

DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 10, 2021

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DARBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON MARCH 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- ABSENT

ON ROLL CALL:

NINE PRESENT AND ONE ABSENT

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP MEETING ON MARCH 3, 2021 AT 7:40PM TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

CITIZEN'S COMMENT

DAVID THORPE, 1222 TRIBBETT AVENUE

MR. THORPE EMAILED FIVE QUESTIONS TO THE TOWNSHIP SECRETARY WHO READ HIS QUESTIONS INTO THE MINUTES.

WHAT PROJECT IS BEING BUILT ON THE LAND AT THE CORNER OF TRIBBETT AND CALCON-HOOK ROAD ACROSS FROM THE TRAINING CENTER?

MS. WHITAKER STATED, TRIBBETT AND CALCON HOOK IS THE COROLUZO PROPERTY. SHE STATED THAT ONCE THE QUESTIONS WERE READ INTO THE MINUTES, SHE WOULD INVESTIGATE.

HOW IS THE MONEY UTILIZED FOR THE RECYCLING PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP?

MS, WHITAKER STATED, THERE IS NO MONEY GENERATED FROM THE RECYCLING SERVICE. WE PAY FOR THE TRASH SERVICE AND THE RECYCLING SERVICE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLOCK GRANT THAT WAS APPROVED FOR THE LIBRARY ON HOOK ROAD?

MS. WHITAKER HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT A CDBG FOR THE LIBRARY BUT SHE WILL SEND AN EMAIL TO THE COUNTY AND WE WILL SEE WHAT THEY SAY.

TRUCKS ARE STILL COMING UP AND DOWN TRIBBETT AVENUE, CAN LARGER SIGNS BE PLACED IN KEY LOCATIONS INDICATING NO TRUCKS ALLOWED WITH FINE ACCESSED IF STOPPED.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER STATED HE THOUGHT WE HAVE SIGNS UP SAYING NO TRUCKS AT THE BEGINNING OF TRIBBETT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THERE IS A SIGN THERE BUT BY THE TIME THE VEHICLE TURNS IT'S TOO LATE. HE HAS SPOKEN TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN REGARD TO NEW SIGNS FOR THE TOWNSHIP IN PARTICULAR HOOK ROAD.

CAN THE STREET SIGNS AT EACH CORNER OF TRIBBETT AVE BE CHANGED TO HAVE THE SAME SPELLING?

I.E. TRIBBETT, TRIBBIT, TRIBITT. IT REALLY LOOK AS IF THE TOWNSHIP DON'T KNOW HOW THE STREET SHOULD BE SPELLED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ STATED HE WOULD HAVE THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LOOK INTO IT.

DOLLIE COOPER, 1044 ORANGE AVENUE

MS. COOPER STATED SHE SPOKE TO BARRY MERLINO, TAX COLLECTOR IN REFERENCE TO HAVING THE RESIDENTS PAY THEIR TOWNSHIP TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS. SHE COMMUNICATED THAT IT IS A HARDSHIP FOR MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS TO PAY THE LUMP SUM. SHE HEARD THAT DARBY IS STARTING INSTALLMENTS. SHE IS REQUESTING MR. MERLINO LOOK INTO IT.

MS. WHITAKER STATED SHE WILL RELAY THAT COMMENT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR.

SHEREE MONROE, ORANGE AVENUE

MS. MONROE STATED SHE REQUESTED SOME ITEMS THREE MONTHS AGO THAT SHE NEVER RECEIVED. SHE IS NOW REQUESTING A LIST OF THE BILLS. SHE WANTED TO KNOW IF THEY WILL BE LISTED ON THE WEBSITE.

MS. WHITAKER STATED SHE HAD ASKED HER TO COME TO THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TO LOOK AT THE ITEMS REQUESTED. SHE ALSO STATED SHE WOULD NEED TO COME TO THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TO LOOK AT THE LIST OF BILLS. THEY WOULD NOT BE POSTED TO THE WEBSITE.

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR STATED SHE WOULD NEED TO PUT THE REQUEST IN WRITING.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2021. IT WAS PROPERLY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPIES ATTACHED.

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

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENGINEER TO VISIT 724 CUSTER AVENUE. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED WHAT IS AT 724 CUSTER AVENUE?

MS. WHITAKER STATED IT IS AN ADDRESS COMMISSIONER FITZ WANTED LOOKED AT. SHE BELIEVES IT IS A PAPER STREET WITH A LOT OF FLOODING, SO HE WOULD LIKE THE ENGINEER TO GO LOOK AT IT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH WANTED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO HAVE THE STREET REPAVED.

MR. PIERCE, SOLICITOR STATED THAT IF IT IS A PAPER STREET, IT HAS TO BE DEDICATED AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO THAT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THE PERSON BOUGHT THAT PROPERTY BACK IN 1976. SHE IS A SCHOOL TEACHER FROM SOUTHEAST DELCO.

THAT STREET HAS A LOT OF HISTORY IN REGARD TO WHAT SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BUILT. THE PERSON WAS TOLD THEY COULD NOT BUY THAT LAND. THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD AND A HOUSE WAS BUILT TOO CLOSE TO HER HOUSE AND NOW THERE IS A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH FLOODING BECAUSE THERE IS NO DRAINAGE THERE. DISCUSSION ENSUED. HE FEELS IT IS URGENT WVE DO SOMETHING. MR. PIERCE STATED HE UNDERSTANDS AND SINCE THE STREET WAS NEVER DEDICATED TO THE TOWNSHIP, WE DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO GO IN THERE AND DO ANYTHING BUT WE CAN CERTAINLY HAVE THE ENGINEER TAKE A LOOK AT IT AND THE PLANS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED WHAT THE DEFINITION OF A PAPER STREET IS? HE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPIES OF PICTURES ATTACHED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF DONNA M. O'HALLORAN FROM THE ZONING BOARD, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2020. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ. FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

MONTHLY REPORTS

ENGINEER'S REPORTS-GIVEN BY ALEX RODRIQUEZ ON BEHALF OF LISA CATANIA.

MR. RODRIQUEZ STATED THAT LISA CATANIA, ENGINEER WANTED MEMBERS TO BE AWARE THAT SHE HAS BEEN GETTING TWO TO THREE CALLS A DAY FROM RESIDENTS IN REGARD TO ZONING PERMIT ISSUES.

ALSO, MS. CATANIA IS REQUESTING THE BOARD PUT TOGETHER A LIST OF STREETS FOR THE 2021 ROAD PROGRAM. THE PRICES ARE RISING BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND THE SOONER THE BOARD GETS THE BIDS IN, THE BETTER THE SAVING.

THE SCOPE FOR THE DELAWARE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION INVENTORY PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

SHE IS WAITNG FOR AN ENVIORNMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE 2020 CDBG.

SHE IS WAITING ON A DECISION FOR THE 2021 CDBG.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GOUGLER.

FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPIES ATTACHED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORTS-MICHAEL PIERCE, SOLICITOR

MR. PIERCE HAS NO ACTION ITEMS FOR THE EVENING BUT HAS MADE NOTES FOR THE CUSTER AVENUE TO LOOK INTO CUSTER AVENUE FOR THE COMMISSIONERS.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SOLICITOR'S REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GOUGLER. FIVE APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED. COPIES ATTACHED.

POLICE REPORTS-GIVEN BY CHIEF SOUSA

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE POLICE REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021.IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GOUGLER, WITH A QUESTION. COMMISSIONER GOUGLER WANTED TO KNOW WHY THERE ARE NO CITATIONS ISSUED.

THE CHIEF EXPLAINED THAT THEY JUST STARTED ISSUING TICKETS IN FEBRUARY. COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED WHY THE NUMBER IS SO LOW FOR VIOLATIONS. COMMISSIONER SMITH ALSO WANTED TO KNOW HOW MANY OFFICERS ARE ON EACH SHIFT.

THE CHIEF ANSWERED TWO TO THREE. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE NUMBERS? FIVE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED. COPIES ATTACHED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMISSIONER SMITH MADE A MOTION TO HAVE 601 CLIFTON AVENUE BUILDING TURNED INTO A RESOURCE AND LITERARY CENTER. THE MOTION FAILED.

MS. WHITAKER STATED MS. JOHNSON, ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER WOULD HAVE A REPORT BY APRIL INDICATION WHETHER THE SITE WOULD BE BETTER AS A LIBRARY OR A RESOURCE CENTER.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED HE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM MS. CATANIA. BECAUSE WE CANNOT MAKE 601 A LIBRARY, HIS MOTION STANDS THAT IT BE USED AS A RESOURCE CENTER AND TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ADA, TO BE USED FOR THE COMMUNITY.

COMMISSIONER LACEY STATED HE HAS NOT SEEN THE REPORT NOR HAS IT BEEN DISCUSSED AND HE DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE A MOTION ON IT.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED FOR THE ROAD PROGRAM, HE WANTED THESE STREETS SUBMITTED TO THE ENGINEER FOR CONSIDERATION FOR REPAVING:

NOBLET AVENUE, NEWLIN AVENUE, LINCOLN AVENUE, BURTON AVENUE, FORRESTER AVENUE AND ROOSEVELT DRIVE.

MS. WHITAKER ASKED COMMISSIONER SMITH TO EMAIL HIS LIST TO HER. SHE HAD THE HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR, THOMAS THORPE RIDE THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP AND PROVIDE HER WITH A LIST OF STREETS. SHE WILL SEND OUT AN EMAIL.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH ASKED MS. WHITAKER TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A LIST OF HOW MANY STREETS HAVE BEEN PAVED IN ALL FIVE WARDS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED TO SUBNAME HOOK ROAD BARTRAM COOPER WAY. NOT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF HOOK ROAD BUT TO SUBNAME IT AFTER A LEGEND BOXER, TO BE DONE BY JUNE 2021, FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND.

MR. PIERCE STATED HE WOULD CHECK WITH PENNDOT.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO. FOUR APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER SMITH STATED THERE IS A RESIDENT IN DARBY TOWNSHIP WHO WANTS TO MAKE A DONATION TO RESURFACE THE BASKETBALL COURT AND ADD BENCHES ON FORRESTER AND CLIFTON AVENUES. HE SPOKE TO THE ENGINEER. HE WILL ALSO GIVE THE COMMISSIONERS THE PERSONS NAME WHO WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

THE SOLICITOR WILL TAKE A LOOK AT IT ONCE COMMISSIONER SMITH PROVIDES THE INFORMATION. THERE IS NO MOTION NEEDED.

COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO THANKED THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR STARTING TO REMOVE THE PLANTS THAT WAS SPRAYED LAST FALL. IT IS A LOT OF WORK AND THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS DOING A GOOD JOB.

THE ALUMNI CORNER IS COMING ALONG WELL. THEY HAVE COLLECTED ENOUGH MONEY TO PURCHASE EIGHT TABLES AND THIRTEEN TO FIFTEEN BENCHES. SHE IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPARING PRICES. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PUT IN TWO BARBEQUE PITS AND SOLAR LIGHTING.

IN REGARD TO THE LIBRARY, SHE WANTS TO MEET WITH THE BOARD. THE LIBRARIES ARE NOT SUITABLE TO GIVE THE RESIDENTS WHAT THEY NEED.

COMMISSIONER FITZ READ THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021. HE STATES POTHOLES IN THE TOWNSHIP ARE STARTING TO CREEP UP AND WILL BE ATTENDED TO WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK.

HE STATED THE CHIEF ALREADY GAVE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MOVED TO CONSIDER OFFICER STEVEN O'HARA TO BE PROMOTED FROM PART-TIME TO FULL-TIME OFFICER, EFFECTIVE APRIL 4, 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH. FIVE APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY GAVE THE INSPECTION DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021.

COMMISSIONER LACEY MOVED TO CONSIDER BEATRICE POE TO BE PROMOTED FROM PART-TIME TO FULL-TIME POSITION AS ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST FOR LICENSE AND INSPECTIONS,

EFFECTIVE APRIL 5, 2021. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED IF MS. POE COULD CONTINUE AS TOWNSHIP SECRETARY AND CAN SHE HANDLE THE WORK. COMMISSIONER LACEY SAID IT WAS ASKED OF HER AND SHE STATED YES AND IT WOULD BE UP TO THE BOARD IF THEY WANTED TO APPOINT SOMEONE ELSE.

COMMISSIONER SMITH REQUESTED TO AMEND THE MOTION ON THE TABLE, SINCE HE IS IN FAVOR OF THIS MOTION WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT WE FIND ANOTHER SECRETARY. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT COULD USE A PART-TIME JOB.

DISCUSSION ENSUED.

THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION FAILED. FOUR APPROVED ORIGINAL MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER LACEY REQUESTED THE BOARD TO CONSIDER A MOTION TO HIRE ROBERT BRENNAN AS PART-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FITZ.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER ASKED THE TIME PERIOD FOR THE POSITION.

MS. WHITAKER STATED THE POSITION WOULD BE REVIEWED IN NINETY DAYS. FIVE APROVED. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER GOUGLER STATED HE HAD A COUPLE OF MEETINGS WITH BOB DIETER ABOUT FINANCES. WE AREN'T DOING AS WELL AS WE WOULD LIKE TO BE AND COVID PLAYS A PART IN THAT.

NEW BUSINESS

MS. WHITAKER STATED SHE ATTENDED REPRESENTATIVE REGINA YOUNG'S OPEN HOUSE AT HER NEW LOCATION ON SHARON AVENUE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20. IT WAS WELL ATTENDED.

MS. WHITAKER ALSO SPOKE ON COVID 19 VACINE UPDATES. SHE ASKED TO CHECK THE TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY WEBSITES.

SHE REACHED OUT TO SOUTHEAST DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT, AT THE REQUEST OF COMMISSIONER FITZ, TO FIND OUT IF CROSSING GUARDS ARE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES AND SHOULD BE RECEIVING THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON VACCINE. SHE IS WAITING TO HEAR BACK FROM THEM.

THE STATE CONTACTED HER IN REGARD TO THE DCED GRANT. SHE WILL BE HAVING A ZOOM MEETING WITH THEM WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO.

THE COUNTY DID AWARD THE DEMOLITION GRANT FOR 601 CLIFTON AVENUE.

WE DID RECEIVE THE PECO REGION GRANT FOR \$10,000.00 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY WILL BE HOSTING THEIR 37TH ANNUAL CLEANUP ON APRIL 10TH. THE POSTING WILL BE ON THE WEBSITE TOMORROW.

COMMISSIONER FITZ MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. IT WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LACEY AND COMMISSIONER SMITH. FIVE APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



BEATRICE POE,
SECRETARY



ROBERT GOUGLER,
PRESIDENT

Beatrice Poe

From: Scott Stinsman <scott.stinsman@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 6:15 PM
To: Beatrice Poe
Subject: Township meeting

*1. I heard there was a water level issue on Beech and Poplar. Can we get an update?
2. We are having many driveways redone in the back of Beech and Poplar. Is the township addressing the water drainage issues before the work is done? It needs to be dealt with before the work is done*

Sent from my iPhone