

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

ROLL CALL:

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

The meeting commenced at 4:35 p.m. with roll call and pledge to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Boraski and Member Galloway. Also present were Township Manager/Chief Code Enforcement Officer & Zoning Officer Matthew Takita, Township Solicitor Lauren Gallagher and Township Engineer Joe Jones.

ITEM # 1 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Gallagher said the Board met in Executive Session earlier this evening to discuss personnel and Collective Bargaining.

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

No one signed in for public comment.

**ITEM # 3 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT FOR
PERMITTED USE OF EASEMENT FOR 121 BURGESS AVENUE**

Ms. Gallagher said the property owner is looking to construct an addition on their property. In order to do so, they would encroach on the Township's easement. Manager Takita and Mr. Jones have reviewed this request. Since this is a construction of a permanent addition rather than a fence or shed, it is up to the Board's discretion to approve. Member Mullen moved to approve the agreement for permitted use of easement for 121 Burgess Avenue; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (3-0)

**ITEM # 4 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT FOR
PERMITTED USE OF EASEMENT FOR 252 WILLOW DRIVE**

Ms. Gallagher said this an encroachment agreement which would allow for construction of a fence. Manager Takita and Mr. Jones have both reviewed this request. Member Mullen moved to approve the agreement for permitted use of easement for 252 Willow Drive; Member Palmer seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (3-0)

ITEM # 5 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mrs. Betsey Reukauf presented information on the proposed 2025 Budget. There was one

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workshop in September and we are having one tonight. There will be a third workshop on November 12th. Board members can contact Mrs. Reukauf for one-on-one discussions any time from now until November 20th. The presentation to the Board will be on November 25th. Public inspection of the proposed budget will take place from November 27th through December 17th. The budget will be ready for adoption by the Board at the December 17th Board of Supervisors meeting. Mrs. Reukauf said they will review capital budget requests by department. This lists all the departmental requests from the department heads.

Chairman Dence asked about the new slide at the Pinewood Pool. Mr. Andrews said the slide is in the \$166,000 range and the cost to install is extremely expensive. The company we are dealing with is through PA Co-Stars. Mr. Andrews is waiting to hear back from another company to try to bring down the installation cost. Chairman Dence asked if it were possible for the Public Works Department to install the slide. Mr. Andrews said they could look into it. Member Mullen asked for information on the Public Works vehicle replacement program. Member Mullen said they don't have the police department detail but she thinks she remembers vehicle replacements in that department as well. Chief Whitney said they have a replacement plan and the vehicles are replaced when they get to the five-year mark. There are four patrol vehicles slated for replacement in 2025. Member Mullen asked if that means we are replacing vehicles that don't need to be replaced yet? Chief Whitney said over the years they were holding onto vehicles beyond the five-year mark. They became maintenance intensive and had very high mileage. Member Mullen would like to get a write-up from Public Works for justification on their vehicle. Manager Takita said this is a very large 15-ton dump truck. It does snow plowing as well as other tasks. It is over 20 years old and has reached its lifespan. It is the only truck that does certain jobs. The dump body is part of that purchase. We don't want to wait too long to trade it in because we want to get a decent trade in. Member Mullen asked about the Traffic Impact Fee Study. Manager Takita said in order for us to implement a Traffic Impact Fee, a study is required under the NPC. They will access the township based on the current and projected conditions. New developers coming in would pay this fee. Member Mullen said she would like information on the last page, Capital Budget requests. Rating system – are these urgent issues? Chairman Dence said with the truck, he saw the notes on where the money was coming from. Chairman Dence said we should also look at privately selling the truck and said he knew of a company who will do this. Mr. Arnao had mentioned about putting it on Municibid. Ms. Gallagher said we have to take a look; it may have to be auctioned. Member Palmer spoke about Parks and Rec and Kirby Park. He knows the police department has a project going on over there and there are a lot of requests for funding for the basketball court. Mr. Andrews said we had that budgeted for this year and then the police department was looking at a renovation project. This is more of a contingency request until we find out more about how the police project will go. Member Palmer said he has concerns about the pool and the slide. This year with some adjustments, we were able to get through the year and call it even. He doesn't know what would happen with that kind of expenditure. Mr. Andrews said he is looking to see if they can do better with the expenditures. He doesn't want to wait until the slide breaks in the middle of the summer. Mr. Andrews said he is going to propose some rate increases to cover things like this going forward. Member Palmer said looking at the police department capital requests,

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he sees things like gloves and car wash and asked how they can be a capital expense. He said on the first page of the capital list, it looks like an operating budget sheet. Mrs. Reukauf said usually the police are given a capital budget flat sum that they have to operate within. It can certainly all be moved into the general fund. Because the host community fee subsidizes the general fund so heavily, it just means more money being transferred into the general fund so it doesn't reduce the host community fees expenses. Mrs. Reukauf said the last item are the proposed capital projects. These have to be reviewed and prioritized so that we have an order of completion on them. There are notes next to a couple of items that seem to be able to be put on hold. We are looking at a reimbursement on the South Olds culvert. For the Rice Drive culvert there is an alternate solution. For Amesbury Road, inlet cleaning was performed and the ponding seems to be a non-issue at this time. The largest item on that list is the Willow Drive full road re-construction. The Township Engineer is here to answer questions on each specific project. Chairman Dence asked about the status of the Rice Drive culvert. Mr. Jones said the Rice Drive culvert has been repaired and patched. We would like to close the loop with a company to repair this and then recommend we keep a watch on it. Member Palmer asked about the MS4 upkeep and management. Mr. Jones said this is a 5-year permit and we are required to reduce the pollution by 10%. This expires March of 2026. Mr. Jones further explained the process with the MS4 credits. Member Mullen asked about Willow Drive. Mr. Jones said they had a Road Master list of roads to be reconstructed. They did all the side streets in these neighborhoods and then the drives last. Elderberry Drive and Pinewood Drive were done and next is Willow Drive. This was technology from 50-60 years ago. The roads were not designed to current standards and they are deteriorating in certain places. Member Mullen asked if they could segment the work. Mr. Jones said yes. The next budget work session will be in November and at that point, Mrs. Reukauf will have the line item budgets. She will re-allocate the police expenses to the general fund.

ITEM # 6 MANAGER COMMENT

There was no action on this agenda item.

ITEM # 7 BOARD COMMENT

Member Palmer – no comment.

Member Mullen – no comment.

Chairman Dence – no comment.

Member Mullen moved to adjourn the meeting; Chairman Dence seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



Brian Galloway, Secretary