

Workshop Meeting Activity

February 10, 2020

TITLE

MOTION

SECOND

Approve the January 20, 2020
Workshop Meeting Minutes as amended

Commissioner Darragh

Commissioner Haluka

Adjournment

TOWNSHIP OF ALEPPO

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Those in attendance were Commissioner Daniel Darragh, Commissioner Judith Haluka, Solicitor Chris Lovato, Manager Gwen Patterson, and Secretary Patty Krecek. Vice President Arthur Williams and Commissioner Amy Richert were not in attendance. The meeting was recorded.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Darragh made a motion to approve the January 20, 2020 Legislative Meeting Minutes with an amendment to change \$75,000 to \$35,000 in the section titled Aleppo Township Authority. Commissioner Haluka seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

AMAZON CONCERNS/SPEED PATROL PROPOSAL:

Manager Patterson provided a proposal from Chief Hanny, which is in response to a conversation last month about extra patrols. President Jones stated this will be discussed at the Legislative Meeting on February 17, 2020.

DEER MANAGEMENT:

Commissioner Darragh said he read the information provided by Chief Hanny; however, it is the same strategies that were discussed a couple of years ago and they are not effective. Commissioner Haluka said The Manor is putting together an educational package about not feeding the deer. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to put educational items from the Game Commission and The Manor on the Township Web site.

SEWICKLEY-LEETSDALE SEWER PLAN RESOLUTION:

Commissioner Darragh summarized a recent meeting he attended. He is concerned about the accuracy of the numbers for the cost estimate of installing the 16-inch force main. The plan also has to be approved by the DEP. After the meeting, they submitted questions and asked that the responses be submitted in writing, but he has not yet received anything. State Representative Valerie Gaydos said she did not have any insight on this issue. Commissioner Darragh stated that it may end up being cheaper for Sewickley to fix their plant and keep it.

NEW STREET SIGNS:

Manager Patterson said samples of the new street signs have been installed at the corner of Weber Road and Park Way, and she would like everyone to take a look at them at night and provide feedback.

DEER RUN ROAD DRAINAGE REPAIR PROPOSAL:

Manager Patterson provided a letter from HRG recommending the Board award the contract to W.D. Wright Contracting. President Jones asked for this item to be voted on at the Legislative Meeting on February 17, 2020.

SEWICKLEY LOT ON GLEN MITCHELL ROAD:

Manager Patterson provided a summary of the process that was followed by Sewickley to get the permit for the storage lot. It will be renewed annually, and there was a discussion about keeping the area clean.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACT 172 REAL ESTATE CREDITS:

Manager Patterson said all of the volunteer firefighters who submitted their documentation to get the property tax credits and earned income tax credits will be on a list for approval at the Legislative Meeting on February 17, 2020.

POLICE PENSION AMORTIZATION CHANGE:

Manager Patterson provided the following summary: For several years the Township has not had to make any contributions to the pension plan. There are now multiple people retired and drawing every month, and the earnings rate assumptions were wrong, so the plan is currently underfunded. Commissioner Darragh said there are two choices to fix the problem: 1) Make an immediate payment of \$55,000 or \$60,000 this year and see what happens the next time the funding is reviewed, or 2) Make a \$14,000 or \$15,000 payment each year for 10 years. The decision is due end of March. President Jones recommended the 10-year plan. Manager Patterson said she will coordinate with Mockenhaupt on what is needed to amend the plan.

EARTH DAY:

President Jones said there has been one meeting about Earth Day and there will be another meeting. The clean up will be along some portion of Aleppo Township roads. This is the 50th year for Earth Day, the topic is Climate Change, and the committee recommended putting something on the Web site about the little things everybody can do individually, e.g., turn off your lights or save water. Our Earth Day cleanup event is April 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m., and volunteers will meet at the Township building.

ZONING ORDINANCE – C-2 PARKING REGULATIONS:

Manager Patterson stated that the proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance would create a new definition in the C-2 district of “parking area, commercial, an open off-street area other than a private road or way (with adequate means of access), used exclusively for the parking of licensed vehicles serving the owners of lots located within the C-2 Commercial Industrial District but not exclusively for the parking of automobiles of occupants of the premises or accessory to a principal structure as a conditional use in the C-2 Commercial Industrial District.” This would allow a new lot to be a free standing parking lot. The owners of the Industrial Park are looking for ways to accommodate the Amazon vans in the Industrial Park. The Planning Commission voted on February 5, 2020 to recommend approval (except for Fred Gregorich). Resident Fred Gregorich who lives on Glenfield Road is concerned about the proposed amendment because St. Mary’s Church is part of the C-2 district and that would enable the church to rent their parking lot for the Amazon vans, which would create a lot more traffic on Glenfield Road, and the road is not in shape to handle a larger volume of traffic. He spoke to the pastor and he said that a delivery company for Amazon has approached the church about renting their parking lot. He recommends an amendment that would be an overlay district that would include only the Industrial Park. Resident John Trapizona who lives on Glenfield Road agrees with Fred that the amendment should include only the Industrial Park. Shuttling Amazon drivers all over the Township is not the best solution. Resident Jerri Gregorich who lives on Glenfield Road asked why the Township would allow a big organization like Amazon in the area because they are driving on small country roads, and inconveniencing the tax paying citizens with litter, traffic, speeding, and unsafe conditions for children. She also feels that Glenfield Road is not taken care of and allowing more traffic on the road would create more problems. The residents want sewage, and they feel neglected. Commissioner Darragh explained that at the last Aleppo Township Authority meeting there were representatives from Glenfield asking about the sewage, and it is being looked into.

President Jones authorized Solicitor Lovato to look into not including St. Mary’s Church and provide information before the next Planning Commission Meeting in March. President Jones also asked the residents in attendance to provide documentation in writing that they would want to be discussed at the meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the Amazon drivers littering and speeding. Resident Jake Ritchey who lives on Ferry Road said he works in transportation and even though the Amazon drivers work for independent contractors, Amazon can still give them guidelines on how they should operate. Manager Patterson described a recent meeting she had with Jonathan Conway, Warehouse Supervisor at Amazon, and the Chief of Police, and they addressed the concerns of speeding on Redgate, the vans passing drivers, littering, and sound concerns. Manager Patterson read an email she received from Jonathan Conway after their meeting, which described ideas they are implementing to help address the concerns.

ZONING ORDINANCE – OIL & GAS:

Manager Patterson provided the following summary of the proposed amendment: In 2011, an ordinance was passed for oil and gas; however, it was not part of the zoning ordinance. The oil and gas ordinance would not change, it would just be adopted as part of the existing zoning ordinance. President Jones asked Manager Patterson to have both the C-2 Parking Regulations and the Oil and Gas amendments approved at the same time. Solicitor Lovato stated that Solicitor Stone might want to fast track the Oil and Gas amendment. Manager Patterson will put this on the agenda for the Legislative Meeting on February 17, 2020.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

State Representative Valerie Gaydos said she has been going to meetings to communities within the 44th district because at the beginning of each year they look at different sources of capital for projects, and she would like a “wish list” of things Aleppo Township would like her support with, so she can advocate for the Township. She also said she is in touch with representatives from Amazon at a different level because there are two Amazon warehouses in the 44th district (Aleppo and Findlay Township), and they have been very good at responding to her calls. She offered her help, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by President Jones at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Krecek
Township Secretary