



The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Rodi on the virtual meeting app Zoom.

VIRTUALLY PRESENT: SRAY, HOROWITZ, RODI

ALSO VIRTUALLY PRESENT: Township Solicitor: Robert Garvin; Township Manager: John M. Barrett; Township Executive Assistant: Peggy Patterson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

A. OAK RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. PARKS & RECREATION BOARD RESIGNATION LETTER

Mr. Barrett – The first item is the monthly report from Oak Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. The second item is a resignation letter from Carl Helbling, who is resigning from the Parks & Recreation Board. We do have a person in an alternate position who could be moved into that spot. It is up to the board.

Commissioner Rodi – We should just move the alternate into the permanent position.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by HOROWITZ and seconded by SRAY to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 regular meeting. All members voted AYE to the motion.

B. PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

It was moved by SRAY and seconded by HOROWITZ to pay the December 2020 bills. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Barrett – These reports are pretty good tools to see how we ended the year. In 2020 we received about \$650,000 more revenue than was budgeted and we spent almost \$800,000 less than what was budgeted, so we are just shy of a \$1.5 million surplus for the year end.

C. BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Dernosek joined the meeting.

Commissioner Rodi – Before we start the department reports, I just want to welcome our new assistant manager, Pat Catena.

A. BUILDING PERMITS REPORT

Mr. Barrett – Between Charter Homes and Lafayette Meadows, we had a lot of activity in December. I looked back to see how 2020 stacked up to 2019. Despite there being a pause due to COVID, we did end the year ahead of 2019 in the amount of about \$36,000 more in permit fees. Most of that increase was for single-family home construction.

Commissioner Malosh joined the meeting.

B. COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Andrea Iglar, Director of Communications & Community Development – The first issue of the magazine should be in mailboxes at the end of the month. We had at least 25 new businesses open during the pandemic in the business parks and elsewhere. There is an in-depth article on building permits in the magazine and two new programs that we informed residents about. The first one was the mobile app, which is free and ready to download right now, and the second one is the Military Banner Program. The application will be in the magazine, and we also have it set up so you can apply online for the banner program and pay with a credit card. I also included the new information for trash and recycling for 2021, including the calendar and street schedule.

Commissioner Rodi asked about residents being able to report missed trash 24/7 online. She wanted to know if this was through Request Tracker and Ms. Iglar told her it was. Ms. Iglar explained that when residents report this in Request Tracker, it automatically goes to Waste Management and the township. Commissioner Rodi asked Ms. Iglar to track the use of the Request Tracker now that it is being highlighted in the magazine.

Ms. Iglar – Looking at our yearly statistics, in 2020 we had 520 total Request Tracker items submitted and the majority of those are trash and recycling issues.

There was discussion about the ability to use Request Tracker on the new app.

Ms. Iglar – I just want to highlight a couple of statistics on the year-end report. For total website visits in 2020, we had almost 88,000 more visits than in 2019. A lot of it was related to COVID. Many looked up the building codes because of the improvements they were doing; parks in order to get outside; and voting because it was an election year. I also was seeing more people using Request Tracker. Social media also remained strong, with over 5,000 Facebook followers. Despite the pandemic, South Fayette Connect published thirty business ads throughout the year through the sponsor program, and the majority of the sponsorship money we got this year was connected to that. We just completed the fifth year of publication for South Fayette Connect, so thank you to the township and the commissioners for having that vision.

Commissioner Sray – I appreciate all the hard work you have done for the veteran banner program, Andrea. Thank you.

C. PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Ms. Willis, Recreation Director – We were able to do a few virtual programs in December. We had a winter elf party and a winter animal party with the Pittsburgh Zoo. We were able to offer these programs for free with sponsorship money. I believe the virtual programs are doing so well because there are no fees associated with them.

We are under way with our DCNR splash pad grant, and I had to submit another application because we are receiving LWCF funding.

I am gearing up for 2021 with Plan A and Plan B, depending on COVID restrictions. I met with the athletic associations last night, and lacrosse is going to submit a COVID plan just like soccer, baseball and football did last year. We are planning to have spring sports with precautions.

I am also planning for summer camp and putting together a COVID plan for us to implement. I am planning to advertise to hire camp counselors and get them trained. Instead of having fifty kids all together at camp, I am planning to have pods of ten kids with a counselor and not intermingle all the kids. Upper St. Clair was able to have their summer camp last year, and I have been talking to them and getting ideas about how they were able to hold camp safely.

I also want to move forward with some community events on a smaller scale. Peters Township had movies and concerts in the parks by spacing families out and I am planning to hold some events like that with safety protocols in place. I believe we will have to wait on holding larger scale events.

Commissioner Rodi – I would like to have Community Day this year, but I would hold off on planning any spring events.

Ms. Willis – This year is all about trying to keep the old programs going with the new procedures and putting new programs in place in a safer way.

Commissioner Malosh – Paula, I think you have done a phenomenal job with the uncertainty, and I appreciate the forward thinking.

The commissioners agreed that Ms. Willis is doing a good job under the circumstances.

D. POLICE REPORT

Chief John Phoennik – I want to thank John Barrett and the commissioners for guiding us through this time. Our officers did well handling being out in the public.

There was a 21% decrease in our calls for service in 2020. We had an 8% decrease in traffic stops, and all of our statistics were down because of COVID. Our officers were able to go to 1767 hours of training time because of the virtual training we purchased last year. Sgt Wesolek and Ellie were called out for assistance in searches twelve times in 2020. Lt. Leininger and Sgt. Monyak responded to fourteen critical incident calls with the SHACOG CIRT team. We had 201 criminal incidents reported, and 47 of those were forwarded to our investigation unit, and that unit was able to clear 58% of those reported.

E. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Truitt – We are still taking care of everything needed, including snow removal. We have already used more salt this year than we did all of last year. We are still out installing storm sewer pipes, working ahead of the paving for next year so we won't have to pay the contractors to do that. We are still sanitizing three days a week.

In 2020, we rebuilt and installed 83 storm inlets, installed 1800 foot of storm pipe, sealed about 6.5 miles of roads, mowed the state rights-of-way three times for a total of 102.5 miles, and mowed our rights-of-way for a total of 38.4 miles. We mowed township parks and green areas, responded to 1,713 PA One Calls, installed 129 street name and traffic signs, and delivered 92 recycling containers. Included on our to-do list, weather permitting, is to install about 700 feet of storm sewer pipe on Bowman Road in anticipation of sealing that road this summer. We will repair the washout in Fairview Park with the guiderails, install inlets and storm pipe in the Morgan blocks, check and repair inlets that are on the 2021 paving program, repair the washout on Fifth Avenue, remove debris and litter on all the rights-of-way, and continue the maintenance program of clearing the retention ponds.

F. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Barrett – The board has approved the advertising the public bidding of Fairview Phase 1, which includes the construction of an access road at the end of Fairview Park and site work for the splash pad. We hope to get those bid documents next month from our consultants.

Regarding the municipal complex, bids for the earthwork and clearing associated with the Hickory Grade site are out, and the last day to submit is February 2nd. There will be a bid opening process at that time. I will prepare a bid tab and have it for our February meeting.

The playground project contracts were signed, and a preconstruction meeting will be happening soon. We should see activity in the coming weeks, and we are on target to have that for the spring.

The delivery date for the Route 50 and Alpine Road traffic signal is January 22nd. The contractor is aware of that, and the project should be wrapped up within two to three weeks of that date, and we hope to see the signal up and running within a month to six weeks.

I am trying to schedule some virtual interviews for our engineering services. This was put out to bid in December, and I put a brief bid tab for you guys along with a recommendation.

If there is any feedback on the previous recommendation, please let me know.

We put a document together for the budget that you approved in December. We will be binding them and getting a copy to each of the board members. We inserted more information in the newer document. We included some community facts, highlighted our services and added a formal 2020 year in review document to showcase some of the various awards the township has won, some of the grants the township has secured and other accomplishments during the pandemic. We updated the descriptions for the line items within our revenues and expenditures.

G. REQUEST TRACKER REPORT

Mr. Barrett – Most of the complaints are about missed trash calls and new residents needing recycling bins. We did just get a new supply of recycling bins, and we are staying on top of the missed trash calls.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RELEASING THE EXCESS MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AND BOND FOR GOLDEN TRIANGLE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Barrett – We did an inspection of the roadways in question, and everything is good. Our recommendation is for the board to approve release of the excess maintenance agreement with Golden Triangle Construction.

Commissioner Dernosek – Is the road put back the way it was found? I was up there, and it was pretty rough.

Mr. Barrett – We are holding a little over \$44,000, and this isn't the only contractor on that roadway. They did the amount of the bond, if not more work, in repairs.

It was moved by MALOSH and seconded by DERNOSEK to approve releasing the excess maintenance agreement and bond for Golden Triangle Construction. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

B. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A REDUCTION TO CHARTER HOMES OVER THE BAR BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$311,423.50 RETAINING A BALANCE OF \$147,251.75

Mr. Barrett – An inspection was done; the facility is open to the public right now, and a lot of the work that was called for has been completed. We are keeping some funds for seeding, landscaping and lighting that will need done.

Commissioner Dernosek – They will need to change their hydrant because the one they used is not compatible.

It was moved by HOROWITZ and seconded by SRAY to approve a reduction to Charter Homes Over the Bar bond in the amount of \$311,423.50 retaining a balance of \$147,251.75. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

C. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A BOND REDUCTION FOR LAFAYETTE PLAN OF LOTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$277,810.37 RETAINING A BALANCE OF \$1,210,363.68

Don Housley, Mitall Division of KU Resources – I inspected the site. These improvements have been completed, and I feel the reduction of the bond is appropriate. I would like to change this just a little bit. They have requested a reduction to the phase 1 bond. I didn't have time to get up there, but what I would request is you approve this phase 2 bond reduction and conditionally approve phase 1 draw number 8 reduction, in the amount of \$193,366.80 to be verified and recommended by me and approved by the manager prior to that reduction. It would leave a balance of \$371,864.95.

It was moved by HOROWITZ and seconded by SRAY to approve the phase 2 reduction for Lafayette Plan of Lots in the amount of \$277,810.37 retaining a balance of \$1,210,363.68. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

It was moved by HOROWITZ and seconded by SRAY to approve a bond reduction for phase 1 for Lafayette Plan of Lots retaining a balance of \$371,864.95. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

D. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING RESOLUTION 2021-01, TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR ROUTE AND SOUTH FAYETTE WAY

Mr. Barrett – This resolution acknowledges the signal will be part of the township and that we would take on the maintenance of that signal.

It was moved by DERNOSEK and seconded by SRAY to approve Resolution 2021-01, traffic signal approval for Route 50 and South Fayette Way. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

BOARD DISCUSSION - NONE

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Garvin – I am requesting an executive session for personnel matters and also legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT & EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by SRAY and seconded by DERNOSEK to adjourn to Executive Session. All members present voted AYE to the motion.

John M. Barrett, Township Manager

Gwen A. Rodi, President

Date

Date