



## **HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING July 24, 2024**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Tom Zipfel called the July 24, 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 members of the BAPS community.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Partha. 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 – June 26, 2024**
- 2. Treasurer's Report – July**
- 3. Bills Payable:**
  - A. Paid Bills – \$89,874.32
  - B. Unpaid Bills – \$677,932.64
- 4. VMSC Monthly Report – June**

5. NPSA Meeting Minutes – *May 28, 2024*
6. HTMA Budget Report – *May, June*

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to move the consent items into the record, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote

## **VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS -- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no citizens comments.

## **VII. SPECIAL ITEMS**

- A. Chapman Scholarship Awards  
- *Hatfield Police Benevolent Association*

Lieutenant Boyd of the Hatfield Police Department announced the recipients of the 2024 William J. Chapman Memorial Scholarship. Officer Chapman was part of the police department for fifteen (15) years until his untimely death due to illness in 2005. He was an exemplary police officer and an extraordinary man who was known for his kindness, loyalty, optimism and sense of humor. This scholarship is in its' nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) year and is awarded to students from the community who are pursuing studies in fields that help others in the community. Graduating high school seniors that are pursuing degrees in criminal justice, education, medicine, law or social work are eligible to apply for this scholarship. The students selected tonight exemplify the spirit of the scholarship and they distinguish themselves through their outstanding personal achievements and commitments to their communities. The four (4) recipients receiving a \$1000 scholarship include;

Alexis Nyce was unable to attend as she is in summer session at Penn State. She is a graduate of North Penn High School and was a member of Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps where she received the award for top performer. Alexis is also a member of the National Honor Society, the National Alliance on Mental Illness Club. She played varsity softball helping North Penn to the State Championship in 2023. Alexis is an active member of the Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company earning her Firefighter 1 certification in 2023 and her EMT certification recently. She is pursuing a career in sports medicine and physical therapy at Penn State University.

Carina Laventure is a graduate of North Penn High School. She was a student representative of the Safe Schools Committee, Vice President of the African American Allies Club, founder of the North Penn Wellness Committee, 2024 Class Treasurer, AP Scholar with distinction and a National African American recognized scholar. Carina volunteered for the pre-k counts and head start program, completed advocacy work with the NAACP, volunteered with the Hatfield Parks and Recreation Department and worked at the Hatfield Aquatic Center this summer. She will be attending Howard University majoring in philosophy with a minor in Africana Studies on a pre law track.

Yordanos Lemma is a North Penn graduate. She was one of twenty-four students across the United States selected for the Citizens University Youth Collaboratory, one of twelve scholars chosen nationally for the Bezos Scholars Program, was President of the Cultural Proficiency and Equity Student Ambassadors, and was President of the African American Awareness Club. Yordanos was also a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and a No Place for Hate Ambassador. She volunteers at Manna on Main, St. Phillips Vacation Bible School and worked at the Hatfield Aquatic Center during the summer. Yordanos will be attending the University of Southern California majoring in public policy on a pre law track.

Billinda Leisner is a graduate of Dock Mennonite Academy. She is a member and secretary of the National Honor Society, an AP student, captain and all-state mid-fielder of the varsity soccer team where she helped secure the team's first ever state championship. She is also a member of the Athletic Leadership Council, the Chapel Committee and the Athletic Training Club. Billinda volunteers at Manna on Main, created and participated in youth summer sports camps and was an upwards basketball referee and coach. She will be attending Eastern University where she will major in exercise science with a minor in biology. Following graduate studies, Billinda wants to pursue a career in sports medicine.

#### **B. Recognition of BAPS North America 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

President Zipfel recognized the BAPS community and their temple as one of the most giving and involved organizations in Hatfield Township. They host an annual charity walk that raises money for organizations within the community. This year, the Hatfield Police were the recipients. BAPS also hosts a Health & Wellness Day and a Diwali Celebration. President Zipfel read the BAPS Proclamation on its 50<sup>th</sup> year of faith and service in the United States. He also presented them with the framed collage of memories.

A representative from the BAPS community thanked the Board and said they are profoundly honored to receive this proclamation, not only to recognize the fifty (50) years of service in North America, but eighteen (18) years locally in Hatfield Township. She said this acknowledgement is incredibly meaningful and we accept this honor with full gratitude and further added the proclamation inspires our youth to continue to move our commitment to serve our community forward.

### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

There was no report.

#### **B. Public Works Committee**

Mr. Bibro said road paving will begin in August.

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

Commissioner LoStracco reported on the upcoming Parks & Recreation programs and events.

**D. Public Safety Committee –Commissioner Partha**

Commissioners Partha reported on the recent events the Police participated in.

**E. Finance Committee – Commissioner Andris**

Commissioner Andris reported that Township Auditor Julie Davis will be at the next Board meeting in August to report on the 2024 audit. He gave a mid-year fiscal report and said real estate taxes were budgeted at \$3.7M, so far, we’ve collected \$3.5M and expect to be in line with budget. Transfer taxes are lower than last year but we are on pace to meet budget. Building permit fees are slightly lower than last year but are anticipated to meet budget expectations. Expenses are slightly higher than last year based on timing of certain payments, but we expect it to meet budget. Commissioner Andris said the formal budget process begins in August.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Fall Leaf Pickup Bid Results (3-year agreement)**  
*Motion to award bid to J.P. Mascaro & Sons for \$123,804*

Mr. Bibro said the annual amount of the leaf pickup put us over the threshold that would require us bid the project. We decided to bid is as a 3-year project to try and get a better price. Mascaro was the low bidder and they handled the project last year as well.

Vice President Rodgers motioned to award the bid to JP Mascaro, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

**X. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Township Manager’s Report**

**A. Project Updates**

**1. Connector Road Construction and Detour**

Mr. Bibro reported that the eastbound lanes on Cowpath Road will be detoured for the next ninety-six (96) days. This project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025. The soundwall is in place and the soundwall color was picked by the neighbors.

**2. Clemens Park Renovation**

The renovation began with clearing the site area. Pipes are currently being installed with project completion expected this fall.

**3. Police Station Construction**

Permits have been secured for this project. There will be a construction camera in place taking pictures every few seconds that we will play at a future meeting to show the entire construction process.

4. Hatfield Bike Plan

We are partnering with Hatfield Borough on a Bike Plan connecting the Township and Borough with bike lanes, striping and increased signage to make Hatfield more walkable/bikeable. Public outreach is planned.

**XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

**XII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Anne Marie Legates at 2451 Jodi Sue Lane commented that the house behind hers was recently purchased by FEMA and wants to know what the plan is for the property. Mr. Bibro said the house will be demolished, graded and seeded to mitigate future flooding. It will be open space owned by the Township in perpetuity. He told the resident if she has ideas for the property to let him know. Mr. Bibro offered to meet with her at the property to address any issues.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Rodgers motioned for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.