

DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2023

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON APRIL 12, 2023, AT 7:00PM AT 21 BARTRAM AVENUE, GLENOLDEN, PA 19036.

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

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS

MR. LACEY, COMMISSIONER  
MR. SMITH, COMMISSIONER  
MS. TALIAFERRO, COMMISSIONER  
MR. FITZ, COMMISSIONER  
MR. GOUGLER, COMMISSIONER  
MR. DINGLER, OPERATIONS MANAGER

OFFICIALS

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER  
MR. SOUSA, CHIEF OF POLICE  
MS. POE, SECRETARY  
MR. HUGHES, SOLICITOR  
MS. CATANIA, ENGINEER  
MR. CHILDS, FIRE CHIEF

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON APRIL 10, 2023, AT 7:30 PM TO DISCUSS PERSONEL MATTERS.

CITIZEN COMMENT

JOSETTE DWYER, 518 RIVELY-I'VE LIVED IN THE TOWNSHIP MY WHOLE LIFE AND I'M WONDERING WHAT THE TOWNSHIP IS DOING ABOUT INSPECTING RENTALS? THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PROPERTIES THAT I KNOW ARE RENTALS. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN AND OUT. I KNOW THE POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED SEVERAL TIMES. THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR TO ME THE WINDOW BLEW IN IN MARCH OF 2020 AND IT'S COVERED WITH A PIECE OF CARDBOARD AND PLASTIC. WE HAVE ORDINANCES. I'VE READ SOME OF IT. IS ANYTHING BEING DONE ABOUT INSPECTING ALL THE DIFFERENT PROPERTIES AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT... THERE IS ANOTHER HOUSE ON MY BLOCK WITH LITER JUST PILED UP NEXT TO THE HOUSE. I'VE CALLED THE TOWNSHIP OVER AND OVER ABOUT THIS PROPERTY. IT'S NOT JUST AN EYE SORE, IT'S BECOMING A HEALTH HAZZARD BECAUSE THE LITER IS JUST PILED UP ALONG THEIR FENCE. SO, I GUESS MY QUESTION IS WHAT IF ANYTHING ARE WE DOING TO TRY TO KEEP THE TOWNSHIP FROM CRUMBLING?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-SO, WE DO HAVE A CODES DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE TWO INDIVIDUALS THAT GO OUT ON A DAILY BASIS FOR THAT, LOOKING FOR ITEMS LIKE THIS. THERE WAS A BACK LOG. THEY ARE GETTING TO THE ISSUES BUT IF YOU WANT TO CALL AGAIN TO REPORT SOMETHING, I WOULD SUGGEST DOING THAT. OR YOU CAN STAY UNTIL AFTERWARDS AND WE CAN GET THE INFORMATION.

ALICIA CARR, 638 MAGNOLIA AVE-I WANTED TO START WITH MADISON PLAYGROUND. I THINK EVERYONE IS AWARE THERE IS A BEEHIVE IN THE TREE NEAR THE MADISON AVENUE ENTRANCE. THERE HAS BEEN CAUTION TAPE PUT AROUND NOW THE WHOLE PLAYGROUND. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS A FAMILY OVER THERE NOW PLAYING. I WANTED TO FIND OUT IF THE TOWNSHIP IS DOING ANYTHING. I DID SPEAK TO THE BEE LADY AND SHE GAVE ME TWO VIABLE OPTIONS. BUT BEFORE I OVERSTEP MY BOUNDARIES I WANTED TO FIND OUT IF THE TOWNSHIP IS TAKING CARE OF ANYTHING.

COMMISSIONER FITZ-I BELIEVE THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WAS OUT THERE LOOKING INTO IT. I WILL GET MORE INFORMATION.

MS. CARR-AND WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH AN UPDATE?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-YOU CAN CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.

MS. CARR-AND THEY'LL PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH THE APPROPRIATE PERSON?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-CORRECT.

MS. CARR-ONE OF THE OPTIONS THAT SHE PROVIDED IS TO TAKE THE TREE DOWN AND I HAVE ASKED IN THE PAST TO HAVE CERTAIN TREES TAKEN DOWN BECAUSE THERE ARE BRANCHES THAT ARE GETTING READY TO FALL AND THAT IS ONE OF THE TREES. SHE SAID IF THE TREE IS TAKEN DOWN THAT THE BEEHIVE CAN BE REMOVED BY A PROFESSIONAL OR BY A BEEKEEPER. SO, I DIDN'T KNOW IF THERE WAS ANY MONEY IN THE BUDGET FROM SAY THE \$971,000 OF THE ARPA FUNDS THAT COULD BE PROVIDED TO TAKE SEVERAL OF THOSE TREES DOWN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN. ALSO, THERE ARE THREE TO FIVE WOODEN SLABS THAT ARE MISSING FROM THE NEW PICNIC TABLES. WHO NEEDS TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THAT ISSUE?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-THAT WOULD BE THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING.

MS. CARR-SO, I'LL JUST PUT EVERYTHING IN AN EMAIL?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-YUP.

MS. CARR-AND THERE IS ALSO A CABLE LINE THAT'S WRAP AROUND THE FIRE HYDRANT NEXT TO THE BEECH AVE ENTRANCE AT MADISON PLAYGROUND. IT'S BEEN THERE PROBABLY ABOUT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS NOW. SINCE IT'S ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY, WOULD I ALSO PUT THAT IN AN EMAIL AND HAVE THAT ADDRESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE? BECAUSE IT WAS A TRIPPING HAZZARD AND I GUESS SOMEBODY TIED THAT AROUND...AND THEN ALSO WE'RE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A COMMUNITY LITER PREVENTION EVENT. CAN WE USE THE DARBY TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT AS A STAGING GROUND OR IS THAT SEPARATE FROM THE TOWNSHIP, WHERE WE WOULD HAVE TO GET APPROVAL?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-THAT'S SEPARATE. THAT'S THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

MS. CARR-SO, WE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THEM... NOW FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES. IS PRIMOS SECANE WESTBROOK PARK COMPANY 74 STILL PROVIDING SERVICES TO DARBY TOWNSHIP? I'VE SEEN THEM IN THE TOWNSHIP. I AM ASSUMING THEY ARE. IS THERE A DOLLAR COST AT THIS POINT OR A CONTRACT WITH THEM YET?

COMMISSIONER LACEY-THERE IS NOTHING RIGHT NOW.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

THERE WAS NO OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT. COMMISSIONER LACEY CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROCLAMATION, APRIL 12, 2023, WAS READ BY NICOLE S. WHITAKER, MANAGER.

THE DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMED WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023, TO BE NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION IN THE TOWNSHIP OF DARBY AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE THIS MONTH BY DEDICATING THEMSELVES TO THE TASK OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING HELD ON MARCH 8, 2023. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST OF BILLS FOR MARCH 2023. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE ENGINEER TO BID THE 2023 ROAD PROGRAM. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE ENGINEER TO PREPARE AND SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE TOWNSHIP WIDE MINI PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CIVIL SERVICE TEST. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE INVOICE NO. 199777 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,500.00 TO IWORQ TO BE PAID FROM ARPA FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE INVOICE NO. 200010 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00 TO IWORQ TO BE PAID FROM ARPA FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO SELL THE 2003 JOHNSON STREET SWEEPER TO JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ-MOVED TO HIRE JANESE LYNCH AS PART-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT, EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE INVOICE NO. 37594 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,450.00 FROM FIRE ESCROW TO A. J. JURICH, INC. FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 613 SHARON AVE, IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF IPADS AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE IWORQ SYSTEM NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500.00 TO BE PAID FROM ARPA FUNDS. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. THREE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

#### PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

ENGINEER REPORT-MS. CATANIA

SOLICITOR REPORT GIVEN BY MR. HUGHES SUBSTITUTING MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SOLICITORS REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ENGINEERS REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

POLICE REPORTS GIVEN BY CHIEF SOUSA.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE POLICE REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LACEY. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

GOODWILL FIRE CHIEF REPORT GIVEN BY CHIEF EICHELMAN.

DARBY TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY NO. 4 REPORT IS ON FILE.

TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF REPORT GIVEN BY JIM CHILDS, FIRE CHIEF. MR. CHILDS STATED THAT FOR CLARIFICATION, IT WAS REPORTED THAT HE IS BEING PAID AS TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF. HE STATED THAT HE IS NOT BEING PAID. HE IS A VOLUNTEER TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF. HE IS NOT BEING PAID TO BE THE ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL NOR IS THE FIRE MARSHAL BEING PAID. THEY ARE BOTH VOLUNTEER FIRE MARSHALS.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FIRE CHIEFS REPORT. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPY ATTACHED.

#### COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

COMMISSIONER FITZ, WARD III-GAVE THE HIGHWAY REPORT.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO-GAVE HER REPORT ON PARKS & RECREATION AND THE LIBRARY. SHE STATED THE "LITTLE LIBRARY" DEDICATION WAS WELL ATTENDED BY THE SORORITY THAT DEDICATED THE "LITTLE LIBRARY" AND WELL ATTENDED BY THE RESIDENTS. THEY GAVE CLOSE TO 100 BOOKS TO THE CHILDREN THAT DAY. SHE THANKED THE COMMUNITY FOR COMING OUT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH-IS REQUESTING THE BUSINESS MANAGER TO LOOK AT GETTING SOME BIDS TO RESURFACE THE CENTER BASKETBALL COURT LOCATED AT CLITON AND FORRESTER AVENUE.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT ON BURTON AVENUE BETWEEN LINCOLN AVENUE AND NEWLIN AVENUE.

REPLACING THE FENCING ON HERMESPROTA AVENUE REAR FENCING NEAR THE CREEK. HE IS REQUESTING BIDS.

HOOK ROAD MAINTENANCE PLAN. WAS PENNDOT CONTACTED?

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED SHE RECEIVED AN EMAIL REGARDING HOOK ROAD FROM PENNDOT THAT SHE WILL SHARE WITH THE BOARD. SHE SPOKE WITH THE HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR AS WELL AS THE CODE OFFICIAL. SHE WANTED TO KNOW WHO DOES THAT FENCE BELONG TO?

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE SPOKE TO A RESIDENT, WHO IS THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THE PROPERTY WHO STATED THE TOWNSHIP PUT THAT FENCE IN.

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER ASKED ABOUT THE SIDEWALK.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED BURTON AVENUE NEEDS MAJOR REPAIR. THE TOWNSHIP SIDEWALK. GROBES PARK ON BURTON, LINCOLN AND NEWLIN. COMMISSIONER SMITH HANDED OUT PICTURES.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT.

COMMISSIONER LACEY, WARD IV-GAVE THE LICENSE & INSPECTIONS REPORT. COPY ATTACHED. HE ALSO GAVE THE REPORT ON ZONING WHICH WILL MEET ON APRIL 27, 2023, AND PLANNING BOARD WILL MEET ON THE SAME DAY AS WELL.

#### NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED MS. WHITAKER IF THE TOWNSHIP RECEIVED A DOLLAR AMOUNT FROM THE SALE OF SHARON AVE BAR FOR BACK TAXES.

MS WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED IT WAS RECEIVED'

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED FOR THE AMOUNT.

MS. WHITAKER SAID OVER \$30,000 BUT SHE DOES NOT HAVE THE EXACT AMOUNT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED HAS THE U & O BEEN ISSUED FOR THAT BAR TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF WHEN THEY ARE GOING TO OPERATE.

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED SHE BELIEVES THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING RENOVATIONS. THERE IS THE ACTUAL BAR THEN THERE ARE APARTMENTS UPSTAIRS SO SHE IS NOT SURE OF THE STATUS OF THAT RIGHT NOW.

COMMISSIONER SMITH SAID THE OWNER SENT HIM A MESSAGE THAT HE HAD THE INSPECTION AND HE HASN'T RECEIVED ANYTHING BACK FROM THE TOWNSHIP. HE SENT AN EMAIL AND CALLED AND CAME IN. HE REQUESTED THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO FOLLOW UP.

MS. WHITAKER, MANAGER STATED IF HE HASN'T RECEIVED IT THERE IS SOMETHING HE NEEDS TO DO BUT SHE WILL FOLLOW UP.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE WAS TOLD THAT HE PASSED THE INSPECTION AND THAT WAS WITH MR. TRIO.

COMMISSIONER FITZ-NONE.


COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO-NONE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FOUR APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

  
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BEATRICE POE,  
SECRETARY

  
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JOHN LACEY,  
PRESIDENT