

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

March 7, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call.

Mr. Ksiazek called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. after the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Quirple called roll. Supervisors Ksiazek, Quirple, Hannah and Kane attended in person, along with the Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Solicitor James Esposito, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, and Engineer Isaac Kessler. Supervisor Payne attended the meeting virtually.

2) Announcements and Special Items.

a) Next Board of Supervisors Meeting – Monday, March 21, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

b) Parkland Fire Company Recognition – 100 Year Anniversary

Mr. Ksiazek stated that he was thrilled to be able to honor Parkland Fire Company, which is one of four volunteer fire companies that serve Middletown Township. Parkland is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2022. Mr. Ksiazek read a Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors. He recognized Chief TJ Stressman and President Jim McFadden as this past weekend, the Parkland Fire Company held its annual banquet at Uptown Hall in Parkland. The Township Manager, Chief of Police and Interim Director of Fire and Emergency Management were all in attendance to honor Parkland.

Mr. Ksiazek announced the names of the individuals who were recognized at the banquet: Kristin Oettinger, 20 years active service; Jared Watson, 15 years active service; and Harry Bickling, 5 years active service. He also announced that James McFadden, received the Chief's Award, Anthony Cole, received the President's Award, and Zachary Herstein received the Firefighter of the Year Award.

Mr. Ksiazek recognized the retirements of: Michael Fox, retiring after ten years as a Chief Line Officer and Edward Hill, retiring after twelve years as Captain of Fire Police.

The Board of Supervisors also recognized former Parkland Chief, Lyle Winters who also served as Middletown's first Fire Marshall. Mr. Ksiazek noted that Lyle traveled from Florida to celebrate with the Fire Company that he joined in 1949.

c) Resolution #22-09 - Developmental Disabilities Month

Mr. Ksiazek announced that the month of March is National Developmental Disabilities Month. He explained that during this month, we are reminded of the value and contributions people with developmental disabilities make to our community. He shared that our community is made stronger when all people, including those with developmental disabilities, are included, accommodated, and celebrated.

Mr. Ksiazek was pleased to share that the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors is recognizing the month of March as National Developmental Disabilities Month for the first time.

Mr. Ksiazek also noted that when the Board of Supervisors established the Human Relations Commission in 2020, it was merged with the existing Disabled Persons Advisory Board. Under their combined scope, the Human Relations Commission promotes the value and diversity of several underrepresented groups in our community, including those with mental and physical disabilities. He also thanked James Henderson of the Human Relations Commission for bringing this to our attention and encouraging us to give this month the recognition it deserves.

3) Public Comment. *Non-Agenda Items only.*

Tom Tosti, Oxford Drive; requested a resolution from the Board of Supervisors to oppose the sale of assets the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority. Mr. Tosti provided documentation outing concerns with privatizing water and sewer operations.

Ms. Kane question why the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority is selling their organization.

Ms. Hannah noted that Mr. Tosti was going to share his email. Mr. Tosti shared his email address.

Andy Warren of Shadybrook wished Supervisor Payne a Happy Birthday. Mr. Warren also noted that he agrees with Mr. Tosti in regards to the sale of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. He questioned whether a governmental board could prevent a private organization from their sale of the organization? Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority is its own governmental entity and no municipality would have the ability to tell them that they could or could not sell. Mr. Esposito stated that he will look into this.

4) Consent Agenda Items

- a) Consideration of authorizing payment of March 7, 2022 Bills List in the amount of \$766,739.10.
- b) Consideration of approving the February 22, 2022 Minutes of the Public Meeting of Middletown Township Board of Supervisors.
- c) Consideration of approving Resolution #22-08, authorizing submission to DCED Local Share Grant Program.

Action: Mrs. Quirple made a motion to approve consent agenda Items A-C as listed above; seconded by Ms. Hannah. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

5) Consideration of authorizing advertisement of Bid for 2022 Road Program.

Isaac E. Kessler, P.E., Township Engineer; explained that the bid documents for the 2022 Road Program are being finalized and requested approval to advertise for public bid. He noted that this year's Road Program consists of milling and overlay of approximately 21,000 linear feet of roadway (over 8 miles) throughout different areas of the Township.

- These areas include: Idlewood neighborhood: Doublewoods Road, S. Hazel Avenue, Hill Street, Bristol Avenue/Walnut Street, Dogwood Street, Shaw Avenue, Knoll Avenue, Forget Me Not Lane.
- Alternates include paving in areas that involve some additional drainage improvements such as: Hillside Avenue and Twin Oaks Park Main Larking Lot. An added inlet for stormwater improvements on Rugby Drive is included as an alternate, and the final alternate included with this year's Program is the construction of two new pickleball courts and one half-court basketball court at the Senior Citizen Center.

Mr. Kessler stated that the bid is being prepared to complete the base bid and alternates most effectively within the established budget under the Township's 2022 Capital Improvement Projects.

Ms. Kane questioned how the decision is made of which areas are to be paved. Mr. Kessler responded that he works with Mr. Gartenmayer and the Public Works Department to determine which roads are in need attention.

Ms. Quirple questioned if the project comes above budget, how is it determined which roads are necessary. Mr. Kessler responded that the project should come in well within budget but if not, the Township can always rebid or reject bids to keep within budget.

Ms. Hannah questioned when the project would begin. Mr. Kessler responded with hopes of mid-summer and reviewed the bid process for Ms. Hannah.

Action: Ms. Quirple made a motion to authorize the advertisement to solicit bids for the Township's 2022 Road Program; seconded by Ms. Hannah. Motion carried a vote of 5-0.

6) Consideration of authorizing purchase of Microsoft Office 365.

Chady Megeed, Technology Support Specialist, explained that Microsoft Office 365 Government is a set of productivity, security, and mobility cloud software tailored for US government agencies to hold controlled, unclassified information. Subscribing to an Office 365 G3 plan will better enable employees to be productive anywhere, anytime by allowing mobile productivity and secure collaboration. The G3 plan ensures the township use of cloud services for the transmission, storage, or processing complies with the CJIS Security Policy.

Premier Technology, located in Southampton, PA, (the Township's incumbent vendor and a CoStar's Vendor), has provided a quote for \$40,500.00 for this project. It was noted that \$50,000 was allocated in the 2022 Budget from the Capital Fund.

Mr. Megeed noted that the Office 365 will have an annual recurring cost of \$36,000.00, unless additional licenses are needed. He stated that currently there are five additional licenses. Ms. Quirple questioned how long the total cost is locked in for. Mr. Megeed responded indefinitely.

Action: Ms. Quirple made a motion to authorize the purchase of Microsoft Office 365 through Premier Technology In an amount not to exceed \$40,500.00; seconded by Ms. Kane. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

- 7) Consideration of accepting the resignation of Jacqueline Ratner from the Planning Commission.

Action: Mr. Quirple moved to accept Jacqueline Ratner's resignation from the Planning Commission; seconded by Ms. Hannah. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Ms. Ratner for her service to the Township.

- 8) Consideration of appointments to Boards and Commissions

Action: Ms. Kane moved to appoint Patrick Mallon the Planning Commission; motion failed for lack of second.

Action: Mr. Ksiazek moved to appoint Guy Triano the Planning Commission; seconded by Ms. Quirple. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Action: Ms. Kane moved to appoint Chris Fullon to the Historic Preservation Commission; seconded by Ms. Quirple. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Action: Ms. Kane moved to appoint William Everett to the Citizen's Traffic Commission; seconded by Ms. Quirple. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Action: Ms. Kane moved to appoint James Flynn to the Citizen's Traffic Commission; seconded by Ms. Payne. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

- 9) Middletown Police Department – Co-responder Program – Chief Joe Bartorilla.

Chief Joe Bartorilla spoke about the Township's participation in the County's Co-responder Program. Chief Bartorilla explained that the Co-responder Program began with the Bensalem Police Department in December 2020. After a year of success, Middletown Township Police Department and Falls Township Police Department were asked together to expand the current Co-responder Program into Middletown and Falls Townships. He explained that this program allows officers to proactively address patrol.

Chief Bartorilla shared that Jessica Manzo joined as Middletown Township Police Department in December 2021 as the new co-responder. In three short months, Ms. Manzo has already made a positive difference in assisting officers with social service referrals such as homelessness, addiction, mental help, elder care, and even some school issues.

Chief Bartorilla shared that Ms. Manzo has a background in crisis response and has her Master's Degree in social work. Ms. Manzo has local routes as a graduate of Neshaminy High School and worked as a Crisis Team Responder for Lenape Valley.

Chief Bartorilla explained that Ms. Manzo's position is funded through a Bucks County grant.

Chief Bartorilla thanked the County Commissioners, especially Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Bucks County Social Services; Rachael Neff, Falls Township Police Chief Nelson Whitney, Middletown Township Sergeant Bob Weber, and the Board of Supervisors for the support and encouragement of this project, especially to Mr. Ksiazek who advocated to bring this valuable program at Middletown Township.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Chief Bartorilla for giving the Township this opportunity and is happy to hear that the program is such a success.

Mr. Ksiazek welcomed and thanked Ms. Manzo for all the great work she is doing. He also thanked his fellow Board of Supervisor for backing this program, as well as Ms. Teoli Kuhls, and the Bucks County Commissioners.

Ms. Quirple welcomed Ms. Manzo and thanked Chief Bartorilla for providing this service to the community as there is such need with homelessness and mental illnesses.

Ms. Kane questioned whether there is anyway to share Ms. Manzo's expertise with the Police Officers. Chief Bartorilla explained that having Ms. Manzo in the Police Department is an immediate resource. He noted that Ms. Manzo has already helped several officers with her wealth of knowledge navigating the complicated field of social services. He noted that the Police Department has always been well trained in crisis management prior to adding Ms. Manzo to the department.

Ms. Payne shared how excited she is to see the program's success at Middletown Township. She welcomed Ms. Manzo to Middletown Township.

10) Review of PennDOT US 1 Project.

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Manager, presented the US 1 Improvement Project, Section RC3, which is the fourth section of the US Route 1 Project that will directly impact Middletown Township. Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that the project proposes to modernize the roadway for safety and efficiency in travel. The project will match current road design criteria and driver expectations.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that the project limits are from just north of the US 1 Bridge over Business Route 1 to just south of the US 1 Maple Avenue interchange. She noted that the impact will be Middletown Township, Langhorne Borough and Langhorne Manor Borough.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls stated that PennDOT is encouraging public feedback and residents

can visit the project website at www.us1bucks.com/section-rc3. She explained that the project is currently in Preliminary Design Phase, with construction not anticipated until 2026.

She presented a slide show depicting the existing conditions of US Route 1 as well as the proposed improvements that include removal of the concrete islands, two 12-ft travel lanes in each direction with a 6-ft shoulder at center concrete barrier and a 14-ft paved shoulder on outer lanes. She also explained that PennDOT is considering installation of pedestrian/bicycle facilities in place of the access roads.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls noted that PennDOT intends to conduct another "public plans" display meeting, where residents will be able to directly locate their parcels on the plans.

She explained that PennDOT has requested a letter or Resolution of support from the Township due to the significant safety improvement in the community.

Traffic Engineer Phil Wursta added that it is very important that this project move forward as this highway needs to be updated from its 1960's design. He explained that the roundabout is good for traffic calming and the advocacy of walking trails. Mr. Wursta added that he is in favor of the resolution of support for this project.

Ms. Quirple questioned the proposed walking paths in relationship to the access roads and crossing safely. Ms. Teoli Kuhls explained that the Board can advocate for pedestrian safety.

Ms. Quirple questioned if there was a way for someone to get from the north side to the south side. Mr. Wursta explained there are existing bridges that can take you back and forth.

Ms. Kane questioned the keeping of the access on the north side. Mr. Wursta responded that concept is still in flux. From the slide show presentation Ms. Teoli Kuhls pointed the areas that were being removed and that were staying.

Mr. Ksiazek noted that he appreciated PennDOT offering opportunity for input and comment, as well as providing time to speak with them, as the project evolves. He noted that it is a great opportunity to help push for some mitigation efforts and place a resolution of support on the next agenda.

Andy Warren commented on his agreement with expediting the project. He noted concern about the proposed sound barriers as they be very costly.

Mr. Ksiazek thanked Mr. Warren for his institutional knowledge.

Bob Feather, 96 Highland Park Way, expressed concerns in regards to the project and how the residents in that area will be impacted.

Ms. Kane questioned if the Township has received any studies that have been completed by PennDOT for the areas that are impacted. Mr. Wursta explained that

PennDOT does have environmental impact statement for the length of the project completed by their traffic engineers.

Ms. Kane questioned if the Township has received any feedback. Ms. Teoli Kuhls responded that the Township received feedback when the project was introduced years ago, but has not received any lately. Mr. Wursta added that this is the time for the residents to become engaged.

Mr. Ksiazek noted that currently this project will not commence until at least 2026. He explained that PennDOT is looking for all feedback and that the Township has offered the Township building as a location to host their meetings.

Ms. Hanna questioned how the Township is communicating to the residents what stage this project is in. Ms. Teoli Kuhls encouraged residents to use the PennDOT link which can also be found on the Township website.

11) Other Business.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls announced that March is Colon Cancer Awareness month. She recognized Supervisor Payne who is wearing blue tonight to raise awareness regarding colon cancer. Ms. Teoli Kuhls shared that Ms. Payne herself is fighting colon cancer and encouraged those watching to get regular screenings, know the signs of the disease and always trust your instincts if you think something is not right.

Ms. Kane welcomed Jess Manzo to the Middletown Township Police Department.

Ms. Hannah thanked Chief Joe Bartorilla and the Middletown Township Police Department for the comprehensive approach supporting the community.

Ms. Payne congratulated Parkland Fire Company, as she hopes to attend their event next year. She also thanked Ms. Teoli Kuhls for mentioning that March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Payne encouraged everyone to listen to your body and noted that it is never too early to start the conversation with your doctor. She also thanked James Henderson for spear heading the disabilities resolution.

Ms. Payne concluded by thanking Mr. Warren for the birthday wishes and acknowledged all residents who attend and participate in the meetings.

Mr. Ksiazek recognized Andriy Penchak, Middletown Township resident for his courage and bravery for returning to Ukraine to fight for his country.

Mr. Ksiazek also announced that there is a township resident who is collecting donations to send to Ukraine. He provided a list of all items being accepted for donations. The items can be dropped off at 528 Fairman Lane in Langhorne from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Ksiazek then shared happy news, as he welcomed Ashley Casey, Executive Assistant to the Township Manager, back after having a baby. Mr. Ksiazek also congratulated Nick Valla, Assistant Township Manager, on his recent engagement this past weekend.

12) Adjournment.

Action: Mrs. Hannah made a motion to adjourn the Public Meeting of the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors at 8:25 p.m. Ms. Quirple seconded. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0.