



## **HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

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

President Tom Zipfel called the November 20, 2024 Workshop & 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 Chief of Police William Tierney.

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

There were no citizens comments.

### **VI. CONSENT ITEMS**

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

- A.** Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – *October 23, 2024*
- B.** HTMA Monthly Budget Report and Minutes – *October*
- C.** NPWA Meeting Minutes – *September 24, 2024*
- D.** Police Report – *November*
- E.** VMSC Monthly Report – *November*
- F.** Treasurer's Report – *November*
- G. Bills Payable:**
  - A.** Paid Bills – \$67,669.23
  - B.** Unpaid Bills – \$1,680,165.83

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

## **VII. SPECIAL ITEMS**

A video was presented by the staff of the Year in Review highlighting the groundbreaking for the new Police Department, grant acquisition success, Clemens Park, volunteer service, welcoming new Board members, Jennifer LoStracco and Shahidul Partha, the Community Leader Award for Aaron Bibro, 2024 road work including the installation of bike lanes, and recognizing many people who give their time to making Hatfield Township such a great community. Former Eagles quarterback Randall Cunningham made a cameo appearance announcing the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year of no tax increase!

President Zipfel recognized the staff as the true leaders in the Township and thanked them for a great year.

### **A. Grant Award and Check Presentation**

*Senator Maria Collet and State Representative Steve Malagari*

Senator Collet and Representative Malagari presented the Township with two (2) checks totaling \$1,725,000 for the construction of the Hatfield Police Department. President Zipfel thanked them for this extraordinary contribution on behalf of the residents.

### **B. Steel Beam Signing Ceremony – Police Station Construction Project**

President Zipfel announced the signing of the steel beam that will be the foundation for the construction of the new police department. The beam was signed by the Board of Commissioners, Township staff and Police Officers, State Representatives, former Commissioners and residents. The steel beam signifies strength and resilience representing the residents commitment to the Police Force and the commitment of the Police to the residents.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

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

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

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

There were no committee reports.

## IX. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Presentation of the 2025 Draft Budget – No Tax Increase (**11th straight year**)  
*Motion to advertise ordinances for budget adoption and maintaining tax rates for 2025*

Mr. Bibro presented the 2025 Draft Budget thanking Finance Director Dave Bernhauser for his work throughout the budget process. He announced an eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) straight budget without a tax increase

Highlights of the budget include:

- Completion of the Hatfield Police Station
- Completion of Clemens Park
- Investment of over \$900,000 into paving roads
- Seek funding for the intersection of Welsh and Orvilla Roads
- Build 1,500 ft of the Liberty Bell Trail and plan for more
- Continued support of the VMSC
- Sumneytown / 309 Connector Road Opens

Mr. Bibro said the total budget is roughly \$20M with the General Fund consisting of over \$13M.

### 2025 Township Revenue

Real Estate taxes and Earned Income Tax (EIT) are the primary sources of Township revenue

- Only 8% of the real estate taxes paid by residents goes to the Township
- 12% goes to Montgomery County
- 80% to North Penn School District
- The median taxpayer in Hatfield Township pays roughly \$1000 per year for real estate taxes and earned income taxes

### 2025 Township Expenses

Approximately 60% of the budget is for Public Safety. Other priorities include Infrastructure Improvement (road maintenance and stormwater management), and Parks and Recreation programs, activities and trail connections.

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve the advertisement of the 2025 Budget, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

- B. Reimbursement Grant Agreement – Signature Authorization  
**Resolution #24-17**  
*Motion for Approval*

This Resolution gives the Township Manager and Assistant Manager the authorization to sign documents pertaining to grant awards.

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to approve Resolution 24-17, seconded by Vice President Rodgers. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

**C. Grant Application – Pedestrian Flashers**  
**Resolution #24-18**  
*Motion for Approval*

Mr. Bibro said the pedestrian flashers create a safer environment for residents using the trail system. Four sections of the Township were identified for the flashers including the entrance to Frick's Trail, the entrance to School Road, the Fairground in Elroy Crossing and Vine Street crossing. A grant has been identified to fund one hundred percent of the project.

Commissioner Partha motioned to approve Resolution 24-18, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

**X. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS**

There were no staff reports.

**XI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Patricia Houston-Martinez asked if the movie lots were originally owned by community members who defaulted on their taxes? Do you think our community has the right to vote on what happens to the movie lots? She also submitted a letter from her doctor asking her neighbors (agricultural professionals and developers) to refrain from using synthetic pesticides. Her symptoms correlate with long-term using of pesticides such as Round-up.

President Zipfel said because of the small size of the movie lots, he would be surprised if anyone defaulted on them and has never heard of that. He asked her if she knows which property is using the synthetic pesticides. Ms. Houston-Martinez responded that it is the large field behind her property.

John Sperling who owns six (6) movie lots said the school district acquired many of the movie lots from people who didn't pay their taxes. He also said most of the movie lots were 40 ft. x 120 ft. and people couldn't do anything with such a small lot so they didn't pay the tax on the lot.

Mr. Bibro said the December meeting will be held on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday in December.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Rodgers motioned for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.