

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Rothman presiding.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners ROTHMAN, BOWMAN (7:07 P.M.), ZAPPONE, BRODSKY, CARSWELL

Township Manager MANFREDI  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Director of Public Works -  
PONTELANDOLFO/BARRON  
Construction Services Manager CLARK

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Brodsky to approve Public Works Committee Meeting minutes of March 6, 2019.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

**PRESENTATION:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Item PW-01-050919 - Consider a motion to approve the First Amendment to Commonwealth Financing Authority Grant No. C000065056 extending the termination date to June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Rothman called on Mr. George Wrigley, Director of Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Wrigley explained that this was approved in 2017 and the amendment extends grant to June 30, 2020, which is for the wastewater sanitary sewer system.

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Brodsky to approve the First Amendment to Commonwealth Financing Authority Grant No. C000065056 extending the termination date to June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Rothman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Item PW-02-050919 – Consider a motion to approve Change Orders #1 and #2 to support additional right-of-way for the ADA ramps to be installed at Easton Road and the two Rubicam Avenue intersections.

Commissioner Rothman called on Peter Simone of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture.

Mr. Simone said we have been contracted with the Township to do the construction documents for the ongoing project of the Abington Tap Trail, which are mostly on-road trails and some off-road sections of a few miles through the Township. Change orders are for the preparation of right-of-way plans at the intersection of Easton Road and Rubicam Avenue because after the survey was done, it was discovered that it was not in the right-of-way. We tried unsuccessfully to get PennDOT to allow a right-of-entry-type of easement by the contractor during construction, but because Federal funds are involved, that cannot be done. So as a result, we are required to prepare formalized right-of-way plans for those four properties including a survey and that is the basis of this request.

Maximum would be \$11,400 and the hope is we will not need all of the survey information, which would result in a savings of \$1,400. There is also a slight chance that we would need preparation of all easements for the four corners, but that has not yet been determined until the engineer begins the work and that is price-per-corner.

Tim Clark, Construction Services Manager, presented plan showing outline where Easton Road ends and that existing ramps do not meet ADA requirements, so additional right-of-way needs to be acquired.

Mr. Simone continued that additional work is not for design of ramps, but for right-of-way plans, and according to Federal Highway Standards, this needs to be done due to federal funding being involved.

Commissioner Rothman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

President Luker questioned whether there will be any disruption of roadway service.

Mr. Simone replied no.

President Luker clarified that this will not require any repaving. Is that correct?

Mr. Simone replied that is correct; however, there may be minor patching at curb line of the ramps, but there will be not be any closing of lanes or detours. There may be closing of the sidewalk for a certain amount of time as sidewalks will be connected on all four corners and then there will be ADA accessibility throughout the intersection.

Vice President Kline asked for a breakdown of costs from TPD as costs seem high for the amount of work that needs to be done.

Mr. Simone agreed to provide breakdown of costs noting that it is about 70 hours of work at the average rate.

Vice President Kline asked for the scope of work to be reviewed and analyzed by a third party, and he suggested that the amount of \$1,400 should be removed from the change order.

Mr. Simone replied the reason that the amount of \$1,400 is included in the change order is that if we need to come back before the Board, it will slow the project down and there is an August deadline. The work by the surveyor for the cost of \$1,400 is very specific and will only be used if PennDOT requires additional survey data.

Vice President Kline said before that amount is expended it needs to go through an approval process by the Township Manager or Township Engineer.

Manager Manfredi said due to the deadline the information should be submitted prior to next week's Board meeting, and he suggested a motion by the full Board of a not-to-exceed amount for change orders with any additional dollars approved by Township Manager/Township Engineer.

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

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Brodsky to move Item PW-02-050919 forward to the full Board without recommendation.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item PW-03-050919 – Consider findings and determine next steps resulting from the Ardsley Area Stormwater Study.

Commissioner Rothman called on Mr. Michael Filmyer, Manager of Municipal Services with BCM Engineers.

Mr. Filmyer explained that BCM Engineers were commissioned to perform stormwater study of the Ardsley area of the Township and provided a power point presentation. Investigated were the stormwater problems in the area between Jenkintown Road and Spear Avenue; driving force of this study is persistent flooding on the 600 block of Monroe Avenue. Photo was shown of flooding on 655 Monroe Avenue; topographic area showing existing pipe configuration with the problem area at 655 and 649 Monroe Avenue, and during high flows, the pipes back up into the inlet as shown in the photo.

Proposed pipe configuration is that instead of it connecting to one pipe, utilize second 48-inch pipe by connecting Monroe Avenue storm sewer pipe directly to it and then have the 36-inch main trunk sewer line continue using the original 48-inch pipe and then put it in a large 12 X 18 concrete box to bring the flow downstream to existing 54-inch pipe.

Commissioner Rothman asked for an estimated cost of the project.

Manager Manfredi replied projected cost is approximately \$378,000 and that is based on going out to bid; however, the Township has an in-house construction services team, so the cost would be approximately \$130,000-\$150,000.

Commissioner Rothman said he is in favor of this to help the residents. He asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Zappone said he has been dealing with the flooding issue of his residents for the past 20 years, and the focus of this study seemed to be on Monroe Avenue, and he would like it to go further down Penn Avenue where there is a serious problem.

Mr. Filmyer replied study went down as far as Penn Avenue, but he was not aware there was a problem further down.

Commissioner Zappone continued that due to the flood of 96' two residents were lost and then again in 2001. Tennis and Penn Avenues are problem areas and he will discuss it further with Mr. Filmyer.

Commissioner Thompson questioned how this project ties into master stormwater management plan.

Manager Manfredi replied this is an isolated puzzle piece of data that would fit into the entire stormwater management plan.

Commissioner Thompson questioned whether this project could be done in phases such as a box on Hamel first and then a box on Monroe.

Mr. Filmyer replied more importantly would be to eliminate the junction that is acting like a “dam” on Monroe first and then complete it in stages.

Commissioner Thompson continued that this has been a significant problem in his ward as well as Commissioner Zappone’s ward, so we could really use this fix, and he encouraged his fellow Board members to pass this forward.

Commissioner Carswell asked how much construction would there be to fix this problem?

Mr. Filmyer replied construction will mostly be in the street and on empty lots.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that he is in support of this as well.

Commissioner Brodsky questioned how quickly this project will get done and will it resolve the problem in its entirety.

Mr. Clark replied eight weeks.

Mr. Filmyer added that he believes this will solve the problem in its entirety.

Vice President Kline questioned where the money will come from for this project.

Manager Manfredi replied general obligation note or fund balance.

Mr. Clark clarified that it would come from current bond issue.

Manager Manfredi continued that whatever funds are used from current bond issue, and he needs to verify if it was extended, would not be available for any undetermined stormwater management work.

Vice President Kline suggested that funds should not be taken from fund balance, which would be problematic; however, funds from the bond issue can be considered as long as it is not displacing another project. He asked about a prioritized overall stormwater management plan including funding source.

Manager Manfredi replied the plan is to take the overarching stormwater management plan and perform studies. Studies for Wheatsheaf Lane and Ardsley were discussed by the Board and moved forward to be brought back for further discussion and determination.

Any work to be done was appropriated for in the budget and there will be no other projects besides that unless it is authorized by the Board until the overall stormwater management study is completed next year. Ardsley was discussed, but Wheatsheaf Lane was not; however, Mr. Filmyer also studied Wheatsheaf Lane and that work can be done using existing dollars.

Vice President Kline questioned whether any of these projects require acquisitions or temporary easements or will it be done in an existing easement.

Mr. Clark replied it will be done in existing sanitary and storm easements and work on Wheatsheaf Lane will be done in the roadway.

Commissioner Vahey said the agenda item indicates to accept the study; however, it was mentioned that next week the Board would consider approving construction project.

Manager Manfredi replied agenda item should say, to consider, discuss and determine next steps, so a motion would be needed to approve in-house installation at a cost not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 or the Board could determine not to proceed and wait until overall stormwater management study is completed.

Commissioner Vahey agreed that if project is approved funds should come from general obligation note and not the fund balance.

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Carswell to recommend approval of the project from the study presented this evening of stormwater management for the Ardsley area at a cost not-to-exceed \$150,000.00 that will come from the general obligation note and not from any other funding source.

Commissioner Zappone questioned what the \$150,000.00 will cover and also the study should have included the area further down Penn Avenue.

Mr. Clark replied it will cover construction needed for Hamel through Monroe Avenues.

Mr. Filmyer said he will discuss further with Commissioner Zappone the problem area at Penn Avenue although the study was done from that area and the pipe models show that the 100-year storm is contained in existing pipe-network.

Commissioner Rothman asked for any public comments.

Melissa Landsman, 655 Monroe Avenue, commented that she appreciates the Board taking this into consideration, and her crumbling driveway cannot be repaired because it keeps getting flooded out as well as the driveway that the Township installed in 2003 after construction of the sewer system. Also, her basement continually floods as groundwater backs-up and she sees this new study as a correction of what was done in 2003.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, questioned whether it will cost less if the Township does the work.

Mr. Clark replied yes, if it is done in-house, that is where the Township would realize the savings.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – general matters relating to Public Works:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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