

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Spiegelman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, MYERS

Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, SANCHEZ, GILLESPIE, HECKER, ZAPPONE, THOMPSON, ROTHMAN, VAHEY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2018 Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PRESENTATION:

Vacant Property Review Board:

Vacant Property Review Board Chairman Bob Greaves gave a power point presentation on an update on what the committee has been doing for the past two years. He provided history of the formation of the Vacant Property Review Board as well as the VPR Board team. Goals are to prepare vacant property list; develop properties; flowchart processes; benchmark other townships; visit properties; coordinate efforts and bring back properties into productive use. He also discussed activities of the VPR Board and the focus this year will be reaching out to other organizations for their assistance with the vacant properties.

Commissioner DiPlacido questioned whether the VPR Board keeps track of fines levied against property owners making sure they are paid.

Commissioner Spiegelman replied our representative from Code Enforcement Department keeps up-to-date records for the VPR Board.

Commissioner Luker questioned whether any matters were sent to the District Justice for issuance of citations.

Mr. Greaves replied currently, there was one moved to a hearing.

Commissioner Luker asked are the property owners encouraged to expedite the sale of these properties or to get tenants?

Mr. Greaves replied we try to work with property owners to get their properties where they should be and we also have reached out to the EDC.

Commissioner Spiegelman added that the burden of proof is on property owners to show that they have been actively marketing the property.

Commissioner DiPlacido asked for the average amount of time spent on a vacant property.

Mr. Greaves replied it depends on the property owner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item PA-02-030818:

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to accept the apparent low bid of \$45,752.50 from Think Green to complete the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary trail Phase I construction project.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Mr. Andy Oles, Director of Parks and Recreation, said we adjusted scope of project and then re-bid and Think Green was the low bidder.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, was opposed to the motion.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item PA-01-030818:

Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to accept a Tree Vitalize “Community Forestry Management” grant in the amount of \$8,130.00.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Mr. Oles said Township match has been budgeted for this project and this grant will be used by the Shade Tree Commission on various items.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, was opposed to the motion.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for any general comments relating to Public Affairs.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about public speaking rights.

Philomena DeLancy, 812 Monroe Avenue, commented that she lives near the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, and last summer her son found 12-13 needles, so she contacted Commissioner Zappone who informed the police and they were removed by the next day. Also, she sees groups of kids going in there and they leave trash all over and she is concerned about how to keep it clean.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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