



**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
March 8, 2023  
7:30 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Tom Zipfel called the March 8, 2023 Workshop Meeting of the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners to order at 7:30 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Aaron Bibro, Township Manager. Present at the meeting were President Tom Zipfel, Vice President Bob Rodgers, Commissioner Jerry Andris and Commissioner Deborah Zimmerman. In addition to Township Manager Aaron Bibro, also in attendance were Solicitor Christen Pionzio, Assistant Township Manager Scott Hutt, Township Engineer Bryan McAdam and Chief of Police William Tierney.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Deborah Zimmerman.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice President Rodgers motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

**V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no citizen's comments.

**VI. CONSENT ITEMS**

*Motion to Enter Items A-E into the Record*

- A. Police Report – *February*
- B. Hatfield and Colmar Monthly Fire Reports – *February*
- C. HTMA Monthly Budget Report – *January 10, 2023*
- D. NPWA Meeting Minutes – *January 24, 2023*

E. VMSC Monthly Report – *February*

Vice President Rodgers motioned to move the consent items into record, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

**VII. SPECIAL ITEM**

**A. Women's History Month**

*Recognizing Outstanding Women in the Hatfield Community*

Commissioner Zimmerman welcomed everyone as they honor the notable women of Hatfield for their contributions in honor of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. The Board of Commissioners are recognizing the following women who represent a dedication to public service using their talents and leadership skills to benefit the community in various ways.

- Ward 1: Dottie Miller has devoted most of her life to helping others with the support of her family and faith. She recently retired after a 41-year career with Merck. She was the first woman president of the union, OPEIU and worked tirelessly on women's issues including equal pay, better health care, family medical leave policy and the ability to work from home. Mrs. Miller has worked to help numerous charitable organizations, school programs, the boy scouts and has participated in many fundraising activities. She serves on a number of boards and committees throughout the community. She has served on the Hatfield Planning Commission (HPC) since 2008 and is the first women to hold the position of President of the HPC. She and her family have lived in Hatfield Township since 1978.
- Ward 2: Tina Sowicz has lived in Hatfield Township since 1987 and has been involved in many Township projects over the years. She was involved with writing the leash law, consulted on the dog park, is a block captain for the neighborhood watch, and volunteers at the polls during elections. She was instrumental in seeing her vision for a mural at the Aquatic Center that conveys a message of positivity through a 2-year process to completion. Mrs. Sowicz was a therapeutic instructor with physically disabled adults, she actively volunteers in the community with races and works at an animal rescue instituting new programs such as volunteer coordinator and humane education director. She and her husband have rescued several cats and dogs taking in those animals that are deemed "unadoptable". She has advocated for the rights of disabled people and animal rights legislation. She is currently advocating for a small parking lot at Frick's Trail.
- Ward 3: Crystal Patel has a passion for giving back which she tries to instill in her children. She regularly volunteers at various Township Parks and Recreation events. She has lived in the Township since 2003. She has a chemistry degree from Temple and currently holds the position of lab manager at Clean Earth, an environmental regulated waste management service. Mrs. Patel and Clean Earth partner with the Township for Earth Day providing the recycling of household

waste products. They also sponsor the Nature Camp, educating campers on the importance of recycling and the beneficial reuse of daily items we normally throw away. She actively volunteers at races, Rocktoberfest, park cleanups and holiday festivities. Mrs. Patel often volunteers at school events, helping the elderly at Paradise Manor, and with cultural events at her Hindu Temple. She is a true believer in giving back to her community.

- Ward 4: Jennifer Breen grew up in the North Penn area and moved from Lansdale to Hatfield in 2011. She has a degree in business administration with a minor in biology. She is a member of the North Penn & Central Bucks County Chambers of Commerce and participated in the Women in Business Groups which sought to educate and empower women in business. She is currently a senior consultant for Project Outlier assisting pharmaceutical and biotech companies to deliver life changing therapies to patients. She volunteers as a grief support facilitator for the Bereavement Ministry of St. Stanislaus Parish. Mrs. Breen also spends time helping at St. Maria Goretti Church coordinating weddings and funerals. She has instilled in her children the qualities of empathy and compassion for other and the importance of giving back. Along with her daughter, they founded Girl Friday for God as a resource to provide ideas, information and support to girls and women seeking to serve God.
- Ward 5: Corrine Landauer is very passionate about giving back. She has founded and is a part of several non-profit organizations helping those less fortunate than herself. She and her husband have three children and actively participate in their activities. She has lived in the Township since 2003. She is an elected constable in Montgomery County, the first black constable, and is serving her second term. Seeing a rise in evictions since the pandemic, Mrs. Landauer is currently working with a magisterial judge and state legislators on a landlord/tenant bill of rights. She founded the Marian Lawrence Foundation, named after her grandmother as a place for youth to go when not in school which has programs to develop excellence in young people. She has developed a youth musical ensemble which performs at area events. She is the assistant director of the Montgomery County Chapter of Democratic Black Caucus, is involved in the HOPE Alliance, participates in the Chat n Chew event and works as a DJ. Mrs. Landauer regularly takes part in activities at her children's school.

President Zipfel recognized Commissioner Zimmerman as the sixth notable woman of Hatfield.

Dan Reavy, Hatfield Township Tax Collector reported that tax bills are out and congratulated the Board on nine (9) consecutive years of no tax increases. He added that the 2% discount period runs through May 5<sup>th</sup>, after May 6<sup>th</sup> is the face value period and after July 6<sup>th</sup> is the penalty phase.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Vice President Rodgers**

There was no report.

### **B. Public Works Committee – Commissioner Lees**

There was no report.

### **C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner Zimmerman**

Commissioner Zimmerman reported on upcoming Township events and activities. She announced the Township is hiring for summer positions at the Aquatic Center.

### **D. Public Safety Committee –President Zipfel**

President Zipfel announced the retirements of Lt. Jay Ciarllo and Det. Sgt. Rich Hoffner from the Hatfield Township Police Department. Det. Bill Steinberg was promoted and sworn in as Detective Sergeant overseeing the detective division. Chief Tierney participated in an event at Manna on Main collecting non-perishable goods for those in immediate need. President Zipfel also announced the Hatfield Township Police Department received approval of a grant for just over \$92,000 for assorted equipment purchases.

### **E. Finance Committee – Commissioner Andris**

Commissioner Andris reported that grant approval helps us to contain costs and keep taxes in check while still pursuing projects, and providing quality service and amenities in the Township. We have received grants for traffic signal improvements, a runners' path at Cowpath & Orvilla Frick's Trail, Liberty Bell Trail, safe bridges, and the soon to be expanded and redeveloped Clemens Park. Since 2012 the Township has received over \$10M in funding from the state. Commissioner Andris said the Township is currently seeking grants to offset costs for the new police station and for the intersection of Welsh & Orvilla Rds.

## **IX. ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. HTMA 2023/2024 Budget  
Resolution #23-03  
*Motion for Approval***

Mr. Bibro said Pete Dorney presented the HTMA budget at the previous meeting with a proposed increase due to rising costs associated with operating the plant. Hatfield Township sewer rates are in the bottom 10% and are among the lowest in the region. He mentioned one adjustment to the budget and the increase will be slightly more than previously reported. The increase will be \$5.00 per household per month instead of the reported \$4.00 per month.

President Zipfel motioned to approve Resolution #23-03, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

## **X. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Township Manager's Report**

#### **1. Agricultural Security Area – 2550 Line Lexington Road**

Mr. Bibro said the Harvey Family who reside at 2550 Line Lexington Road are looking to preserve their 25-acre property. They are going through a lengthy process in order to participate in the state's Farmland Preservation Program. This involves a conservation easement purchased by the state which forever preserves the property. In order to participate in the program, the state requires the property to be within an Agricultural Security Area (ASA) which Hatfield Township has none and does not have the ability to create an ASA. Mr. Bibro added that we can piggyback on the ASA from Franconia Township which has hundreds of acres that have already been approved. We are proposing a resolution that will allow us to participate and enroll this property in the Franconia Township ASA. He noted that Pennsylvania has the most preserved farmland totaling 596,827 acres. Mr. Harvey explained the history of the property and the procedures of the preservation procedure such as being a working farm, getting a soil survey and other processes the state requires.

#### **2. Bid Opening Reminder – Regular Meeting**

Mr. Bibro said they will be announcing the bid awards for road paving at the next meeting.

## **XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

## **XII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

There were no citizen's comments.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Andris motioned for adjournment, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.