

DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2021 AT 7:00PM. DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS, DARBY TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED REMOTELY VIA TELEPHONE OR COMPUTER.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER, PRESIDENT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND ASKED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

ON ROLL CALL, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS

OFFICIALS

MR. GOUGLER, COMMISSIONER	MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER
MR. SMITH, COMMISSIONER	MR. SOUSA, CHIEF
MS. TALIAFERRO, COMMISSIONER	MS. POE, SECRETARY
MR. LACEY, COMMISSIONER	MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR
MR. FITZ, COMMISSIONER	MS. CATANIA, ENGINEER

THERE WAS NINE PRESENT AND ONE ABSENT
COMMISSIONER SMITH LATE 7:20PM

CITIZEN'S COMMENT - EVIE MERLINO 1078 CEDARWOOD ROAD
MS. MERLINO ASKED THE BOARD, CAN WE DO SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING?

MS. WHITAKER STATED THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CAN CONSIDER THAT REQUEST.

MS. MERLINO STATED THAT TODAY, HER RECYLING PLASTIC WAS PICKED UP WITH ALUMINUM. SHE THINKS IT IS A GOOD IDEA AND MORE PEOPLE WOULD RECYCLE.

ED MCBRIDE, 1026 HOPKINS AVENUE

MR. MCBRIDE WANTED TO KNOW IF TONIGHT'S AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE.

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED SHE CAN POST THE AGENDA RIGHT NOW.

MR. MCBRIDE ASKED IF MS. WHITAKER SPOKE TO FRANK (INAUDIBLE) AT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ABOUT THE LIBRARY CHECKS?

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED SHE DID NOT SPEAK TO HIM BUT SHE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM HIM WHERE HE IDENTIFIED THE THREE CHECKS THAT SHE MENTIONED LAST WEEK THAT THE TOWNSHIP

NEVER RECEIVED AND HE CONFIRMED THOSE CHECKS WERE NEVER PROCESSED AND THE TOWNSHIP WAS NOT SENT THOSE CHECKS. MR. MCBRIDE STATED THEY WERE SENT BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY WERE SENT TO BECAUSE THEY WAS NEVER CASHED. MS. WHITAKER RETRIEVED THE EMAIL, WHICH STATED, "DRAWING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE ATTACHED IS A LIST OF PAYMENTS. THE FOLLOWING CHECKS HAVE NOT BEEN PROCESSED AND ARE OUTSTANDING IN OUR RECORDS. WE WILL VOID THESE CHECKS AND PROCESS ONE CHECK IN THE AMOUNT TOTALING \$2,000.00." MS. WHITAKER STATED THAT "PROCESSED" MEANS TO HER THEY WERE NEVER SENT. IT DOESN'T SAY THEY WEREN'T CASHED. IN EITHER CASE, THE TOWNSHIP NEVER RECEIVED THOSE CHECKS. MR. MCBRIDE SAID HE SPOKE TO FRANK AND THE CHECKS WERE SENT EACH YEAR AND SHE CAN CONTACT HIM TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY WAS SENT. HE SAID HE SENT THEM TO THE LIBRARY SO APPARENTLY IT WAS A DISCONNECT SOMEWHERE. MS. WHITAKER STATED WE RECEIVE ALL THE OTHER CHECKS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SENDS TO US, WE RECEIVED THE CHECK FOR TAXES, THE CROSSING GUARDS AND THE LORETTA TOURNI LIBRARY IS ADDRESSED TO THE BARTRAM AVENUE LOCATION. IF THEY WERE USING THE ADDRESS ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE TOWNSHIP IT WOULD HAVE BEEN RETURN TO SENDER. THERE MAY BE CONFUSION ABOUT WHERE TO MAIL THE CHECKS BUT WE HAVE HAD OTHER CONVERSATIONS. IF HE HAS A QUESTION REGARDING ADDRESS OR WHERE TO MAIL THEM, HE KNOWS HOW TO REACH ME. MR. MCBRIDE STATED HE WANTED TO BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS. HE WILL CONTACT MS. WHITAKER SO WE CAN GET THIS SQUARED AWAY. MR. MCBRIDE ASKED IF THE BOARD HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE STUDY? MS. WHITAKER SAID NO. SHERIE MONROE, ORANGE STREET REQUESTED THE AGENDA BE POSTED IN A TIMELY MANNER SO THE REIDENTS CAN SPEAK BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS VOTE. MS. MONROE WANTED TO KNOW IF THE RESIDENTS CAN SPEAK ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AS THEY ARE BOUGHT UP BECAUSE THE AGENDA IS NOT POSTED FOR PUBLIC TO COMMENT. MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER ASKED THE SECRETARY TO GO OVER ACTION ITEMS. BEATRICE POE, SECRETARY READ THE AGENDA. SECRETARY STATED THAT A COUPLE OF RESIDENTS CALLED IN AND REQUESTED THE COMMISSIONERS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ARE SPEAKING AT THE MEETINGS SO THEY WILL KNOW WHO IS SPEAKING SINCE THE RESIDENTS CANNOT SEE THEM. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 13,

2021. IT WAS PROPERLY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPIES ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST OF BILLS FOR JANUARY 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LACEY. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2020 AND DECEMBER 2020 TRESURER'S REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR 2021 BASED ON UPDATED LAND VALUE ASSESSMENTS PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY OF DELAWARE. IT WAS PROPERLY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE AMENDING ORDINANCES #450, #691 AND #698 FOR UPDATED FEES, ORDINANCE #747. IT WAS PROPERLY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GOUGLER. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE LINDA MILLER AS THE TOWNSHIP'S RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO AMEND ORDINANCE #711 AS AMENDED FOR UPDATED FEES. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE TAX ANTICIPATION LOAN (TAN) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FROM SHARON BANK, RESOLUTION #2021-03. IT WAS PROPERLY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-02 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR ALLOCATION OF LIQUID FUEL TAX FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,948.00. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LACEY. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER, KEVIN URZI, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 15, 2021. IT

WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GOUGLER. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

MONTHLY REPORTS

ENGINEER'S REPORTS-GIVEN BY LISA CATANIA, ENGINEER

MS. CATANIA MENTIONED ITEMS LISTED ON HER REPORT THAT SHE WOULD LIKE INPUT FROM THE BOARD.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED WHAT EXACTLY IS STREET SCAPE.

MS. CATANIA STATED IT WOULD IMPROVE THE AREA.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHO IS OUR CONTRACTOR THAT HANDLES OUR LIGHTING. HE WANTS TO LOOK INTO NEW LIGHTING FOR HOOK ROAD, AS WELL AS LED LIGHTS AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND SPEEDING DEVICES.

MS. WHITAKER EXPLAINED THAT DELAWARE COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR A LIST OF ITEMS FOR POTENTIAL PROJECTS. MS, CATANIA WOULD NEED A GO AHEAD FROM THE BOARD TO LIST THE PROJECTS SHE STATED, AS WELL AS, ANY OTHER PROJECTS THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORTS-MICHAEL PIERCE, SOLICITOR

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE SOLICITOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LACEY. FIVE APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

POLICE REPORTS-GIVEN BY CHIEF SOUSA

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED IF THE CHIEF COULD POST ACTIVITIES ON THE WEBSITE. THE CHIEF STATED HE COULD DO THAT. HE ALSO STATED THE DELCOM 901 CENTER PURCHASED NEW RADIOS FOR DELAWARE COUNTY AND DARBY TOWNSHIP DISTRIBUTED THEIRS LAST NIGHT DURING THEIR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING. COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED IF THE COUNTY COULD ASSIT WITH BODY CAMS. THE CHIEF STATED THE POLICE CHIEF ASSOCIATION WAS LOOKING INTO GRANTS AND THE COST WOULD COME IN AT STORING THE VIDEOS. DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE POLICE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021.IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE ENGINEER, WITHIN TWO WEEKS TIME, DO A WALK THROUGH AT THE TOWNSHIP INN BAR WITH HIM AND COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THE ADDRESS IS 601 CLIFTON AVENUE. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED THE ENGINEER IF SHE WOULD HAVE THE TIME WITHIN TWO WEEKS. MS. CATANIA STATED SHE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HER ARCHITECT, CLARICE JONES GO OVER TO TAKE A LOOK AND ENVISION IT. FIVE APPROVED MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT CORPORAL DANIEL FYNES TO DETECTIVE, OFFICER KING TO CORPORAL AND MAKE OFFICER OHARA FULL TIME.

COMMISSIONER FITZ STATED AS OF NOW, EVERYTHING IS STILL IN PROGRESS AND NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE TIME FRAME OF THE PROMOTIONS OR HIRING OF FULL TIME OFFICERS DEPENDING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET, AT THIS TIME.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED WHAT IS THE FEASIBILITY OF FULL TIME BENEFITS AND HEALTH BENEFITS.

NICOLE WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED IT IS A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH HIRING A PART TIME OFFICER STARTING AT \$17 OR \$18 AN HOUR VERSES A FULL TIME OFFICER STARTING AT \$39 AN HOUR PLUS BENEFITS AND ALL THE THINGS THAT GO ALONG WITH THAT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED, DID WE NOT JUST HIRE THREE PART TIME OFFICERS?

MS. WHITAKER STATED SHE JUST SAID THAT, UNTIL WE CAN HIRE A FULL TIME OFFICER OR PROMOTE AN OFFICER. PART TIME OFFICERS ARE NOT WORKING EVERYDAY SO IT IS NOT A HUGE EXPENSE TO THE TOWNSHIP.

COMMISSIONER SMITH SAID IT HAS BEEN TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND PEOPLE TOOK AND PASSED THE TEST AND HE DON'T SEE WHY WE ARE DELAYING THE PROCESS. HE ASKED IF SHE WAS SAYING THE TOWNSHIP CANNOT AFFORD IT RIGHT NOW. WE HAD AN OFFICER JUST GO OUT ON RETIREMENT AND AN OFFICER THAT HAS BEEN FURLOUGHED.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

MS. WHITAKER SAID THIS WAS DICUSSED IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WHERE WE SHOULD BE HASHING OUT THE DETAILS OF THINGS LIKE THIS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED WE NEED TO BE A UNIFIED BOARD. HE WENT ON TO SAY, MOST OF OUR EMPLOYEES DON'T LIVE IN DARBY TOWNSHIP. WE HAVE OFFICERS WHO WORKED FOR THIS TOWNSHIP

FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS AND HAVE NOT BEEN AFFORDED THE PROPER OPPORTUNITY TO GO UP THE RANKS, NOT PUSHED UP. HE WILL LEAVE THIS ALONE UNTIL WE CAN LOOK AT THE COMPLETE FEASIBILITY TO GET FUNDING.

COMMISSIONER FITZ STATED THAT HIS REQUEST IS ON THE RADAR BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAD SOME CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE BUYING OUT OF CONTRACTS BUT IT IS ON THE TABLE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH'S MOTION WAS NEVER RESCINDED OR SECONDED. THE MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO STATED FOR PARKS AND RECREATION SHE HAS TURNED OVER HER TASK FORCE LIST WITH EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW TO PLAN FOR CONWAY PARK. SHE HAD A GOOD MEETING WITH THE MANAGER AND THE ENGINEER AND THEY ARE PLANNING TO DO SOME GREAT THINGS IN CONWAY PARK AND MOVE ON TO OTHER PARKS.

AS FAR AS THE LIBRARY, SHE RECEIVED NOTICE FROM SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT THE LORETTA TOUNI LIBRARY. SHE IS IN THE PROCESS OF MEETING WITH THE LIBRARY BOARD TO DO SOME PLANNING. SHE DID A WALK THROUGH AT THE 601 BUILDING AND THERE IS A FEW ORGANIZATIONS THAT STILL HAVE EQUIPMENT IN THERE. SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MS. JONES TO SEE HOW THAT SPACE COULD BE UTILIZED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED IF SHE SAID THERE WAS ORGANIZATIONS STILL IN THERE. COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO SAID THE RED CROSS HAS SOME EQUIPMENT AND ANOTHER ORGANIZATION AND THAT NAME ESCAPES HER. COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THAT YOUNG LADY HAD DEATH IN HER FAMILY SO SHE NO LONGER OPERATES OUT OF THAT BUILDING.

COMMISSIONER FITZ READ THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021, COPY ATTACHED. HE STATED THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB DURING THE SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP. HE SPOKE TO THE CHIEF ABOUT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER LACEY READ THE INSPECTION DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021, COPY ATTACHED, AND EXTENDED HIS ASSISTANCE TO COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO WITH THE LIBRARY.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER STATED HE HAD A COUPLE OF MEETINGS WITH THE FINANCE DIRECTOR. WE ARE ON THE UPSIDE AS FAR AS MONEY COMING IN AND HE IS VERY POSITIVE AND HE IS HOPEFUL THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED MS. NICOLE IF SHE IS STILL INTERESTED IN HIRING MS. BEA FULL TIME.

MS. WHITAKER STATED YES. THAT WAS LEFT IN COMMISSIONER GOUGLER'S HAND IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO SENT OUT AN EMAIL STATING SHE WAS READY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THAT AND TO HER KNOWLEDGE, NO ONE RESPONDED. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS IF THEY WANT TO BRING ON BEA AS FULL TIME WITH LICENSE AND IINSPECTIONS. COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE DID NOT SEE THAT EMAIL. HE IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIS EMAIL. HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW WE CAN DO IT. WE JUST SAID WE CAN'T AFFORD CERTAIN THINGS. WE CAN NOT AFFORD PUBLIC SAFETY RIGHT NOW. HE SUGGEST WE TABLE THAT UNTIL NEXT MONTH. HE WOULD LIKE TIME TO LOOK OVER THE REPORT THAT COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO SENT.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO MADE A MOTION TO HIRE BEATRICE POE FULL TIME. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER SECONDED THE MOTION WITH A QUESTION ASKING WHO WOULD ASSUME THE TOWNSHIP SECRETARY. DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO TABLE THE MOTION TO HIRE BEATRICE POE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

ROLL CALL VOTE

COMMISSIONER SMITH-YES

COMMISSIONET TALIAFERRO-NO

COMMISSIONER FITZ-YES

COMMISSIONER LACEY-YES

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER-YES

FOUR-YES AND ONE-NO

MOTION TO TABLE IS GRANTED FOR THIRTY DAYS.

MS. WHITAKER STATED WE TABLED THIS BEFORE AND SHE PREVIOUSLY ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS AND SENT ALL INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSIONERS REGARDING JOB RESPONSIBILITIES AND MONIES. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF JOB RESPONSIBILITIES.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THAT BASICALLY WE ARE TALKING TWO JOBS. THERE ARE TEENAGERS AND COLLEGE GRADUATES THAT CAN BE DOING A JOB. AND AT THE END OF THIS CONVERSATION, IN THIRTY DAYS HE WILL HAVE TIME TO REVIEW WHAT THE NEW TITLE IS. HE STATED IT IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THE CURRENT JOB.

MS. WHITAKER STATED IT IS NOT DIFFERENT.

COMMISSIONER WMITH ASKED WHAT IS THE NAME OF POSITION.

MS. WHITAKER WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT MS. POE IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST FOR THE LICENSE AND INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT. SHE IS PART-TIME NOW. IF THE BOARD AGREES SHE WILL BE FULL-TIME AND SHE'LL BE DOING WHAT SHE IS DOING NOW, THAT SHE CANNOT FINISH, BECAUSE SHE'S ONLY PART-TIME.

THE DEPARTMENT IS SHORT STAFFED AND THINGS ARE NOT BEING COMPLETED IN A TIMELY MANNER. THAT IS WHY THE REQUEST WAS MADE LAST YEAR FOR HER TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL HOURS, WHICH THE BOARD APPROVED. NOW WE ARE ASKING FOR HER TO BE FULL-TIME.

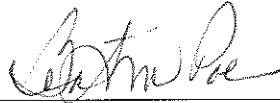
COMMISSIONER SMITH SAID HE WANTED TO STATE FOR THE RECORD. SPEAKING TO THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER THAT TWENTY MINUTES AGO, WE STATED WE CANNOT AFFORD POLICE OFFICERS.

MS. WHITAKER STATED THE THREE OFFICERS COMMISSIONER SMITH MENTION IS A SIGNIFICANT DOLLAR AMOUNT. AGAIN, THESE ARE DISCUSSIONS THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE HAS NOTHING FURTHER. IT IS TABLED FOR THIRTY DAYS AND GIVES HIM AND THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS TIME TO LOOK AT IT EXTENSIVELY.

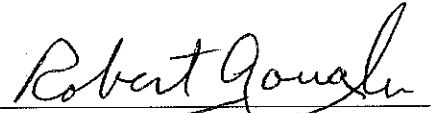
COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GOUGLER.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



BEATRICE POE,
SECRETARY



ROBERT GOUGLER,
PRESIDENT