

Board of Supervisors – January 22, 2024

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

ROLL CALL:

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

The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with roll call and pledge to the flag. All Board members were present. Also present were Fire Marshal Rich Dippolito, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, Township Solicitor Lauren Gallagher and Township Engineer Joe Jones.

PRESENTATION TO RAYMOND FANNELLI FOR 25 YEARS ON THE SWAT TEAM

Chief Whitney explained the criteria for being a SWAT officer. It takes a high level of commitment and dedication. Chief Whitney congratulated Sgt. Raymond Fanelli on his 25 years of exemplary service and presented him with a 25th anniversary certificate.

**ITEM # 1 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON
FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Ms. Toni Battiste said she didn't see anything on the website about tonight's bill list. She asked about the hours being billed to us by the police overseer who was hired before the public vote. Chairman Dence asked if Ms. Battiste is talking about the Human Resource Director. Ms. Battiste said yes. Chairman Dence said he does not oversee the Police Department and is a salary employee. Ms. Battiste is talking about the person who was a County employee. Chairman Dence said he doesn't work for us anymore and hasn't done any work for us since early last year. Ms. Battiste asked if development in Falls Township be affected by issues of the Neshaminy Sewer link. Chairman Dence said he is not aware of us being affected by it. Ms. Battiste wanted to know if Falls reviews the donations made to people who are running for offices in Falls Township. Chairman Dence said no.

**ITEM # 2 JOSEPH BISSOL AND ROSETTA MARIE BUSSELLI –
PRELIMINARY & FINAL LAND DEVELOPMENT – 9169 MILL
CREEK ROAD TMP # 13-040-022**

Mr. Frank Dillon (Begley Carlin & Mandio) and Mr. Heath Dumack (Dumack Engineering) represent the applicant. This proposal is for an approximate 1,000 sq. ft. addition to the bar and restaurant and a 2,173 sq. ft. addition to the auto repair shop. Member Palmer expressed concern with the street tree waivers. Mr. Dumack said with the area of disturbance along the frontage there is not enough space in the right of way for street trees and the building itself is close to the road so street trees were not recommended by their landscape architect. Member Galloway moved to approve Resolution # 2024-2 for the

Joseph Bissol and Rosetta Marie Busselli, preliminary & final land development, 9169 Mill Creek Road, TMP # 13-040-022; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 3 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM F.X. BROWNE FOR ACT 101 RECYCLING GRANT

Mrs. Betsy Reukauf said F.X. Browne prepared their annual ACT 101 Recycling Grant. The cost of this proposal is \$6,000, an increase of \$500 over last year's price. The previous grant net us \$108,141.54. Member Galloway moved to approve the proposal in the amount of \$6,000 from F.X. Browne for the ACT 101 Recycling Grant; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 4 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM KEYSTONE SPORTS CONSTRUCTION FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS INSTALLATION PROJECT

Mr. Brian Andrews said they found an area at the Quaker Penn Park to build the pickleball courts. This was a 2023 project that was pushed back. The cost of \$294,407.02 is for four fenced-in pickleball courts and will be purchased through CO-STARS. Member Mullen moved to approve the proposal in the amount of \$294,407.02; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 5 CONSIDERATION OF VEHICLE PURCHASE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Jason Lawson said this is for a Ford F250 in the amount of \$58,780. Member Palmer asked if this is for just the chassis. Mr. Lawson said it is the whole truck including the bed. Member Galloway moved to approve the purchase of a Ford F250 truck in the amount of \$58,780; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 6 CONSIDERATION OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Member Galloway moved to approve the purchase of three mowers in the amount of \$85,778.70; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
Member Galloway moved to approve the purchase of a John Deere Laser Diesel Cutter Backhoe in the amount of \$174,500; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 7 CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT, FINANCE AND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS

Manager Takita said the major changes are to the Parks & Recreation portion of the Fee Schedule. Member Mullen asked when they last made changes to the Code portion of the

Board of Supervisors – January 22, 2024

Fee Schedule. Manager Takita said they made changes last year to the Code portion. Member Galloway moved to approve Resolution # 2024-3 for the 2024 Fee Schedule for the Code Enforcement, Finance and Parks & Recreation Departments; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 8 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT FOR BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES FOR UCC INSPECTOR & PLANS EXAMINER FOR 2024

Member Galloway moved to approve the appointment for Barry Isett & Associates for UCC Inspector & Plans Examiner for 2024 at the rate of \$120/hr; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 9 CONSIDER RATIFYING AN APPLICATION FOR PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM FALLS TOWNSHIP TO APPLY FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM GRANT

Mr. Clarke said the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant is issued by the State. Pennsbury will be the beneficiary. Whenever they apply for one of these grants, they need a local municipality to sign off on the grant. There is no cost or liability to the Township. Pennsbury provided the information to us after our last meeting in December. They had a deadline of the 12th when they had to have the documents submitted to the State. The Board was polled and the Board agreed to being the local sponsor and now we will ratify that action. Member Galloway moved to ratify an application for Pennsbury School District requesting assistance from Falls Township to apply for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 10 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS TO COMPLETE ADDITIONAL FIELD LOCATION AND GIS MAPPING AND PROVIDE FIELD SURVEY LOCATION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH GIS SANITARY, WATER AND STORMWATER UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING FOR THE REMAINDER OF TOWNSHIP – PHASE III (ZONES 1 THROUGH 7)

Member Galloway moved to accept the proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers to complete additional Field Location and GIS Mapping and provide Field Survey Location Services associated with GIS Sanitary, Water and Stormwater Utility Infrastructure Mapping for the remainder of Township – Phase III (Zones 1 through 7) in the amount NTE \$75,000; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 11 CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED PROPOSAL FROM LERRO FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT FOR AV SERVICES

Member Galloway moved to accept the updated proposal from Lerro in the amount of \$1,467 for the Municipal Building Renovation project for AV services; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 12 FIRE MARSHAL'S YEAR END REPORT

Fire Marshal Rich Dippolito presented the Fire Marshal's Office 2023 Year-End 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, conducting plan reviews for all fire protection system installations and modifications and plan reviews for all life/safety requirements for new and existing buildings. 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.
- 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 fire investigations and emergency management activities, and attending training courses to maintain their certifications.
- Annual fire inspections are conducted at every business, school, hotel, motel, apartment complex, hospital and daycare within the Township. For 2023, there were 33 investigations. We had 258 follow-ups from fire calls. There were 1,228 fire inspections, a 7.5% increase from the previous year.
- The FMO as well as four employees from the Public Works Department respond to fire calls as dispatched. Collectively, the FMO responded to 643 fire calls in 2023.
- 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 1,776 incidents in 2023, a 2% increase from the previous year.
- The department follows up on fire company responses and 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. In 2023, the department completed 1,202 re-inspections.
- The FMO oversaw large community gatherings throughout the year with an Incident Action Plan (IAP) prepared for each of these events.
- The office is responsible for fire prevention and safety education including fire extinguisher training, use of the smoke simulator trailer, training sessions for adults,

Board of Supervisors – January 22, 2024

children and businesses, smoke detector installation and/or replacement and fire drill observations and recommendations. The smoke simulator trailer visits and educates children all over Lower Bucks County.

- Last year the FMO provided fire safety training at 17 schools, daycares and businesses and installed a total of 56 smoke detectors throughout the year. These smoke detectors are free and are received through Channel 6's Safe a Life program.
- The FMO operates a year-long food drive. This was our fourth year doing this. For the year, we made 22 deliveries with approximately 5,000 lbs. of food delivered to local food banks. Please contact the FMO to schedule a food donation pick up.
- The FMO brought in approximately \$515,200 in 2023 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.
- Last year we replaced outdated firefighting turnout gear with new gear to keep our fire inspectors safe. We also obtained the Fire Plans Review 1 & 2 certifications. The FMO successfully coordinated procedural changes with Galilee Village/Pavilion and their alarm company to reduce nuisance alarms.

ITEM # 13 POLICE DEPARTMENT YEAR END REPORT

Chief Nelson Whitney provided highlights from 2023 and goals for 2024.

- The Police Department will be focusing on proactivity in addressing traffic issues, drug activity and mental health issues in our community.
- Last year we participated in the Adopt A Cop program, Shop With A Cop, Color Me Mine and two Coffee With A Cop events at the Falls Township Senior Center. There was also a Scam Jam session hosted by Senator Steve Santarsiero at the senior center informing the public of a variety of topics all related to safely and securely conducting financial transactions online, avoiding telephone and mail scams and making sound investment decisions.
- The Youth Police Academy was held last summer and graduated 26 cadets.
- We had a police intern last summer. John Hanczaryk was able to experience firsthand what it is like to be a police officer. We wish John a successful future.
- Chief Whitney and Mrs. Whitney attended the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Builder Awards Ceremony at BCCC to support with NAACP Branch President Karen Downer. Karen is a great person and works very hard and has been a great partner to Chief Whitney.
- Police and firefighters participated in a Hoagies for Heros event at the new WAWA. Each group was able to award \$1,000 to a charity of their choice and the hoagies were taken to the shelter so the people there had some food from WAWA.
- We had two Drug Take Back and Shredder events last year. The collection netted 200,000 pounds of drugs collected in the County.
- Chief Whitney said they have a great relationship with Girl Scout Troop 2552 and helped the girls gain their Detective badge. Some of our officers supported them at their car wash fundraiser.
- Chief Whitney and our Human Service Co-Responder Cara Gadzinski joined Community Engagement Officer Ivone Kovalsky at the Behavioral Health Crisis

Board of Supervisors – January 22, 2024

Planning Symposium in Harrisburg. They work together to help those who struggle with mental health issues in Falls Township.

- Chief Whitney and Cara Gadzinski also attended a Mental Health Crisis: Hope & Help seminar at the Delaware Valley University.
- The Police Department staffed a table at the Holy Family Career Advancement Fair to attract people to law enforcement.
- There was an active shooter session at Reldan Metals and a case study was presented to an audience of Criminal Justice, Sociology and Psychology students at BCCC.
- Chief Whitney said last year there were eleven promotions, three retirements and a 25-year SWAT service award. There were three officers who graduated and have joined the department.
- Chief Whitney announced Judge Jan Vislosky's retirement.
- The overdose rate continues to drop. There were less than 40 overdoses in 2023. This number hasn't been that low since 2012.
- There were a little less than 19,500 calls for service in 2023, there were between 1,100 and 1,200 crashes last year. For truck enforcements, there were 151 traffic stops, 370 citations issued, 56 inspections and \$503,355 in fines.
- The Falls Township Police Traffic Safety Unit is responsible for targeted enforcement of the traffic laws designed to increase the safety of the motoring public.
- Chief Whitney has been working with Commissioner Marseglia, the Bucks County Human Services Division and the Peace Center on a plan for a \$545,000 grant from the Department of Justice to improve the relationship between the police and the community and provide services to individuals with mental health issues in Bucks County.
- In 2025, the department will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Falls Township Police Department and will pay tribute to its first officer, Franklin Kirby. There are plans to rehabilitate Franklin Kirby Park as Chief Franklin Kirby Park.

Member Boraski said he knows in past years the Rt. 1 super highway split was a major accident site. Chief Whitney said there are three ways to deal with traffic problems – engineering, enforcement and education. PennDOT did a great job at looking at that location and putting up dividers so people could not cut over like they did previously. The new hot spot is Pine Grove and West Trenton Ave. We get more crashes there than you would think would happen.

ITEM # 14 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE CABLE ADVISORY BOARD

There was no action on this agenda item.

ITEM # 15 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD

There was no action on this agenda item.

Board of Supervisors – January 22, 2024

ITEM # 16 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Member Mullen moved to appoint Suzanne Sabo to a position on the Environmental Advisory Board; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Mullen moved to appoint Jonathan Manderack to a position on the Environmental Advisory Board; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 17 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL BOARD

There was no action on this agenda item.

ITEM # 18 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

There was no action on this agenda item.

ITEM # 19 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There was no action on this agenda item.

ITEM # 20 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Chairman Dence moved to appoint Tim Watkins to a position on the Parks & Recreation Board; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 21 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT BY RESOLUTION TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Member Mullen moved to approve Resolution # 2024-4 to re-appoint John Haney to a position on the Planning Commission; Chairman Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 22 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICE PENSION COMMITTEE

There was no action on this agenda item.

ITEM # 23 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT BY RESOLUTION TO THE TOWNSHIP OF FALLS AUTHORITY

Chairman Dence moved to approve Resolution # 2024-5 to appoint Lanie Striluk to a position on the Township of Falls Authority; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 24 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT BY RESOLUTION TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD

Chairman Dence moved to approve Resolution # 2024-6 to re-appoint Bill Kiernan to a position on the Zoning Hearing Board; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 25 CONSIDERATION OF DONATION REQUESTS FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION POST (MEMORIAL DAY PARADE), BUCKS COUNTY ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE, DELAWARE VALLEY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, HISTORIC FALLSINGTON DAY, LEVITTOWN CONTINENTAL LITTLE LEAGUE, FAIRLESS HILLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, FALLS SOCCER CLUB, BUCKS COUNTY TOUR OF HONOR AND TOWNSHIPS AGAINST GRAFFITI

Member Palmer asked how much the dollar figure was to cover the porta potties at Levittown Continental Little League. Manager Takita said we will need to double check the amount but it is a cost we have covered in the past. Member Galloway moved to approve the donation requests to the American Legion Post (Memorial Day Parade), Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade, Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Historic Fallsington Day, Levittown Continental, Fairless Hills Athletic Association, Falls Soccer Club and the Bucks County Tour of Honor in the amount of \$6,000 each and Townships Against Graffiti in the amount of \$5,000 and also cover the cost of porta potties for the Levittown Continental Little League; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 26 MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2023 AND JANUARY 2, 2024

Member Galloway moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2023 and January 2, 2024; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 27 ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Jones said for the month of December, there was one new land development submission and four new earth disturbance submissions. Land development updates are in various progress of construction. LPC Morrisville is new. They recently went under construction for demolition. Sunbelt Forest Products is a new land development that was submitted and will appear before the Planning Commission tomorrow night for final land development approval. For the earth disturbance – two updates – both of those projects have been completed and are operating under a TCO and waiting for landscape restoration to occur. Items in the third column, all of the residential earth disturbance and one commercial have been reviewed and letters recommending issuance of earth disturbance permits have been issued. For Township projects, the municipal building project proceeds with storm water management, basin work, utility work and storm sewer work.

ITEM # 28 BILL LIST

Member Galloway moved to approve the bill list in the amount of \$3,291,899.47; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 29 OBERMAYER REBMANN MAXWELL & HIPPEL, LLP BILL LIST

Member Galloway moved to approve the bill list from Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel, LLP in the amount of \$44,992.86; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 30 JONES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES BILL LIST

Member Galloway moved to approve the bill list from Jones Engineering Associates in the amount of \$313,188.20; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Chairman Dence who abstained. (3-0-1)

ITEM # 31 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Clarke said an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss various personnel matters, an administrative matter about selecting a time for the second meeting of the month, potential litigation, several matters of litigation and a Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiation.

ITEM # 32 MANAGER COMMENT

There is a Christmas tree pick up on Saturday, January 27th. After that date, trees may be placed out with regular trash.

ITEM # 33 BOARD COMMENT


Member Galloway – no comment.

Member Mullen – no comment.

Member Palmer – no comment.

Chairman Dence – no comment.

Member Galloway moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Mullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Brian Galloway, Secretary

