

# Middletown Township Board of Supervisors Budget Workshop

*October 26, 2020*

*7:00 p.m.*

## 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ksiazek called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All Board members were present along with the Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Finance Director Mega Bhandary, several department directors, and various staff.

## 2. Public Comment

- Donna Salvucci, 144 Pine Glen Road – stated she would like to see the Board install a traffic signal near her home at the intersection of Swift Road and Woodbourne Road. She recalled two motor vehicle accident deaths in the area. She worked with the Police Department and Citizens Traffic Commission a few years ago to review accident history data back to 1999. She added that the project was most recently in the 2019 and 2020 Capital Improvement Plans.
- Stacy O'Brien, 140 Clear Creek Road – advocated for the signalization of the intersection and shared her concern about the safety of students dropped off by the school bus. She added that she is concerned about additional traffic in the area that would be generated by a new Wawa nearby in Newtown Township.
- Virginia King, 313 White Swan Way – asked if there were minutes available from prior meetings where this issue was discussed. She noted that governmental entities that are made aware of dangerous situations and fail to act risk loss of governmental immunity. She advocated for the signalization of the intersection of Swift Road and Woodbourne Road.
- Jennifer Huntzberger, Hampton Drive – stated she is representing neighbors in support of purchasing 2 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for the Police Department. She added that if the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) does not award grants for them, the Township should make sure they are purchased.

In response to the comments about adding a traffic signal to the intersection of Swift Road and Woodbourne Road, Ms. Teoli Kuhls shared that there is verbal agreement from the development of the proposed Wawa in Newtown Township to offer funding for improving the intersection.

### 3. Resolution #20-29R – Disposition of Records

A resolution is proposed to destroy eligible records in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Records Manual.

**Motion to approve Resolution #20-29R, Disposition of Records, by Tom Tosti, seconded by Amy Strouse, motion carried 5-0.**

### 4. Capital Project Priorities

Ms. Teoli Kuhls shared that more than \$2.5 million in proposed capital improvement projects in 2020 were deferred in an effort to minimize the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, a total of \$5,865,900 of capital improvement projects are proposed. \$4.8 million are considered "Priority 1" and \$1 million are considered "Priority 2." The cost of these projects may be offset by nearly \$1 million in earned or potential grant revenue. The Capital Fund has a fund balance of \$6,725,180, which includes approximately \$2.8 million of bond proceeds that need to be spent by August 2021.

Mr. Ksiazek noted, for the public's benefit, that inclusion in the capital improvement plan does not guarantee that a project will be funded or completed. All projects must come individually before the Board to be approved.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls then provided an overview of the proposed Capital Improvement Plan that includes projects in the following categories:

- Police - \$341,200
- Information Technology - \$165,000
- Parks & Recreation - \$879,000
- Fire & Emergency Management - \$116,000
- Building & Grounds - \$210,200
- Public Works - \$2,197,000
- Transportation & Signals - \$727,500
- Storm Sewer & Drainage - \$1,190,000
- Administration - \$40,000

General discussion was then held regarding the Swift Road Signalization project. Ms. Teoli Kuhls noted that the proposed widening of Swift Road is included in the plan as a Priority 2 project and could be completed with the 2021 Road Improvement Program.

Mr. Ksiazek shared he would like to consider a Township-wide review of all major intersections in the area to make sure the most critical areas are being addressed first.

Ms. Strouse agreed with Mr. Ksiazek, and added that the Township's intersections need to be prioritized to assure the best possible use of tax dollars. She suggested engaging the Township's traffic engineer to assist. Ms. Strouse said she would appreciate anything that can be done to better inform their decision, and that future plans for the intersection should include a traffic signal at Swift Road and Woodbourne Road.

Ms. Salvucci asked if the public has the ability to see the study performed at this intersection and reiterated the need for the signal. Ms. Teoli Kuhls stated that everything done on this project to date is part of the public record.

Ms. Kane stated that she does not want the Swift Road project to be lost in the process of a Township-wide assessment.

#### 5. Public Works Building Improvements

Ms. Teoli Kuhls shared that improvements to the physical plant at the Public Works facility on Veterans Highway are necessary. She is recommending the Board of Supervisors consider reserving \$1 million of bond proceeds to address this issue.

#### 6. Other Business

Ms. Teoli Kuhls shared that the Drive-Thru Trick or Treat Extravaganza originally scheduled for Thursday, October 29, was rescheduled to Wednesday, October 28 due to inclement weather. She also shared that the Township received \$22,000 of CARES funding from Bucks County, the largest share of any municipality in the county.

#### 7. Adjournment

Ms. Strouse moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Mr. Tosti, carried by a vote of 5-0.