



HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING August 28, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Zipfel called the August 28, 2024 Regular 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, Commissioner Jennifer LoStracco and Commissioner Shahidul Partha. In addition to Township Manager Aaron Bibro, also in attendance were Solicitor John Iannozzi, 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 volunteer Jim Swartley.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to Enter Items 1 - 6 into the Record

- 1. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2024**
- 2. Treasurer's Report – August**
- 3. Bills Payable:**
 - A. Paid Bills – \$253,492.89
 - B. Unpaid Bills – \$785,460.39
- 4. Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company Report – 2024 2nd Quarter**
- 5. Colmar Volunteer Fire Company Monthly Report – July**
- 6. HTMA Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2024**

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to move the Consent Items into record, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS -- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no citizens comments.

VII. SPECIAL ITEMS

- A.** Recognition of Jim Swartley for 65 years of service to the Colmar Volunteer Fire Company and the Hatfield Community.

The Board of Commissioners recognized and thanked Jim Swartley for his 65 years of volunteerism with the Colmar Fire Company and Hatfield Community. Mr. Swartley is a second-generation fire fighter. He joined the fire company when he was just fourteen (14) years old. He has held numerous positions in his long career: junior fire fighter, fire truck driver, and assistant fire chief. He became Fire Chief in 1978 and served in that role for thirteen (13) years and later on did a second stint as chief for ten (10) additional years. When Mr. Swartley began his firefighting career, the response calls averaged 150 per month. Today that average can be upwards of 800 calls per month. Two significant events occurred during his tenure: the Century Kitchens Fire and the crash of an A-4 Skyhawk. Some of his fellow firefighters shared their thoughts of Mr. Swartley.

“Jim could read a fire better than anyone I know. It was almost like he had a sixth sense about it.”

“We have a great reputation as a fire company and it took us a long time to build that reputation and become a modern fire company and Jim steered us through that process.”

President Zipfel read the proclamation for Jim Swartley citing his leadership of the Colmar Fire Company in helping them become one of the area's most progressive, extensively trained departments.

- B.** Bike More, Drive Less Project
Jacqui Baxter-Rollins, Executive Director, Partnership TMA

Ms. Baxter-Rollins said the Partnership TMA is dedicated to advancing accessible, safe and sustainable transportation solutions that are affordable. She presented the Bike More, Drive Less Program that is a 2-year project. The goal of the project is to encourage more people to ride bikes more often by increasing bike infrastructure, installing bike racks, increased signage and bike lanes for safety. This is a grant funded project through DVRPC. The Partnership TMA also secured a 6-month grant through AARP to help kick off the project. The start of the project will include bike audits by a select group of volunteers that will bring recommendations to the Board in December. There will be monthly online advisory group meetings with the next one on September 10th at 6:30 pm

- C.** 2023 Audit Presentation
Julia Davis, CPA, MBA, Dunlap SLK

Ms. Davis gave an overview of the 2023 Audit Report. She said the report is an unmodified opinion on the activities of the Township. Also included in the document is the Management Discussion and Analysis written by Finance Director Dave Bernhauser. Two sets of financial statements are included in the report; one based on accrual (long term view) and the other non-accrual based. The total net position for the Township at the end of 2024 was \$40,483,000 which is a healthy balance. Mr. Bibro said that figure includes roads and other infrastructure that you cannot sell. Ms. Davis said \$31.7M is the net amount invested in capital assets (roads, equipment, etc.) less the amount of debt that the Township took on to acquire those things. Total revenues in 2023 were \$13.6M which is an increase of \$700,000 from 2022 due to taxes. Expenses also increased in 2023 from the previous year. The net change in general fund balance was \$1.6M for 2023. Ms. Davis also reported on the Police Pension Plan which she said was 83% funded and the Non-uniform Pension Plan was 82% funded. Revenues for 2023 were budgeted at \$12.1M and actual revenue came in at \$13.6M. Expenditures were underbudget for the year. Overall, the net change in fund balance was \$1.6M.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Vice President Rodgers

There was no report.

B. Public Works Committee

Mr. Bibro said the 2024 Roads Program is currently underway and will be completed soon.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner LoStracco

Commissioner LoStracco reported on the upcoming Parks and Rec events.

D. Public Safety Committee – Commissioner Partha

Commissioner Partha reported on the recent activities the Police Department participated in.

E. Finance Committee – Commissioner Andris

There was no report.

IX. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

1. Township Manager's Report

- A. Recycling Ordinance Amendment
Motion to advertise ordinance

Mr. Bibro said the Township is a part of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission Consortium consisting of eleven (11) neighboring towns. The Commission is asking to modify how the grants are received each year. The original ordinance was based on population, but the modification is for performance based (how much recycling occurs in each community). It includes residential and commercial recycling.

President Zipfel motioned to advertise the recycling Ordinance, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote

B. Appointment of Dave Bernhauser to Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee
Motion for Approval

Mr. Bernhauser has been a member of the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee since its inception and this is just an update that the county requested.

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote

X. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Barry Groff of 2719 Cowpath Road expressed concern about a dangerous intersection at the border of Hatfield Township and Towamencin Township and wants the Township to investigate the safety issues in that location. He suggested a speed bump at the intersection. President Zipfel asked him to speak with Chief Tierney after the meeting and he will report back to the Board.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Rodgers motioned for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.