

## **MINUTES FOR APRIL 2, 2024**

### **VALLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The first monthly meeting of the Valley Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, via hybrid to allow participation at the Valley Township Building at 1145 West Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA or through the *Go To Meeting* platform.

The Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patrice Proctor at 7:04 p.m. Those in attendance at the Township Building were Supervisors Patrice Proctor, Casey Max Leidy, Linda Baugher, LeRoy Goldsmith and Sharon Yates. Also attending the meeting at the Township Building were Janis Rambo, Township Manager/Secretary, Kris Lenhart, Public Works/Facility Director, Chief Glenn Eckman and Amanda Sundquist, Esquire, of Unruh, Turner, Burke & Frees (Township Solicitor). Michael J. Ellis, P.E. of Pennoni Associates Inc. (Township Engineer) attended virtually.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS/ACTIONS OF THE BOARD**

Ms. Proctor noted that the Board of Supervisors did not meet in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to approve the consent agenda:**

- a. Approve minutes as written – March 19, 2024**
- b. Approve bills presented for payment**
- c. Ratify financing of Trackless MT7 tractor/mower with Fulton Bank for a three-year term at a rate of 6.24%**

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **BOARD GENERAL COMMENTS**

Ms. Proctor reviewed some of the Township's General Comments/Upcoming Events as listed on page 2 of the agenda. She thanked all the Supervisors, Police, Public Works, Administration, Parks & Rec and volunteers who came out to help with the annual Easter egg hunt on March 29, 2024. She mentioned that the Valley Township Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter was mailed out and can also be found on our website, which includes the bulk trash, community yard sale and street sweeping dates.

## **DEB FRANCIOTTI (1438 VALLEY ROAD)**

Ms. Franciotti was in attendance at the meeting and addressed the Board of Supervisors on two issues: 1) Speeding on Valley Road and 2) Parking on Park Avenue. She is concerned with the speeding between Lambert Spawn and the firehouse stating that it's out of control, cars are hitting things and cats, etc. Ms. Franciotti mentioned that when you go east past the townhomes, the posted 35mph signs are not visible being in the brush and that the trees need to be cleared out on the side of the townhomes to make them visible. She also expressed concern with the parking on Park Avenue stating there are cars parked in each direction all up and down the road, up by the bridge, some with their front ends in and the back bumpers out in the street and that it's constantly not safe, there is road rage and someone is going to end up in the creek. Ms. Franciotti noted there are a lot of kids out, the park is there and the moms at the bus stop are concerned with Steel and Oak and the bridge at Hemlock. She said they need to remedy this issue but not sure how that can be done. Ms. Sundquist mentioned that it's probably worse at certain times of the day and Ms. Franciotti stated it's worse with more traffic now and even the trucks speed by and are using their jake brakes. Chief Eckman noted that no incidents have been reported since 2006. He stated they received a \$1,200 grant for aggressive driving. Both he and Mr. Lenhart are waiting to put speed timing lines down, but need good weather to do that. Ms. Sundquist noted that the Township deals with speeding, etc. and the school district handles bus stops and evaluates if there is a safer spot. Mr. Lenhart confirmed that 35mph roads are the Township's responsibility and once they are 45mpg then it's PennDOT's responsibility.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

None - Joe Sciandra was not present.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Update – Mr. Ellis provided an update on East Glencrest Road noting that it is progressing well and did not have anything further to add. He also provided an update on the Valley Crossing Basin noting that the contractor is progressing on schedule.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Discussion/consideration regarding authorizing the Chairwoman to adopt a Resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chester County Housing Partnership regarding the reduction of blight utilizing the abandoned and blighted property Conservatorship Act – Ms. Sundquist reviewed the Resolution noting that they have had conversations over the past few months with the Chester County Housing Partnership. She stated that a Memorandum of Understanding is attached explaining that the Township can identify properties in the Township and work with the Chester County Housing Partnership to see if they are blighted. There would be a court process with in a Conservatorship role.

**Mr. Leidy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to authorize the Chairwoman to adopt Resolution 2024-15 authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the**

**Chester County Housing Partnership regarding the reduction of blight utilizing the abandoned and blighted property Conservatorship Act.** The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Ms. Sundquist departed the meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion/consideration regarding security fencing/gates for Township Municipal Complex – Ms. Rambo noted that this is a revised proposal from ProMax as the original one was from the end of last Summer/early Fall. She stated that the slide gate automation was increased slightly and that the proposed “Phase 2” gate (currently where the “road closed” barricade is located) was broken out as a separate quote. Ms. Baugher asked if there was a rendering; Ms. Rambo noted that ProMax does not do CAD renderings.

**Ms. Baugher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leidy, to table the consideration for security fencing/gates for Township Municipal Complex with regard to ProMax’s proposal.** The motion failed by a vote of 2-3 with Ms. Proctor, Mr. Goldsmith and Ms. Yates voting nay.

**Ms. Yates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Goldsmith, to accept ProMax’s Proposal #231412 through Costars Contract #008-E23-1150, Vendor #535206, for Phase 1 for perimeter fence, barrier gates and slide gate automation in the amount of \$93,318.00, as well as Proposal #240488 through Costars Contract #008-E23-1150, Vendor #535206, for Phase 2 for barrier gates in the amount of \$18,599.00.** Discussion/question: Mr. Goldsmith asked what the reason is for not doing this noting it’s a security and employee safety issue with people leaving in the dark and with nothing protecting them. Ms. Baugher responded that the police have sally ports for safety and had concerns spending \$93,000 as well as the appearance of the building being affected. She stated we can get more lighting out back and out front. She asked if we are really that much more special to have security fencing/gates installed than other townships that currently do not have it. Ms. Proctor responded that yes, we are that special. Mr. Leidy commented that we need to see a picture of what it will look like as this is money being spent blindly. Ms. Baugher mentioned that she previously walked the property with Chief Eckman, Mr. Lenhart and Mr. Ellis. She stated that she is responsible for spending \$93,000 of the taxpayers’ money responsibly. Ms. Rambo stated that Mr. Ellis has worked with ProMax on projects that they do not provide renderings but that Pennoni has done renderings for other clients on projects who utilize ProMax as the fence provider. Mr. Ellis confirmed that he has worked on renderings before stating they can get complicated. Ms. Baugher asked if a rendering can be adjusted after it’s put together and Mr. Ellis responded that it cannot and that the visualization group puts it together and cannot do changes on the fly. Mr. Goldsmith asked how long it takes to do a rendering and Mr. Ellis replied approximately two weeks. Mr. Leidy stated that he agrees safety is an issue and that his real concern was not having pictures.

Ms. Proctor noted a motion was on the floor and asked for a vote. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2 with Ms. Baugher and Mr. Leidy voting nay.

At this time, Mr. Ellis departed the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Consideration to adopt Resolution requiring governing bodies of school districts, townships, boroughs, and cities to appoint one voting delegate and one or more alternate delegates to be their Tax Collection Committee (TCC) representatives – Ms. Rambo noted that we changed the alternate at our Reorganization Meeting and that the CCTCC prefers any changes to the delegate be done by resolution.

**Mr. Goldsmith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Yates, to adopt Resolution 2024-16 requiring governing bodies of school districts, townships, boroughs, and cities to appoint one voting delegate and one or more alternate delegates to be their Tax Collection Committee (TCC) representatives, naming Janis Rambo as Valley Township’s delegate and Casey Leidy as Valley Township’s alternate to the CCTCC.** The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to have our audit files from BBD transferred to WithumSmith+Brown as part of merger – Ms. Rambo commented that BBD is merging with WithumSmith+Brown. BBD has requested that we authorize transfer of our audit files to WithumSmith+Brown. She noted there is no change and that we will still be serviced out of their Philadelphia office.

**Ms. Baugher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leidy, to have our audit files from BBD transferred to WithumSmith+Brown as part of the merger.** The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration to upgrade police copy machine under current contract at an additional cost per month of \$133.18 (approx. \$1,198.62) – Ms. Rambo noted that the police currently have a machine like codes has that does 30 pages a minute and has a smaller capacity size. The proposal is for a faster machine like the administration area. Rothwell proposal includes a buy out the current police machine which will be relocated to the admin reception area replacing that older machine, modify the lease which will be \$133.18 additional per month or \$1,200 for the remainder of this year (about 9 months).

**Ms. Yates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Goldsmith, to accept the proposed lease for the police department copy/fax machine at an additional cost to the lease of \$133.18 per month with Rothwell Document Solutions.** The motion passed unanimously.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Robert Malone from the Chester County Housing Partnership was in attendance at the meeting and thanked the Board for the service agreement stating that they have been around for 30 years and can answer any additional questions if need be. The Board thanked him.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Janis A. Rambo, Township Secretary