

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

ROLL CALL:

JEFFRY E. DENCE, CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JEFFREY M. BORASKI, VICE-CHAIRMAN	ABSENT
BRIAN M. GALLOWAY, SECRETARY	PRESENT
JOHN W. PALMER, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT
ERIN M. MULLEN, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT

The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with roll call and pledge to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Boraski who was absent this evening. Also present were Township Manager/Chief Code Enforcement Officer & Zoning Officer Matthew Takita, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke and Township Engineer Joe Jones.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR THE HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING
CONTEST WINNERS**

Mr. Brian Andrews presented gift cards and certificates to the winners of the Holiday House Decorating Contest. They were: 3rd place – Platt Family (191 Elderberry Drive); 2nd place – Repetski Family (26 Blue Spruce Lane); and 1st place – Lelinski Family (9 Franklin St).

**ITEM # 1 CONSIDER PROMOTION OF LIEUTENANTS FOR THE FALLS
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Member Galloway moved to approve the promotion of Sgt. Christopher Clark, Sgt. Martial Belinsky and Corp. Steve Langan to Lieutenants for the Falls Township Police Department; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

**ITEM # 2 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON
FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Ms. Toni Battiste said according to the Bucks County Courier Times, there was supposed to be a proposed Ordinance tonight for amending the zoning from R3 Riverfront District to HI, Heavy Industrial district for tax map parcel # 13-047-088. In this notice, it said this is for the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Falls Township. Since it is not part of the posted agenda, Ms. Battiste guesses the requestors have postponed it again. Chairman Dence said yes. Ms. Battiste hopes they are reimbursing the township for the cost of the public notices. Chairman Dence said they have an escrow account. Ms. Battiste said they should also be mandated to publish a postponement for this proposed Ordinance. Chairman Dence said there is a deadline and the advertisement has to be sent in at least two weeks prior. State law continues to require us to have to advertise this in the newspaper. Ms. Battiste wanted to go on record as opposing this Ordinance as it does not keep the residents healthy. It is not in their welfare and it does not keep the residents safe. The tax parcel is

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close to the river which is a source of our drinking water as well as other populated areas along the river. Heavy Industrial is not something that should be near a water source. Chairman Dence said he responded to Ms. Battiste's email. He said just to be clear, the area is zoned Riverfront District not Residential. There is nothing but heavy industrial around that area.

ITEM # 3 CONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL GRAPHICS AND SIGNAGE DESIGN PROPOSAL FROM CLOUD GEHSAN

Member Galloway moved to approve the Environmental Graphics and Signage Design Proposal from Cloud Gehshan in the amount of \$145,236; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 4 CONSIDER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROPOSAL FROM VIRIDIAN LANDSCAPE STUDIO

Member Galloway moved to approve the Landscape Architectural Design Proposal from Viridian Landscape Studio in the amount of \$51,920; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 5 CONSIDER IEI ARCHITECTS PROPOSAL FOR COORDINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GRAPHICS AND SIGNAGE DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Member Galloway moved to approve the IEI Architects Proposal for Coordination for Environmental Graphics and Signage Design and Landscape Architectural Design in the amount of \$26,513; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 6 CONSIDER KATALINAS COMMUNICATIONS FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

There was no action on this agenda item as it was acted on at the last meeting.

ITEM # 7 CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM F.X. BROWNE FOR ACT 101 RECYCLING GRANT

Mrs. Reukauf said we are estimating to get approximately \$100,000 for this year. Member Galloway moved to approve the proposal from F.X. Browne for the ACT 101 Recycling Grant; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 8 CONSIDER 2023 FEE SCHEDULE FOR PARKS & RECREATION

Mr. Andrews said we are raising the pavilion rental rates at the Pinewood Pool. There is also a change in the summer camp fees. We will roll in the trip fees with the summer camp registration fees. The other change is the memorial bench/tree program. We will go with a memorial brick program and highlight the Fallsington Commemorative Park. Member

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Palmer asked how things were working out with lifeguards. Mr. Andrews said we raised the starting pay rate to \$15 per hour and have implemented a certification fee reimbursement program. He hopes we will be okay. Member Galloway moved to approve Resolution # 2023-3 for the 2023 Fee Schedule for Parks & Recreation; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 9 CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR GEESE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT THE FALLS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK FOR YEARS 2023, 2024 AND 2025

Member Galloway moved to approve the Geese Chasers Southeastern PA LLC three-year proposal for geese management services at the Falls Township Community Park in the amount of \$1,400 per month; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Galloway asked Mr. Andrews if there were coyotes in the park. Chairman Dence said there are some at Quaker Penn Park. Mr. Andrews has not seen any in the Community Park but there are reports of them in Fairless Hills. Be careful with your pets. Mr. Clarke said during most of the year coyotes may be hunted with only a general license. During the open big game season, in order to be lawful, you will need a fur takers license. If anyone has any questions, they can go to the Philadelphia Game Commission website, www.pgc.pa.gov.

ITEM # 10 CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR ADVERTISEMENT FOR TREE BID REMOVAL

Mr. Jason Lawson said this is something they do every year. Member Galloway moved to approve the authorization for advertisement for tree bid removal; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 11 CONSIDER BARE ROOT TREE OFFER FROM PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Member Galloway moved to approve the purchase of 30 bare-root trees from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the total cost of \$1,800; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 12 NOMINATE, DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW – APRIL 23 THROUGH APRIL 26, 2023

Chairman Dence moved to name Member Palmer as the delegate to the State Association's Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show, April 23 through April 26, 2023; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 13 CONSIDER ESCROW RELEASE REQUESTS

Member Galloway moved to approve the escrow request for Britton Industries in the amount of \$18,235.39; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 14 CONSIDER DONATION REQUESTS

Member Galloway moved to approve the donation requests to the Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial, T.A.G., Levittown Continental Little League, Fairless Hills Athletic Association, Bucks County St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Falls Soccer Club and Historic Fallsington Day for \$6,000 each; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 15 MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2022 AND JANUARY 3, 2023

Member Galloway moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2022; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Galloway moved to approve the minutes from January 3, 2023; Chairman Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Mullen who was not present at the meeting and abstained from the vote. (3-0-1)

ITEM # 16 ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Jones said there was one new earth disturbance permit application, two new land development submissions, and one cell tower alteration application. MLH Explorations is operating under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. KA at Fairless Hills is the WAWA project and the contractor is on site. Work has been slow but it is active. TAVO Packaging on New Bold Road is operating under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. NorthPoint Building 1 is under way with utilities and storm sewer and storm water management improvements. The Lincoln Storage project continues. That project has been delayed multiple times. The retaining walls were problematic but it continues. NorthPoint Phase 1 Building 3 is about 90% complete and they will be looking for their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy soon. Phase 2 buildings 4, 5, and 6 utilities are under way with storm sewer improvements and storm water management. For building 5 they are working on the pad fill. Hiossen is under construction. For SIV Ambulance, they came back with the land development application to construct the improvements for the new building which will be used for the sale of ambulances. For NorthPoint area 3, buildings 7, 8, 9, and 10 consists of development to the east of area 2, buildings 4, 5 and 6 buildings and are under review. Both of these projects will be before the Planning Commission in February. In terms of earth disturbance updates, the residential pool, Burger King, Phoenix Corporation, and the Auto Liquidation Centers area all completed. Atlantic Precast is operating under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. Alliance Geoffrey Ventures continues to remove the building foundations and work on the parking lot paving. TruckSmart is complete except for the waring course. Britton Industries has started construction from the fire. There is a new home on Wyandotte Road which is under review. For township projects, all projects are ongoing including the road program. For the township building we submitted 100% plans today.

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ITEM # 17 BILL LIST

Member Galloway moved to approve the bill list in the amount of \$2,961,915.91; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 18 ENGINEERING BILL LIST

Member Galloway moved to approve the engineering bill list in the amount of \$319,197; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Chairman Dence who abstained from the vote. (3-0-1)

ITEM # 19 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Clarke said an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss various personnel matters, matters of potential litigation, and ongoing litigation.

ITEM # 20 POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Nelson Whitney previously provided the Board with last month's report. He then presented highlights from 2022.

- To keep up with technology, the police department has added body cameras and in-car cameras as well as making policy and operational changes.
- The goal of these changes is to improve the work environment for our officers and to increase the quality of the service we provide to the citizens of Falls Township.
- The Coffee with a Cop program has been very effective and will continue into next year.
- We had two Drug Take Back and Shredder events last year.
- The Drive Safe Program continues. This is a program where people can place a marker in memory of a loved one and is a reminder for people to drive safely.
- We started the Operation High Five/Operation Handshake with school-age children.
- The police department received an award for implementation of the Haas Alert System.
- Chief Whitney attended a benefit from Family Services Association. This was in support of their homeless shelter and other programs to assist the homeless.
- We received an award from Congressman Fitzpatrick for the Ukraine donations. We continue to collect donations.
- The Youth Police Academy was held last summer and will continue again this year. Several cadets who have graduated from our program have gone on to careers in law enforcement.
- Walking While Black is a program addressing the conversation of healing relationships in the community and ending racism. This is something we have participated in throughout Bucks County and is important to our officers. The idea behind the program is to watch a documentary together, then break out into work groups to discuss the film and relationships between the police and the community. Chief Whitney hopes to continue to be involved in this program. They also did a mural at the community park.

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- The police department had a visit from Alex Mann who is on the autism spectrum. Alex has been traveling and visiting various police departments over the past 3-1/2 years and we were happy to have him visit.
- Chief Whitney participated in Pennsbury's Social Media night. We have a great relationship with the school district.
- We went to Color Me Mine and painted pumpkins with children. Several police officers participated in this fun event.
- Chief Whitney attended the 71st Freedom Fund Banquet by the Bucks County NAACP. Branch President Karen Downer invited Chief Whitney to introduce Shakima Landsmark, the recipient of a Certificate of Recognition for her perseverance in the pursuit of justice and an outstanding example of self advocacy.
- We received a \$50,000 donation from Waste Management for us to create a bullet trap system called "bullet bunkers," which helps keep shooters and the environment around them safe from ricochet and debris.
- The Police Department received a \$125K grant to hire a consultant to recruit for the police department and provide a one-time retention bonus of \$1,200 per officer.
- Employment updates: Administrative Assistant Gina Seiler left the police department to take a similar position with the Malvern Borough Police Department and CRS Laura Craig left Family Service Association to take a similar position in Philadelphia. Family Service Association just hired a replacement who will be coming up here next week.
- Officer Ronald MacPherson was promoted to Detective last year. Corp. Gerard Piasecki, Officer Bruce Rhodundra, and Corp. Victoria Crosier retired from the department. We also had the three lieutenant promotions earlier this evening.
- In 2022, there were 18,142 calls for service. These included 1,150 accidents and 150 catalytic converter thefts.
- There were three fatalities out of 50 overdoses last year. Hopefully we continue to see a decrease.

ITEM # 21 FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

Fire Marshal Rich Dippolito presented the Fire Marshal's Office 2022 Annual Report. The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) consists of five full-time employees consisting of one Director of Emergency Services/Fire Marshal, one Department Clerk, and three Fire Inspector/Firefighters.

Some highlights from the report include the following:

- Fire Marshal responsibilities include Assistant Township Manager, Director of Emergency Services, Emergency Management Coordinator, conducting fire investigations, plan reviews of the fire alarm, sprinkler system, and suppression system installations for new buildings and buildings under construction. Also included is to plan and oversee Emergency Management Activities, supervision of the FMO staff, distribution of assignments, budget preparation and responding to fire and emergency calls as well as attending training courses.

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- Fire Inspector responsibilities include conducting annual fire/life safety inspections, responding to fire and emergency calls, follow up on fire and emergency calls, inspection of fire protection systems to ensure compliance, assisting with Emergency Management Activities, and attending training courses.
- Annual fire inspections are conducted at every business, school, hotel, motel, apartment complex, hospital and daycare within the township. For 2022, there were 1,142 fire inspections, a 17% increase from the previous year.
- The FMO as well as five employees from the Public Works Department respond to fire calls as dispatched. The FMO responded to 644 fire calls in 2022 and five of the Public Works Department employees responded to 435 fire calls in 2022.
- Mr. Dippolito reported on the number of fire response statistics for the three township fire companies. Collectively, the three fire departments responded to a total of 1,744 incidents in 2022.
- The department inspects newly installed and modified fire alarm systems and sprinkler systems. The inspection consists of rough and final inspection and hydrostatic inspection for the sprinkler systems.
- Mr. Dippolito reported on other types of inspections and re-inspections the FMO's office performs.
- A grant was received for incident pre-plan software. We started with high-hazard locations. Once schematic and plan information is received, it is input into the web-based application which can be viewed by all of the township fire companies. This is a very time-consuming project.
- The FMO's office always wants to be prepared. We oversee multiple, large gatherings. We attend events trying to prevent any issue from occurring but we are also there to respond to emergencies.
- The office is responsible for fire prevention and safety education including fire extinguisher training, use of the smoke simulator trailer, training sessions for adults, children and businesses, smoke detector inspections and replacement and monitoring of fire drills. The smoke trailer visits and educates children all over Lower Bucks County.
- Last year we went to 12 locations and installed a total of 55 smoke detectors were installed throughout the year. These smoke detectors are free and are received through Channel 6's Safe a Life program.
- Some additional responsibilities include a year-long food drive, clerical assignments, the Keri Keycard Access System, AED maintenance and updates and the maintenance and troubleshooting of surveillance cameras and the telephone systems.
- The FMO brought in approximately \$318,080 in 2022 through fees collected from annual fire inspections, fire permits, fire reports, and fire review fees. These funds help supplement the day-to-day expenses of the department.

To schedule a food donation pick up, please email FallsFoodBank@FallsTwp.com. To request a smoke detector, please email R.Dippolito@FallsTwp.com. The department phone number is 215-949-9000 x255.

ITEM # 22 MANAGER REPORT

Chairman Dence said there will be an EIT meeting on January 31st at 7:00 p.m. in this meeting room. The meeting will be in person and also available by Zoom. An email address will be made available for people to send in questions. Everyone received a letter from Keystone Collections and it resembles a scam letter. We were under the impression that Keystone Collections would be sending out information. The township will be sending a follow-up letter to residents explaining how this works but hopefully the informational meeting will clear up a lot of misinformation that people have heard. Mr. Bob Waters said he received the notification letter that looked like a scam. Mr. Waters suggested contacting the County. Chairman Dence said he already contacted a County Commissioner about this. There will be a question and answer session during the meeting which will also be recorded. Mr. Waters asked about fire police no longer being able to fill their gas tanks and feels this was an injustice to them. Chairman Dence said it was because of state law. Mr. Dippolito said if fire police were on a call for an extended period of time, they would sometimes come up to the township building, with permission, and get a few gallons of gas to offset what they used while out on a call. When they realized it was not appropriate to take it out of the tanks, they came up with a plan to get reimbursed. If the fire chief approved it, they would get gas at a gas station, turn in their receipt and then get reimbursed. Mr. Waters said they refuse to run on any major roads since they feel they were done wrong. Mr. Waters commented on the homes they want to build on New Falls Road and said it is not a good idea to the area being in a flood plain.

ITEM # 23 BOARD COMMENT


Member Galloway – no comment.

Member Mullen said with the reports they received tonight, the promotions and the volunteer firefighter here this evening, thank you to all those who work in those services in our township.

Member Palmer – no comment.

Chairman Dence apologized for all of the confusion with the Keystone Collections EIT letter. We thought there would be more detailed information distributed, not just the letter. There will be information distributed soon and we have the 7:00 p.m. meeting on January 31st.

Member Galloway moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Mullen seconded the motion all board members were in favor. (4-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



Brian Galloway, Secretary