

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Hecker presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners HECKER, ROTHMAN, ZAPPONE, BOWMAN, BRODSKY

Township Manager MANFREDI  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, SANCHEZ, DiPLACIDO, GILLESPIE, SCHREIBER, SPIEGELMAN, MYERS, VAHEY, THOMPSON

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Brodsky made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2018 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

**PRESENTATION:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Item PW-01-041218:

Commissioner Hecker said this item is to consider a motion to accept the lowest responsible bids and authorize the Township Manager to enter into contracts with the following companies for the purchase of materials as listed on the bid summary Exhibit 1 dated and attached hereto.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments. There were none.

Commissioner Brodsky made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to accept the lowest responsible bids and authorize the Township Manager to enter into contracts with the following companies for the purchase of materials as listed on the bid summary Exhibit 1 dated and attached hereto.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Hecker asked for any general comments relating to Public Works.

Commissioner Kline requested that the Board of Commissioners consider at its Board meeting next week or at the May Committee meetings a resolution to send to Pennsylvania's PUC (Public Utility Commission) to turn down PECO's petition to increase rates until PECO has a comprehensive plan set forth that will fix their issues with infrastructure and address their inability to respond to large power outages in a efficient manner.

In his ward and other wards dealt with power outages that lasted for eight days and he was dismayed that PECO is looking for a rate increase.

He has spoken with County Commissioners who would like to see support from other municipalities and he will reach out to municipal organizations to see if they would support a resolution as well.

PECO's response during the last few storms was sub-par and they have gone downhill since Hurricane Sandy.

Commissioner Hecker said there was discussion about PECO sponsoring a town hall meeting with the community and is there any further information about that?

Manager Manfredi replied nothing more than what he received in his last report in which they are trying to figure that out. He will work with Township Solicitor on a resolution for the full Board's consideration next week.

Commissioner Rothman agreed that PECO needs to be sent a message that we, as a governing body, are not o.k. with the way our residents were treated, and we should strongly consider a resolution, and if can be done as soon as next week, he does not see why we should wait.

Commissioner Hecker agreed that PECO should not be pushing for a rate increase when they have not answered questions about challenges our residents faced.

Manager Manfredi clarified that a recommendation by Commissioner Kline is to have the Public Works Committee direct him in consultation with Township Solicitor to draft a resolution in opposition of PECO's application filed before the Public Utility Commission for a rate increase. Is that correct?

Commissioner Kline replied yes. He would like the resolution to include that the Township's infrastructure has not been maintained, and since Hurricane Sandy there has been splices and rewiring of connections throughout the entire system both primary and secondary lines, and in his ward, there are frequent intermittent outages during minor rainstorms. It has gotten worse because PECO does not go back and actually fix the infrastructure that they spliced together during storms and PECO should be held to that standard prior to receiving a rate increase.

Commissioner Spiegelman added that subsequent to Hurricane Sandy, we had an ice storm in February 2014 that knocked out 93% of electrical service of the Township, and during that recovery period, PECO sent personnel to the Township building to address the public, but the response this time was atrocious and the most significant troubling aspects was lack of communication, which should be addressed in the resolution.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether PECO has some type of trailer that has charging stations for communities where they are not able to put the power back on for several days.

Commissioner Hecker clarified that a resolution for consideration will be on next week's Board meeting agenda. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied yes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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