



HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Bob Rodgers called the September 25, 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 Vice President Bob Rodgers, Commissioner Jerry Andris and Commissioner Jennifer LoStracco. 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 Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to Enter Items 1 – 3 into the record

- 1. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2024**
- 2. Treasurer's Report – September**
- 3. Bills Payable:**
 - A. Paid Bills – \$67,684.52
 - B. Unpaid Bills – \$2,126,115.52

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to move the Consent Items into record, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS -- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mr. Bibro announced to the audience members if you are here as a result of the proposed property sale by the North Penn School District that you may comment at the end of the meeting. Currently, a plan has not been submitted to the Township and nothing concerning the potential project is on tonight's agenda. Mr. Bibro also said we are on the fourth public hearing of the property adjacent to the proposed sale.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

1. Pension Obligations – 2025

Resolution #24-15

Motion for Approval

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve Resolution #24-15, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote

2. Recycling Ordinance Amendment

Ordinance #705

Motion for Approval

Solicitor Iannozzi suspended the public meeting and opened a public hearing pursuant to Ordinance #705. The following exhibits were entered into record.

- T1: Letter to The Reporter
- T2: Proof of Publication
- T3: Ordinance #705

Mr. Bibro said the Township belongs to a consortium of municipalities for our community recycling program. The consortium requested that we revise how grants are calculated. Previously, grants were calculated based on population, but now they will be calculated based on the performance of each municipality. Funding will be based on tonnage that gets recycled in the community.

Solicitor Iannozzi closed the public hearing and resumed the public meeting.

Commissioner LoStracco motioned to approve Ordinance #705, seconded by Commissioner Andris. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote

3. 18-Month Maintenance Period - 3120 Penn Street

Resolution #24-16

Motion for Approval

Mr. McAdams said this the Penn Street Apartments Project is complete and this resolution will move it to the next step of a maintenance period for 18 months.

Commissioner Andris motioned to approve Resolution #24-16, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote

VIII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Please note: The starred ** comments are in reference to a proposed sale of farmland by the North Penn School District to developer Pulte Homes.

** Mr. Bibro read a statement from resident Patricia Houston-Martinez who was present but unable to speak due to health issues. In this statement, Ms. Houston-Martinez expressed concerned about digging up the cornfield. She is bringing evidence that this is a health risk to the community, her family and herself. She said in her statement that the farmers have been using the pesticide Round Up on their crops since the 1990's. In 2015, the World Health Organization declared glyphosate (Round Up) a probable carcinogen and has been linked to neurological conditions that she in inflicted with. Ms. Houston-Martinez also said there is evidence that glyphosate stays in the soil. She has neighbors that are dealing with cancer and is concerned about babies, pregnant women, families and herself. She added, "digging up this toxic chemical could have devastating health effects on our community." Ms. Houston-Martinez said the cornfield is less than 100 feet from her front yard and when the farmers spray, she stays inside because her tongue and lips get numb. She continued that she has lived in her home for the past eleven (11) years, walked with a cane and spoke perfectly normal. In the spring of 2013, she lost her voice and needed a walker, and in 2026 was diagnosed with cancer and another family member was diagnosed with the same cancer. She again expressed concerned for her health, her family's health and the community if the ground is dug up.

Marge Bennett of 1940 Lenhart Road said she has lived in the Township since 1984. There was a fence, pool and shed on the property when they moved in. Shortly after, they decided to install a new fence and discovered that the existing fence, pool and shed where half way on a paper street and not part of their property. The Township was notified at the time but were unable to help them. They hired a lawyer to try to get possession of the property but were unable to because one neighbor was not in agreement. Mrs. Bennett said there were no problems with the property from 1984 until 2023 and during that time she and her neighbors maintained the paper road. She said the owner of 1926 Lenhart Road said he purchased the property of the paper road and questioned why this person was able to purchase a paper road when they were unable to do it before. She was told by this property owner that her shed and pool need to be moved because they are on his property and he is planning to build a flag lot home. She requested the Township purchase the paper roads and have them eliminated and also requested help with her issue.

** John Sperling commented on the proposed sale and said his driveway is at 3rd Street and may be part of the proposed plan. He wants to know what will happen to the people that live there and what kind of frontage do they need for access. He said he will attend all meetings to get answers.

** Mr. Bibro replied that the Township doesn't have many answers right now. He stated there

will be some legal hurdles that the applicant will have to jump through and we don't know exactly what they are proposing at this point. Mr. Bibro added that nearby residents will get a notification from the township letting you know when the hearing will be and you'll be able to ask all your questions to the applicant.

Mrs. Bennett spoke again and asked how someone is able to purchase a paper street to which Mr. Bibro replied that in a previous conversation he had with her that if this gentleman continues to go on your property that she is to call the Township and the Hatfield Police as this is a trespassing matter. Mr. Bibro said he can't purchase and didn't purchase a paper street.

** Mr. Bibro said notice will come out to let everyone know when the hearing is scheduled. He told the audience it may be several months as the Township has not received an application yet. He added that everything will be done publicly in this room and you will have the opportunity to hear what is being presented and to comment about it.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Andris motioned for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner LoStracco. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.