Board Member also serves on two or three subcommittees. Everyone on the Board knows what is going on.

Mr. Rothert noted upcoming events, including Celebrate the Center which will celebrate 40 years this year, dating back to the Boyd Community Center. He noted the history of how the Boyd Community Center came to be. Celebrate the Center is scheduled for September 22, 2023. People that were involved in building the new center will be back for the event. A Car Cruise is also planned for August 13th.

Mr. Rothert stated the community center staff are working on several items, such as how to organize a Pickle Ball Club, and building relationships with Police. The Board Members are researching opportunities and requirements to install a solar roof. Currently new security cameras are being installed and will eventually be connected to the Township police cars. Staff are also trained in Active Shooter.

Mr. Rothert stated the community center is his legacy. His plan is more community involvement. His relationships with Council Members and staff allow him to feel comfortable asking questions. In his role as Council Representative to the community center, he explained the Township's perspective, made sure the Township's investment was protected, and explained the path the Township must take to make something happen.

Manager Jakubec added that the Township is partnering with the center for Date Night Movies, and Monica will provide snacks. There will also be a Drone Pilot demonstration. She also noted new play equipment was installed for the Beulah Frey Park, which the kids will have an opportunity to name.

Mr. Rothert noted membership fluctuations, which at one point a building addition was being considered, but due to COVID, memberships dropped but are now up to 870. He recalled at this time of the year memberships usually drop but that has not happened. They have created a ten-year Capital Plan, while saving money to replace things, and the first loan payment will be due next year.

Manager Jakubec recalled the Township borrowed \$1,000,000 through a bond issue for the new community center, which the center is repaying. Mr. Rothert indicated building the new community center was a leap of faith and has been very successful.

III. Citizen Comments Concerning Non-Agenda Items

No comments.

IV. Review and Discussion

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

Manager Jakubec 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, 2023. Morton Salt was the lowest responsible bidder and the cost for rock salt is \$81.77 per delivered ton for the 2023 - 2024 winter season, compared to \$75.02 for the 2022-2023 winter season.

Ms. Payne questioned how much salt the Township has left over from last winter. The Manager stated the dome is full and the Township is paying to store additional salt purchased off-site. The amount of salt to be purchased through the State contract has been reduced for this upcoming season, though a minimum purchase of 800 tons is required.

The consensus of Council was to include a resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Morton Salt.

B. Requesting Authorization to Execute an Agreement with Susan Nichols for the Purchase of Property Located at Grove Street

The Manager noted the Township's 2023 Budget includes an allocation for the construction of a stormwater detention facility along Grove Street to alleviate flooding issues along Kittanning Pike and downstream in Sharpsburg, as well as improve water quality by sediment reduction. The project also includes acquiring property located on Grove Street to build the stormwater facility. The purchase price of the property is \$1.00. The Township will go to court to request exoneration of school district and county delinquent taxes. The property is not buildable.

Mr. Hammill asked if the stormwater detention facility will serve both Joanne Streets. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated water will be directed from North and South Joanne Streets and part of Alleyne Drive.

Vice President Eccles questioned the amount of delinquent taxes, which Solicitor Lucas estimated to be \$8,000.

The consensus of Council was to include a resolution authorizing the purchase of the Grove Street property.

C. Proposed Amendment to the Township Fees Resolution

Manager Jakubec stated in the event the Zoning Ordinance amendment allowing backyard chickens is adopted, staff recommends implementing a chicken permit fee of \$50.00. If acceptable, the proposed resolution implementing the chicken permit fee will be included on the June 13th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

Mr. Hammill asked if the chicken permit fee had to be \$50. The Manager recalled that was what Council had discussed, like applications for a shed. The fee is to cover the time required to review the application.

The consensus of Council was to include a resolution on the June 13th agenda.

D. Update on Vehicle Purchases

Manager Jakubec informed Council that Police interceptor vehicles are not available in white. The demand for black vehicles is high.

Police Superintendent Davis recalled being at a Canonsburg ambush. The sharpshooter was able to clearly see the Police through the windshield of a white Police vehicle. He requested dark colored vehicles for the officers' safety.

Manager Jakubec recalled the last vehicle purchased was stickered for white. The Township has an opportunity to purchase a black Police interceptor vehicle.

Ms. Payne deferred to Police Superintendent Davis's recommendation, which Vice President Eccles concurred, as a matter of safety.

Manager Jakubec then informed Council that the Chevy Bolt, the electric vehicle for Administration, is available in silver. Chevy will stop manufacturing the Bolt at the end of this year. The Township logo will be applied to the vehicle.

The consensus of Council was to take what is available.

E. Requesting Authorization to Sell Item Through Municibid

The Manager noted staff is requesting authorization to sell a transfer switch from the former Browns Hill pump station through Municibid, an online auction company where the Township gets money for equipment no longer used and other municipalities and individuals have an opportunity to purchase needed equipment at a price they can afford. Auctioning equipment through Municibid has been quite lucrative. Manager Jakubec asked what a transfer switch is. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. explained it is an emergency switch for the pump station in the event power goes out.

The consensus of Council was to include a motion authorizing the sale on the June 13th regular meeting agenda for consideration.

F. Solicitor's May 15, 2023 Invoice

No comments.

G. Proposed June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda

Mr. Stewart suggested adding a request to sell an Administration vehicle if the Chevy Bolt is available.

V. Concerns of Council

Mr. Stewart noted a tree came down on Greyfriar Drive and hit a fence.

It was noted that 100 dogwoods and button bushes would be planted at the water detention facility along Greyfriar Drive.

Mr. Hammill questioned when the work on Kittanning Pike would be finished. Mr. Steinert, Jr., P.E. stated he was told two weeks ago that the work would be done in less than two weeks.

Mr. Hammill inquired about a sign. Public Service Superintendent Giammatteo indicated he has the sign. It is just a matter of putting the sign up. Mr. Hammill indicated they are turning around in his driveway and fears they may hit his new truck. Public Service Superintendent Giammatteo stated he would see about getting the sign up as soon as possible.

Vice President Eccles questioned if there was a way to help people due to the Air Quality Action. Manager Jakubec suggested Council could place a hold on outdoor burning. The consensus of Council was to follow County recommendations.

VI. Concerns of Staff

Manager Jakubec noted Pizza with Police is scheduled for June 22nd at O'Hara Township Community Park. Pizza will be provided by Slammin Sam's Pizza.

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

VII. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 7:45 p.m. and Council entered Executive Session.


Cathy Buhas, Manager's Secretary