

March 4, 2021
Workshop Meeting

The regular monthly workshop meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee was called to order as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice posted on website that meeting would be in person, doors open. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Meeting closed for executive session to discuss matters of personnel with action to follow, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, at 7:30 PM. Executive session closed and the regular meeting reopened at 8:05 PM motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman. Susan Anastasio-Quinones was hired to fill the unexpired term of CFO effective April 1st, 2021 at the current salary 5,928.00 motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote. Part Time Public Works Employee Dan Williams will be full time following a two week notice to his present employer at an hourly rate of 15.00 motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Public Works Supervisor George Ripper was present and updated committee on his department's activities. Contractors have begun paving of Monroe Street. He will be finishing up tree removal on Monroe/Thompson connector street. He also provided quote for purchase of new dump truck to replace the 2004 Sterling Dump Truck. Quote of 130,000 with Sterling Dump Body, 150,000 with new dump body. Further consideration may be given in future capital budget. Mr. Ripper was instructed to get estimate for moving of underground sprinklers at the Senior Center, due to construction of new Historical Society Building. Mayor Sheppard advised that the carpenters should begin construction within the next week or so.

Discussion held regarding Center Designation expiration and Plan Endorsement. Mayor Sheppard stated he was dismayed to learn that the process could take a couple of years. He instructed the clerk to reach out to Office of State Planning representatives to get a clear idea of what exactly is entailed to renew the Center Designation- what are the steps in the process. Mr. Bowman stated that the County plan at one time included extending sewer lines from Bridgeton to Port Norris, but not all mayors in the affected municipalities would agree to such project. Maybe the Township should partner with Bridgeton or Millville. Further consideration to Plan Endorsement will be given once details of what steps are required is provided.

Clerk advised that Kevin Scarlato, Assistant Fire Chief will be preparing a list of surplus property to be offered for sale on govdeals. Public works advised to gather any items no longer needed to be included.

Application for Solicitors Certificate (2) received by clerk presented for consideration. The applicants, employed by Blue Elysian are requesting permit to solicit Inspire- Clean Energy Third Party Supplier for a 90 day period. Committee could only assume that the energy being sold is solar, but will look for confirmation from applicant. Mr. Miletta stated that the grid is now full- locked out by BPU, meaning no new solar. He was also concerned with resident's response to door to door soliciting due to current robberies taking place throughout the county. Mr. Bowman expressed concerns approving solicitations during the current pandemic. Mayor Sheppard stated that telephone solicitations are enough. Mr. Miletta will do a little online research about the company and further consideration will be given at the regular meeting on March 8th.

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk

The regular monthly meeting of the Lawrence Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM as advertised and held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was posted on the Townships website that the meeting would be live and in person. Members present: Sheppard, Miletta, Bowman.

Following the pledge of allegiance, minutes of the February 4, 8, 23 and 24 meetings approved motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. Various reports accepted, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-22 Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriation in the amount of 413,661.92 Due to delay in budget adoption approved motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Resolution 2021-33, Authorizing sale of surplus property, land sale to be held at the regular meeting of April 12th approved, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Inter-Local Service Agreement between the Township and Borough of Shiloh for Certified Recycling Coordinator Services, fee of \$150.00 approved, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote, Resolution No. 2021-24.

Resolution No. 2021-25 Endorse Submission of 2020 Recycling Tonnage Grant and Authorizing Ronald Campbell (Inter-local) to prepare and submit same approved, unanimous vote as motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta.

Public hearing opened as advertised, Ordinance No 2021-422, 2021 Salary Ordinance. With no public in attendance, the hearing was closed and the ordinance adopted, motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 2021-423, Updated Municipal Stormwater Management Ordinance approved on first reading motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman, unanimous vote. The Ordinance will be further considered for final adoption following a public hearing at the regular meeting of April 12.

Amendment acknowledged to LOSAP list accepted February 8, Resolution 2021-19, adding additional volunteer, bringing the total to 38 volunteers, benefits totaling 20,250.00, motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Brief discussion held regarding Plan Endorsement. Clerk obtained written process outline and guidelines for Plan Endorsement as Mayor Sheppard requested, from Meghan Wren, Area Planner, State Planning Commission. Mayor Sheppard and Committee members thought the Center Designation could be renewed as it was with a simple action. It appears that it will be a lengthy process and a planner or consultant may need to be hired to complete same. Mayor Sheppard expressed concerns that with our current debt and future plans for purchasing a new Fire Truck, Dump Truck and possibly being forced to make improvements and repairs to Cedarville Lake Dam, our borrowing capacity may not be able to fund the infrastructure that requires Plan Endorsement. Deputy Miletta stated that the Township should not be held responsible for repairs to the dam as it belongs to the County, it's located in their right of way. He also remarked that the County repaired the bridge in Fairfield Township located on the same roadway. Mayor Sheppard will reach out to Ms. Wren for additional information. Further consideration may be given.

Discussion held regarding (2) applications received for Solicitors/Peddlers License. Mr. Bowman stated that he did not feel the committee has a right to provide authorization for them to enter resident's private property, especially during these difficult times. Mr. Miletta stated that he did research the company, Blue Elysian online. They are a marketing firm. In his opinion, they will get you by selling power cheap to start, but within a two- year period it would be twice as costly. Mayor Sheppard

suggested that action be taken to suspend issuance of any Solicitation/Peddlers permits for a period of one year due to pandemic. All agreed, action taken motioned Bowman, seconded Miletta, unanimous vote.

Committee Comments

Mr. Bowman advised that the mayors in the County are continuing with meetings through the CDC to address animal shelter issues. Various options and locations are being discussed. The mayors are remaining united and hope to find a resolution. He will keep committee members updated.

Mayor Sheppard advised that water damage was found on exterior / stucco on bank building and it needs to be addressed. Mr. Miletta is familiar with a gentleman that specializes in that type of work and will get him to provide a quote for repairs.

Floor opened for public comment. None received, floor closed and meeting adjourned at 8:20 motioned Miletta, seconded Bowman.

Ruth Dawson, Clerk