

Presentations began at 7:03 p.m.

Fire Department Presentation:

Mr. Dave Schramm said we cannot expect the community to know that we are an all volunteer fire department, so to help get the word out about volunteer opportunities, we produced an animated video called, “Answering the Call” that was presented, and brochure attached to the July Township calendar page supports the video. The video will be posted on the department’s webpage as well as social media, and he asked the Board to distribute the video to their constituents.

2019 Robert W. Montgomery, Jr. Awards presented to the Montgomery County Housing Authority and Pennrose Properties, LLC for the building of Crest Manor:

President Luker presented the 2019 Robert W. Montgomery, Jr. Awards to Mr. Joel Johnson of the Montgomery County Housing Authority, an organization that has made an outstanding contribution in promoting, preserving and protecting our environment by building Crest Manor to achieve LEED gold certification. These innovative and affordable green public housing buildings increase air quality, energy and water efficiency and lower carbon footprints to uplift the quality of our community and exemplify the spirit of this environmental leadership award. The Board of Commissioners in the name of the entire Township shows its appreciation for their community involvement and dedication to Abington Township by presenting this award.

President Luker presented the 2019 Robert W. Montgomery, Jr. Awards to Mr. Harry Moody of Pennrose Properties LLC, an organization that has made an outstanding contribution in promoting, preserving and protecting our environment by building Crest Manor to achieve LEED gold certification. These innovative and affordable green public housing buildings increase air quality, energy and water efficiency and lower carbon footprints to uplift the quality of our community and exemplify the spirit of this environmental leadership award. The Board of Commissioners in the name of the entire Township shows its appreciation for their community involvement and dedication to Abington Township by presenting this award.

Friends of Briar Bush – 2019 Griscom Award:

Friends of Briar Bush said the Griscom award is named after Edward and Florence Griscom who originally owned the property where Briar Bush is located since 1908, and the Griscom award was established to recognize and publicly honor local individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation and preservation of the environment. Recipients shall be those who contributed significant time, energy, funds or ideas that have resulted in tangible awards for our community and not necessarily just for Briar Bush Nature Center.

Friends of Briar Bush presented Michele Kaczalek with the Griscom Award for her work in helping environmental causes before the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019.

Commissioners Awards:

Commissioner Gillespie said every year, the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners holds a conference in which they give awards for time served and two Commissioners were awarded this year.

Commissioner Gillespie presented award to Commissioner Dennis Zappone on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners for his 20 years of outstanding service as Commissioner of Abington Township before the Board of Commissioners on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019.

Commissioner Gillespie presented award to President, Commissioner Wayne C. Luker on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners for his 28 years of outstanding service as Commissioner of Abington Township before the Board of Commissioners on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019.

Presentations ended at 7:27 p.m.

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with President Luker presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners MYERS, BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DiPLACIDO, WINEGRAD, THOMPSON, SCHREIBER, CARSWELL, VAHEY, GILLESPIE, ZAPPONE, BOWMAN, LUKER  
Excused: KLINE, SPIEGELMAN

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Township Treasurer BLUMENTHAL

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Luker announced that as a practice when the Board has one meeting and no separate committee meetings as such this month of July, we will take public comment following the motion and second after each agenda item of tonight's agenda and no public comment will be taken on agenda items at the beginning of the meeting.

Also, Township Manager previously suggested that the Independent Auditor's report be presented to the full Board tonight. The Township Manager has been working with independent auditors to adjust their previous commitments so that they could be here this evening sometime after 8 p.m. Therefore, Item FC-06-071119 as listed under Consent Agenda will be moved to the Finance Committee as the last agenda item.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

President Luker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve Items a. – d. and Item f. as listed under Consent Agenda as follows:

To approve the minutes of the Board of Commissioners June 13, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Myers corrected the spelling of Christina **Mars** in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of June 13, 2019.

To approve Clearing Fund, the Deferred Revenue/Expense activity and Petty Cash balances for the month of May as previously circulated to the Board. Clearing fund receipts and disbursements for the month of May 2019 were \$33,517.04 and (\$29,842.89), respectively. Deferred Revenue/Expense receipts and disbursements for the month of May 2109 were \$0.00 and (\$14,000.00), respectively.

To approve the Advance and Travel Expense activity for May 2019 as previously circulated to the Board. Advance and Travel Expense reports were \$600.00 and \$4,897.37, respectively. Five-month expenses totaled \$28,600.21.

To adopt Resolution No. 19-023 to approve Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 CDBG Annual Action Plan. This motion is to authorize the President of the Board of Commissioners to sign and submit the FFY 2019 CDBG Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

To accept a grant from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) in the amount of \$400,000.00. This grant is to fund the Township's Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. This motion shall also authorize the President of the Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager to sign and return the contract (and all other related documents) to DCED.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Administrative Code & Land Use Committee –**

Item ACL-01-071119:

Commissioner Brodsky made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to table the Land Development Application of Sussman Associates, II, LP– KIA Dealership to consolidate the properties located at 1501, 1505, 1509 and 1515 Easton Road and construct a new automotive dealership and accept the applicant's unlimited waiver of time.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item ACL-02-071119:

Commissioner Brodsky made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to table the Land Development Application of Elaine Associates, LP-Mazda to construct a new, one-story building that will include a showroom, offices and service bays for the sale and service of vehicles and accept the applicants unlimited waiver of time.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item ACL-03-071119:

Commissioner Brodsky made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve the Land Development Plan of Duke Real Estate Partners, LLC, to renovate the existing building and create a parking lot with 42 parking stalls at 357 Highland Avenue, Jenkintown, PA, 19046.

Mr. Marc Jonas, Attorney representing the applicant, said this is slightly more than one half acre parcel next to the Switchville Development and proposed is to preserve PECO substation, although a use has not been designated, but the plan is to construct 42 parking spaces that would include cross easements into Switchville Development. The applicant went before the ZHB and received relief regarding landscaping due to overhead and underground utilities making it difficult to accommodate all required landscaping.

Mr. Brian Regli, Owner of Duke Real Estate Partners, presented the plan showing existing location of the site; proposed site map; photograph key; Wyncote Substation existing conditions; proposed landscape plan and list of waivers requested. Also shown was the loading dock of SPS in which all of their trucks pull into the loading bay and reps of SPS indicated that is a crucial access to their site and any interruption of that area would impinge upon their business. We propose to establish a parking field for the entire site and leave the access on Kenmore unobstructed for SPS; establish substantial landscaping plantings throughout the site and the ZHB provided relief from planting a full buffer on the Highland Avenue side due to overhead wires and underground utilities; however, we will provide a substantial amount of plantings approximately 80%.

Regarding waiver requests; pedestrian access and land development allows access from residential community into the site and directs them away from the loading dock. There are ADA compliant walkways through the site and we would like to build a sidewalk to direct pedestrian traffic to the center of the site rather than down Kenmore Avenue. Parking stall size; the entire site is based on 9 X 18 parking spaces and 10 X 20 would be an imbalance.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Vahey clarified that the applicant will be building a new sidewalk on Highland Avenue and waiver request from installation on Kenmore would be a sidewalk to nowhere. Is that correct?

Mr. Regli replied that is correct. As shown on the plan, there is no sidewalk on Kenmore to connect to and there is five-foot high berm in place there and we do not want to impinge on SPS access.

Commissioner Vahey commented that he appreciates that the applicant took the time to explain this to his constituents in which it was well-received. He asked for support by the Board for this project as well as approval for waivers requested by the applicant.

Commissioner Rothman questioned why we are considering waiving sidewalk requirement as there could be a need for a sidewalk on Kenmore in the future and he questioned whether there is a real adversity to it.

Mr. Regli replied the adversity is that SPS would no longer be able to use their loading dock. We are adding as much sidewalk as feasible given the nature of pedestrian access throughout the site.

Commissioner Brodsky questioned whether there is documentation from reps of SPS that they agree there should not be a sidewalk on Kenmore.

Mr. Regli replied there were a number of meetings held in 2005, 2006 and 2007 where reps of SPS attended and complained on the record about that issue, and if necessary, he will try to find that information.

Commissioner Brodsky questioned whether the applicant has any documentation this evening that supports SPS's position.

Mr. Regli replied he does not have additional documentation in that regard.

Commissioner Gillespie commented that she knows that property well and agreed that the applicant is doing the proper thing.

Commissioner Thompson said that stretch of Kenmore feels more like a service road than pedestrian corridor, and in this case, it would be appropriate to steer pedestrians into the site than along Kenmore risking interaction with trucks, so he supports this application.

Commissioner Carswell commented that she is familiar with the site and Google map shows there is no obvious current walkable space on Kenmore coming in and crossing Highland, and she clarified that the applicant will be creating a crosswalk and also proposed sidewalk in front of the building as well as around the back and across the parking lot. Is that correct?

Mr. Regli replied that is correct, and sidewalks will be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Bowman commented that while he generally supports installation of sidewalks in residential neighborhoods where there are none; this is an industrial area and the houses on the small street behind this development end at this property.

Commissioner Myers commented that she is not a fan of sidewalks to nowhere and she remembers that reps of SPS did not want that access road to be used by pedestrians.

Commissioner Rothman questioned whether there would be signage about loading dock/trucks.

Mr. Regli replied we will be coming back to the Township with proposed sign package of directional signs as well as we plan on having distinct signs for pedestrian access as part of that package.

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Martin Smith, 1838 Harte Road, commented that Google earth shows grass worn away probably from the trucks, so shrubbery might be lost with the trucks swinging over and there are parking spaces close to it.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the percentage of green space.

Mr. Tilford replied proposed green area is 20.2%.

Ms. Lehmann said she is opposed to the 9 ft. parking spaces.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item ACL-04-071119:

Commissioner Brodsky asked is there a motion to consider approving the subdivision and land development application, accompanying plans and waivers for Abington Terrace, LLC – CHOP Abington conditioned upon the applicant complying with the Abington Township staff review comments dated June 17, 2019; Boucher & James, Inc. letter dated June 19, 2019; Montgomery County Planning Commission comment letter dated June 19, 2019; TPD comment letter dated June 24, 2019 and the Abington Township Shade Tree Commission recommendations of July 10, 2019, as well as conditions of the Township Planning Commission and the applicant’s agreement to pay all costs associated with the Township rezoning the residential parcel back to R-3 Residential from A/O.

Manager Manfredi said this is a motion to consider as there were questions from Commissioners and a letter was received yesterday dated July 3, 2019 from the applicant’s counsel.

Commissioner Brodsky clarified that it is a motion to consider rather than a motion to approve.

President Luker called on the applicant.

Mr. Robert W. Gundlach, Jr., Attorney, Fox Rothschild, LLP, 2700 Kelly Road, Suite 300, Warrington, PA, 18976, representing the applicant, introduced Michael Markman, President of BET Investments; Peter Clelland and Matt Johnson, BET Investments, George Hartman, Bohler Engineering and Sandy Koza, Traffic Engineer, McMahon Associates, and stated that the applicant has previously presented a plan of rezoning the parcels to A/O and a text amendment to allow age-restricted housing in the A/O Zoning District. Those discussions resulted in many comments from the Board and residents, and after we obtained that relief; Mr. Markman was approached by reps of CHOP who presented a proposal that would address many of the comments made on the previous plan. During that time, reps of YMCA expressed interest in having their daycare remain there. Tonight, we will present a project to construct approximately 37,000 sq. ft. building for CHOP to move in and that will also allow the YMCA to house their daycare.

Mr. Markman presented an architectural rendering of the 37,000 sq. ft. CHOP building and a view of proposed building from Old York and Susquehanna Roads. We will preserve a portion of the YMCA building for its daycare and play area. Also presented was a view of the CHOP building in the back of the site and overall footprint of the buildings will be reduced, and CHOP building will be moved further away from residential.

Mr. Gundlach said his letter dated July 3, 2019 indicates compliance by the applicant of all items in the Township Zoning Officer's letter dated July 17, 2019 that include clarifications contained in paragraph No. 2 that the applicant intends to hold seven parking spaces in reserve to comply with setback requirement of daycare parking. Also, paragraph No. 16 in regards to screening along front of YMCA building and the applicant will work with Township staff on appropriate screening so as not to block view of the YMCA building.

The applicant will comply with all comments contained in the Boucher & James letter dated June 19, 2019 except as to the comment contained in paragraph No. 67 that references other review letters and the applicant is simply addressing those other letters individually.

The applicant will comply with all comments contained in the review letter from the Montgomery County Planning Commission's letter dated June 19, 2019 with the exception that the applicant does not agree to align the vehicular access point to Old York Road with Adams Avenue. Also, the applicant is not able to use the planting strip in the parking lot for a rain garden due to the fact that the applicant is adding a walking path in that area as suggested by Township staff.

The applicant will comply with all comments in the Traffic Planning & Design's (TPD) review letter dated June 24, 2019 with the exceptions that the applicant does not agree to add additional right turn lane as it will result in loss of parking and make it more difficult to visually make a left turn out onto Susquehanna Road; the applicant will not agree to relocate proposed site access driveway along Old York Road aligned with Adams Avenue; and the applicant will not agree to adding pedestrian crossings at Susquehanna/Huntingdon nor at Adams/Old York and pedestrian crossing is encouraged at Old York/Susquehanna – signalized intersection; the applicant will not agree to install recommended deceleration lanes as the lanes do not meet PennDOT's requirements and are not warranted.

One additional waiver from Section 146-11 (B) (7) that was recommended for approval by the Township's Planning Commission along with other requested waivers.

The applicant respectfully requests the Board of Commissioners to grant preliminary/final subdivision and land development approval for this project.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Thompson asked for clarification on the applicant's exception to Boucher & James letter dated June 19, 2019 regarding their comment contained in paragraph No. 67.

Mr. Gundlach replied it is more of a technical issue. Boucher & James' letter indicates that the applicant will comply with all of the other review letters and it just the way they phrased it, so it is a "will comply" by the applicant subject to modifications agreed to in regards to those other letters.

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels "the process that obtained the zoning for this property was so skewed and focus was on the apartment building." Also, she expressed concern that she "has not received documents."

Martin Smith, 1838 Harte Road, commented that he feels this is a "great use for the land."

Commissioner Myers commented that the Board did not receive the language of the "motion to consider" that was read by Commissioner Brodsky ahead of time and she asked for an explanation on what is being voted on.

Manager Manfredi replied the language of the motion read by Commissioner Brodsky was crafted today for consideration by the Board of Commissioners following this presentation. It was meant to make clear what the conditions are as indicated by Mr. Gundlach, the applicant's attorney's review letter dated July 3, 2019.

Commissioner Winegrad clarified that the applicant will pay all costs associated in the rezoning of residential parcel located at 1602 Huntingdon Road back to R-3 from A/O. Is that correct?

Mr. Markman replied we will incur costs to rezone it back subject to the Board's approval as well as the resident's approval.

Commissioner Bowman commented that he can live with all of the items that the applicant does not want to comply with, and he would like to vote on this tonight.

Commissioner Vahey clarified that everything has been addressed by the applicant. Is that correct?

Mr. Gundlach replied yes, and it has been put in writing in a letter dated July 3, 2019. Also, there are five waiver requests that were reviewed by the Township's Planning Commission in which they recommended approval.

Solicitor Clarke clarified that the applicant indicated they will comply with all review letters by Township staff/consultants with the exception of items listed in their July 3, 2019 correspondence. The Board needs to decide whether or not to agree to the applicant's modifications. If the Board approves the seven modifications then his staff along with Township Engineer Amy Montgomery will put together approval correspondence that will be sent to the applicant, the applicant would modify their plans and then plans will be submitted for recording complying with what was approved this evening. Once the plan is recorded, the applicant can move forward with obtaining their permits.

Commissioner Vahey asked what does the vote indicate in regards to the rezoning of the residential parcel?

Solicitor Clarke replied the vote indicates that the applicant will pay all costs for rezoning residential parcel, but it does not affect their land development because they are no longer using that parcel as part of their project, so it will be a separate Board action.

Commissioner Thompson asked for the motion to include striking Item 67 because the applicant will comply with all comments from Traffic Engineer, Shade Tree Commission and Fire Marshal to their satisfaction.

Mr. Gundlach replied we can strike that based upon Mr. Clarke's clarification separately addressing the TPD items.

Solicitor Clarke said the motion will include the seven items, so Paragraph 67 of the Boucher & James letter is a "will comply" by the applicant. Seven items of Mr. Gundlach's letter dated July 3, 2019 were as follows: 1.b. 3.a. 3.b. 4.a. – d. can be added to the motion.

Commissioner Carswell asked for clarification of the screening as listed in Item 1.b.

Mr. Markman replied that due to the daycare, there are additional screening requirements, and due to the type of screening required, no one will see the YMCA building. We request to work with Township staff to create the type of screening that is satisfactory, but will permit view of the historical YMCA building.

Mr. Gundlach clarified that the applicant will comply with all review letters with the seven modifications as listed as 1.b. 3.a. 3.b. 4.a. – d. in his letter dated July 3, 2019 as well as compliance with Item 67 of Boucher & James letter June 19, 2019.

Commissioner Rothman asked about Item 1.a. and questioned whether the applicant will need to go back to ZHB for a variance.

Mr. Gundlach replied no. We are holding seven parking spaces in reserve as they are not required and leave it as green space. Waivers are set forth in Bohler Engineering review letter dated May 17, 2019 and one additional was a partial waiver to provide plan showing utilities within 400 feet of the site and all waivers are part of the application and being requested for approval tonight.

Commissioner Brodsky made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to approve the subdivision and land development application, accompanying plans and waivers for Abington Terrace, LLC – CHOP Abington conditioned upon the applicant complying with the Abington Township staff review comments dated June 17, 2019; Boucher & James, Inc. letter dated June 19, 2019; Montgomery County Planning Commission comment letter dated June 19, 2019; TPD comment letter dated June 24, 2019 and the Abington Township Shade Tree Commission recommendations of July 10, 2019, as well as conditions of the Township Planning Commission and the applicant's agreement to pay all costs associated with the Township rezoning the residential parcel back to R-3 Residential from A/O; and as part of this motion is that the applicant has agreed to comply in its entirety with comment No. 67 of Boucher & James Inc. letter and also all conditions set forth in their letter dated July 3, 2019 with the exceptions of paragraphs 1.b. 3.a. 3.b. 4.a. – d.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the “zoning process and zoning rights,” and she asked “for it to be turned down tonight and for the applicant to put a proper plan together and bring it to the Planning Commission, then to a committee meeting and then to the Board for a vote.”

Natalie Sherstyuk, 1165 Delene Road, said she is “perplexed that our elected officials are so ill-prepared and ready to vote on a motion that you are all scrambling as if you looked at these papers two minutes before walking in the door, and she has no confidence on what is being decided on tonight.”

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

**Public Affairs Committee –**

Item PA-01-071119:

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to award the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the Township Manager to execute all contract documents and agreements with Automatic Door Enterprise/Advanced Door Service in the amount of \$30,533.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Manager Manfredi noted that these were budgeted dollars.

Nancy Hammeke Marshall, Director of the Abington Free Library, added that these are new doors for the library and this was the lowest bid that was reviewed by her staff, Manager Manfredi and Mr. Micciolo.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item PA-02-071119:

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to accept the Commonwealth Financing Authority Grant No. C000070588 and authorize the Township Manager to execute the grant agreement by and between the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant, which supports the Old York Road/Susquehanna Road project.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Bowman said this is to accept grant for the Township's continuing efforts on this project, and he asked for further explanation by the Manager.

Manager Manfredi replied the Board approved to extend the contract with DCED. There were two grants from DCED and one from PennDOT, and cost is \$2.8 million for the entire transportation intersection improvement project. Presented were photos showing the intersection of Old York/Susquehanna Roads.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether the grant money is for the road itself or to acquire the buildings.

Manager Manfredi replied both, and negotiations have not yet begun.

Commissioner Bowman commented that he supports the project in any form because that corner needs attention.

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehman, 1431 Bryant Lane, questioned whether there is a "single page for this project on the website."

Manager Manfredi replied yes, it is listed under the agenda item.

Joe Rosak, 1927 Susquehanna Road, stated that he was "promised that he would be in on discussions about some of these project considerations as he is affected by it and he has not heard anything and he is very angry."

Manager Manfredi replied there is no project yet. There are three component pieces to move this forward; acquiring the properties with grant funds; acquisition and demolition of properties; and a grant from PennDOT. There will be a public process for this project going forward.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item PA-03-071119:

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Zappone to table discussion on EAC Ordinance No. 2166.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

**Finance Committee –**

Item FC-06-071119 from Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Bowman to accept December 31, 2018 Township of Abington CAFR and Audited Financial Statements, Single Audit Report, Tax Office Financial Statements and Agreed Upon Procedures, as presented by Township independent auditors, Bee Bergvall & Co.

Ms. Cindy Bergvall, Principal of Bee, Bergvall & Co., stated that we met with Finance Committee in June to review executive summary, CAFR, Financial Statements, audit report, footnotes and audit of Tax Office financial statements and agreed upon procedures. Testing did not reveal any anomalies and reconciliations went well and a clean opinion was provided.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Vahey asked for further explanation on the clean opinion.

Ms. Bergvall replied the financial information contained in financial statements is presented in accordance with GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board).

President Luker asked for any public comments.

Martin Smith, 1838 Harte Road, expressed concern that he feels “the amount of time for residents to speak is not fair.” Also, he feels “the audited financial statements shows there is a gap in the budget process.”

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels “all expenses for the school were waived, for a church and for various other things, and there is no line item for auditors to look at.”

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item FC-01-071119:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve investments for the month of May 2019. It was noted that investments for the month totaled \$782,877.50. Interest rate yields ranged from 2.400% to 2.450%.

President Luker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

President Luker asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Treasurer’s Report:

Township Treasurer Jay W. Blumenthal said his report is attached to the agenda.

Item FC-02-071119:

Commissioner Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the May expenditures as previously circulated to the Board in the amount of \$5,895,847.65 and salaries and wages in the amount of \$1,894,741.00 and authorizing the proper officials to sign vouchers in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of August 2019.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 13-0. Vice President Kline and Commissioner Spiegelman were absent during roll call.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**The following resident's comments are as stated by each of them and were not transcribed verbatim:**

Jennifer Mars, 2941 Oklahoma Road, stated that “since I couldn’t come to the meeting last month, I wrote an email to President Luker that I am appalled at the abusive conduct for which was displayed by Mr. Steven Kline, Vice President in 1) deliberately withholding information from another Board meeting without apology and 2) publicly bringing discredit to said member in a publicly recorded forum. In my opinion, Peggy Myers is responsive and helpful to the residents of Ward 8. She has proven to be action-oriented and trustworthy. Mr. Kline’s repugnant behavior is typical of political and gender bias that prevails in local government today at all levels. I submit Mr. Kline’s actions and comments were way beyond acceptable behavior by anyone let alone a Township Commissioner. At least he should publicly apologize to an experienced 22-year Board member, but it would be better if he resigned his position and pursue something that requires less fidelity.”

Jamie Maerz, 1561 Marian Road, stated that “I sent an email to President Luker and copied it to Mr. Manfredi and I thank you Jessica for responding and I appreciate that. All of us who complained about how Steven Kline treated Peggy and he sat there as pompous as can be, not even an apology. So I am wondering if the Board of Commissioners can take a vote to remove Steven Kline as Vice President.”

Solicitor Clarke replied motions on the floor like that are not permitted by the Township’s agenda and it would need to be an agenda item, but the Board can change its leadership at any time it sees fit.

Commissioner Myers stated that “I said that I did not want an apology in public or private because I felt that it would not be sincere and I didn’t need that gesture.”

President Luker stated that “the Board agreed to move forward and put this matter behind us and to do what is best for the interest of the Township as a whole.”

Natalie Sherstyuk, 1165 Delene Road, stated that “the public should not have to shorten or edit their comments if it is within their three minute allotted time and the Kline issue is too egregious and should not be subject to manipulation or coercion of any kind. The constituents in this Township yet again are here asking for a resolution to Commissioner Kline’s conduct of the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Nothing has been done and no statement has been made to address it. Many of us and me included have written to you and to our individual Commissioners and received zero response. This incident has not only outraged the public, but has shone the light on the fact that this Board is not regulating itself when code of conduct is breached.”

Kathleen Widman, 669 Forrest Avenue, stated that “at my first meeting last month, President Luker read a statement regarding the situation revolving around Commissioners Kline and Myers and it was stated that no action would be taken that night. What are the members of this Board going to do about it?”

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, stated the “HUD project, \$600 a sq. ft. is corruption. I am concerned about the process of putting a Finance Director in charge of Public Works. We have web development issues like with the one page.”

C.J. Petetti, 2143 Woodland Road, stated that “this Township has done so much for me especially through my education in Abington. I saw the incident that occurred at a previous meeting that was disheartening and I don’t like to see any type of stain on this Township. I know Peggy made a bold decision in not accepting an apology, but I think there should be some form of an apology on behalf of her constituents and all of the citizens because a lot of people give back to the community and we deserve more answers than what we have seen so far.”

Martin Smith, 1838 Harte Road, stated that “most of my suggestions were implemented by the Township and I came here to lend my expertise to hopefully help the Township to be more fiscally solvent.”

Commissioner Gillespie invited everyone to attend the committee meetings because that is where the work is really done.

William Sword, 1528 Fairview Avenue, stated that “I am a little surprised tonight to hear that Commissioner Myers requested not to receive an apology and less surprised to find that Commissioner Kline was not willing to offer an apology.”

**REMARKS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Gillespie said she appreciates everyone coming out tonight. She thanked everyone who attended and participated/volunteered in the Greater Glenside Patriotic Association’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, and the Heritage Band performed there as well. It was a great day that was all done with donations.

Commissioner Schreiber reminded everyone about the Food Drive at the Giant in Huntingdon Valley to be held this coming Saturday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Commissioner Myers thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She does not want it to be about her and it was about something much bigger and she appreciates everyone coming out and voicing their opinions.

Also, this Sunday will be the Memorial Service for Mr. Lew Klein, who for many years was a Philadelphia Broadcast Legend. Lew was a busy and successful man teaching at Temple for 50-plus years and he took the time out of his life to help start Abington PAL and to be President of Abington PAL for 17 years. He was an amazing man, and at the beginning, he did all of the fundraising to get that organization started, and she will be forever grateful and Abington Township should be forever grateful to Mr. Lew Klein.

Commissioner Brodsky thanked President Luker for his service as he does a marvelous job.

Commissioner Rothman thanked everyone for coming together and attending the McKinley Parade and it was an amazing morning and showed how wonderful our community really is. He also thanked the sponsors and volunteer firefighters at McKinley Fire Company who worked hard keeping us safe.

Also, this Saturday in Ward 3 will be the "Fill-A-Police-Car with food donations that goes to food cupboards within Abington Township from 9 a.m. – noon.

Commissioner DiPlacido thanked Angelo Pontelandolfo for the installation of the street light on Zane Avenue as the neighbors are thrilled. Also, "when driving through Abington Township, please drive like your kids live here."

Commissioner Thompson announced that Penbryn pool is now open and he thanked the crew of Parks and Recreation Department along with Angelo Pontelandolfo and his Public Works crew for cleaning up the pool house. He also thanked Ward 6 resident Lisa Doyle for her painting work.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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Resolution No. 19-023 was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on July 11, 2019.

Approved  
8/8/19



**TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
RESOLUTION NO. 19-023**

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, approving the FFY 2019 Annual Action Plan for the use of Federal CDBG Funds.

**WHEREAS**, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to communities in the prevention or elimination of slums or urban blight, or activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income persons, or other urgent community development needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has advised the Township of Abington that under Federal Fiscal Year 2019, the Township is eligible to apply for an entitlement grant under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in the amount of \$781,243; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's Office of Community Development has prepared an Annual Action Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2019, that the Township expects to initiate in October 2019, which proposes how the entitlement grant funds will be expended to address the housing and community development needs identified in the Township's Five Year Consolidated Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, a draft of the FFY 2019 Annual Action Plan was on public display from Monday, June 10, 2019 through Wednesday, July 10, 2019 and the Township held a series of public hearings on the said Plan and the comments of various agencies, groups, and citizens were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Annual Action Plan for the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 CDBG Program is hereby in all respects APPROVED and the Township Manager is hereby directed to file a copy of said Annual Action Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 with the Official Minutes of this Meeting of this Board.

**SECTION 2.** That the Township is COGNIZANT of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of the Community Development Block Grant Program with Federal financial assistance, including those relating to (a) the relocation of site occupants, (b) the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, and other assurances as set forth under the certifications.

**SECTION 3.** That the President of the Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Township of Abington, Pennsylvania, is AUTHORIZED to file an Application for financial assistance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which has indicated its willingness to make available funds to carry out the CDBG Program in the amount of \$781,243; and its further AUTHORIZED to act as the authorized representative of the Township of Abington to sign any and all documents in regard to these programs.

**SECTION 4.** That the President of the Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the Township of Abington, Pennsylvania, is AUTHORIZED to provide assurances and/or certifications as required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and any other supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in review of the Township's Application.

**ADOPTED INTO A RESOLUTION THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2019 BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

**APPROVED:**

**ABINGTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

7.17.19  
Date

Wayne C. Luker  
Wayne C. Luker, President

**ATTEST:**

Richard J. Manfredi  
Richard J. Manfredi,  
Township Manager & Secretary

**ADOPTED:** 7.11.19