

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Hecker presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners HECKER, FARREN, KLINE, MYERS, ROTHMAN

Township Solicitor CLARKE
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY
Community Development Director STROTHER

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, DiPLACIDO, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, SPIEGELMAN, KALINOSKI

MINUTES: Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2017 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Resolution No. 17-015 – To Apply for a Watershed Restoration and Protection Program Grant

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to adopt Resolution No. 17-015 authorizing the Township of Abington to submit an application formally requesting a grant of funds from the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program for 2017.

Commissioner Hecker called on Township Engineer, Mr. Powers.

Mr. Powers said this grant will be used at the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary where the dam is constantly silted in and this will help control it. This project will be incorporated with our MS4 program providing credits.

Commissioner Hecker asked how long has this particular area been an issue for the Township?

Mr. Powers replied the basin was installed in 2000 or 2001 and silting began shortly thereafter.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether the \$45,000 match from MS4 capital was already figured into capital budget or is it a reallocation of capital budget.

Mr. Powers replied it has not been figured in yet.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether the match will come from 2017 budget or 2018 budget.

Mr. Powers replied he does not believe this grant will be awarded before the end of this year, so budgeted in 2018 through capital program.

Commissioner Myers commented that the resolution names Michael LeFevre as Secretary and this will not be voted on until the full Board meeting. Will the Board vote at the beginning of the meeting that the new manager will serve as secretary to the Board of Commissioners.

Solicitor Clarke replied duties of Township Manager are listed in Abington Township Code and the new manager serves as secretary to the Board of Commissioners, so it is part of his job description.

Commissioner Myers said she was not questioning that, but just wanted the document to be correct.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

2017 Capital/Phase I - Storm Sewer Projects

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to approve and enter into contract with Almeida & Hudak Contractors, LLC for the 2017 Capital/Phase I Storm Sewer Projects, in the amount of \$1,014,885.00; to be funded from Account Number 07-00-967-7200.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline clarified that the Township has approximately \$386,000 for Phase I that will be reserved until Phase II bids come in. Is that correct?

Mr. Powers replied that is correct.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Draft Plan – Abington Township MS4 Stormwater Plan:

Township Engineer, Mr. Mike Powers gave a power point presentation of the Draft Plan of Abington Township MS4 Stormwater Plan to the Board. Mike Filmyer with BCM Engineers was present during the presentation.

The plan requires a hearing and a 30-day comment period from residents. Presented were the individual permit application; Total Maximum Daily Load Plan (TMDL) and Pollutant Reduction Plans and Implementation.

Abington's MS4 facilities have been covered by a general permit since 2003; the current permit expires in March 2018 and the renewal application is due by September 16, 2017. Individual permit must be applied for due to the fact that the TMDL has been established for the Wissahickon Watershed and also requires the creation of a Stormwater Management plan for the Township.

Also, the Township must develop a plan to meet TMDL discharge limits and prepare a Pollutant Reduction Plan and Pollutant Control Measure for all impaired streams in the Township.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline questioned the timeframe for approval by the Board as well as time period for the permit.

Mr. Powers replied September 16th is the deadline, so approval by the Board would be needed by August and the permit is for a five-year plan.

Commissioner Kline said in reducing the silt content in the watersheds will this also provide an opportunity to reduce phosphorous levels, and if so, is this project coordinated with the 16 permit-holders involved with the Wissahickon Watershed TMDL.

Mr. Powers replied yes. All projects have a phosphorous and nutrient reduction in the calculations, and he will work with Mr. Wrigley who handles the phosphorus part of it.

Commissioner Sanchez questioned whether this plan could adapt such as maintaining the same protections due to cuts of funding made by the Federal government.

Mr. Powers replied if the Army Corp of Engineers grant was taken away, it would affect costs greatly.

Commissioner Markman asked what happens if Townships do not comply?

Mr. Powers replied nothing has happened to Townships that did not comply; however, Abington is in the forefront that other municipalities look at Abington's program and are amazed by it. Abington is one of three municipalities out of 3,000 that received a permit.

Commissioner Kline said this is an unfunded mandate for all municipalities.

Mr. Powers said Abington has tried to do its part in putting the best program together as possible without costing a lot of money for residents.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Mark Schaffer, Board Member of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, expressed his appreciation for the work that Abington is doing and thanked the Board for being a leader in this problem.

Dan Keiffer, 2020 Maplewood Avenue, expressed his appreciation for what is Abington is doing for water quality.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented we need an assessment of all of the sources of the problem.

Mr. Powers replied erosion of streambanks is the biggest problem and this program addresses it.

Jim Sharp, 2073 Oakdale Avenue, thanked Mr. Powers that Abington is in the forefront.


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

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about pesticide spraying going into the streams.

Commissioner Rothman replied it has been reviewed and a resolution was drafted that was going to be presented to the Board; however, reps of PennDOT informed the Township that the program will not be moving forward this year.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin S. Barron, Assistant Secretary

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