



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Beaver County, Pennsylvania
December 12th, 2022
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

6:30 P.M. Workshop Meeting, held in the Township Municipal Building located at 1700 Clark Boulevard, Hopewell Township, was called to Order by Vice President Joe Kusnir. Mr. Kusnir announced that the meeting is being recorded.

6:30 P.M. **Roll Call**
President Richard Bufalini – In Attendance
Vice President Joe Kusnir – In Attendance
Commissioner Nick DiPietro – In Attendance
Commissioner Tim Force – In Attendance
Commissioner Barbara Michna – In Attendance

Others Present

Jamie Yurcina, Township Manager, Michael Jones, Solicitor and HRG Inc. Engineers.

6:36 P.M. **Citizens Comments on Agenda Items**

Renee Cameron, 5923 Victor Circle Hopewell Township PA

Ms. Cameron questioned the board about what actions/research were taken prior to the garbage bid. She stated it was her understanding that; Valley Waste is the only one that submitted a bid. She also asked when the bid went out and if the township researched automated service? Mr. Kusnir replied that we did not look in to automated because never anticipated such a dramatic increase. Mr. Yurcina stated that the bid was sent out in September.

Rick Paich, 2363 Sheffield Rd. Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Paich asked what was the reason for the amendment of the bid, because the Twp. went from unlimited pickup to a 2 can limit. Mr. Kusnir said the reason for the change was to lower the price.

Mr. Paich asked if he has three 32 gallon cans will they pick that up? Mr. Yurcina stated the he believed so but would ask to make sure.

Sean Henry, 209 Kinney Dr. Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Henry stated he talked to someone from Waste Management today and they told him they never had the opportunity to bid. He also talked to someone from Valley Waste and was told it was already a done deal.

Mr. Yurcina commented that Waste Management was here for the bid. Mr. Kusnir said they were here and had the ability to bid but chose not to and Valley Waste was incorrect saying that it is a done deal, as it is on the agenda tonight.

Joe Panzino, 210 Winchester Ave. Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Panzino questioned if it was 2 cans/100 gallons a week or a month. Mr. Yurcina stated that it was 2 cans/100 gallons a week with one bulky item a month. Mr. Panzino asked if the township has considered providing financing to offset the costs for the residents? Mr. Kusnir replied, no, the township is not going to subsidize the rates..

Jesse Langenhahn, 508 Lexington Dr. Hopewell Township, PA



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Mr. Langenhahn Inquired if these price increases are comparable to other townships in the area? Mr. Yurcina replied yes, and Center Township was having their garbage bid opening at 7:00

Cynthia Scherer, 1106 Queens Mill Rd. Hopewell Township PA

Ms. Scherer stated she lives by herself and puts out one grocery store bag once a month and asked if there could there be a database for the senior citizens or single people that barely use a can or recycle? Mr. Kusnir replied we can ask the question if there is something we can do for our residents that do not generate that much waste.

Mark Cripe, 5303 Clearview Ave. Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Cripe asked what happens with the extra garbage? Does it stay on the street? Mr. Kusnir replied you cannot put out more than what is prescribed. Mr. Yurcina stated there should be an option of buying bag tags if you are over the 100 gallon limit and will check on the price of the tags.

Melanie Kamicker, 1514 Gringo Rd. Hopewell Township, PA

Ms. Kamicker stated we are never going to get Waste Management back. Valley Waste is now the middleman for Waste Management. She asked how do we do away with current regulations and choose our own garbage company? She stated her mother who lives in Independence Township chooses her own provider and the fee was only increased by \$5. She would like to have to have the option to choose service as well. Mr. Jones explained under the current ordinance in the township there is one contract. However, this is something that could be looked at in the future.

James Robolino, 3179 Bradbury Dr. Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Robolino heard that Waste Management did reach out to Hopewell and were told they couldn't make the requirements as they wanted limited service because of manpower. Mr. Kusnir confirmed we put out a bid and we communicated and advertised to all the large carriers. They were given the opportunity under the current bid description, to bid.

Joann Smith, 1700 Crestmont Dr. Hopewell Township

Ms. Smith was inquiring why Valley Waste is not providing garbage cans? Mr. Yurcina Confirmed it would have an additional cost.

7:12 P.M.

Solicitor's Report

A public hearing will be held regarding Scarmazie's Planned Residential Development known as the Courtyards at Legends.

Public Hearing Open.

All proceedings were recorded by a stenographer.

8:20 P.M.

Business Agenda



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Commissioner Force: Motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of November 14th, 2022.

Commissioner Bufalini: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

Commissioner Kusnir: Motion to approve the list of bills dated December 12th, 2022, as presented: General Fund \$56,349.71; Sewer Fund \$41,165.52; State Fund \$15,018.95; Sewer Construction Fund \$525.00; Equipment Fund \$937.25; Development Escrow Fund \$2,565.00; American Rescue Fund \$11,655.00.

Commissioner DiPietro: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried.	

Additional Citizens Comments on Agenda Items

Courtney Soder, 2726 Kane Rd. Hopewell Township, PA

Ms. Soder asked if purchasing bags for trash instead of paying for the full service was an option. Mr. Yurcina stated that he would check into that option.

Cynthia Scherer, 1106 Queens Mill Rd. Hopewell Township, PA

Ms. Scherer addressed changing the current Ordinance that is in place now regarding garbage pick-up. Mr. Jones stated that is something that the Commissioners can address prior to the next contract.

Brian Rohm, 225 Sharon Grange Rd., Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Rohm asked if the Township considered "Snow Birds" who only live in the Township for part of the year. Mr. Kusnir stated that that has always been a part of



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the contract but will need to check to see if that continues to be included.

Renee Cameron, 5923 Victor Cr., Hopewell Township, PA

Ms. Cameron asked what the bid was based on? Ms. Michna stated that it is based on the number of homes that are serviced.

Fred Bologna, 113 Stone Quarry Rd., Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Bologna asked if there was a law in place that requires Municipalities to collect recycling. Mr. Jones confirmed that it was a state law.

Jim Bologna, 142 Buss Rd., Hopewell Township, PA

Mr. Bologna suggested applying for a recycling grant and having the Township take care of collection themselves. Mr. Jones stated a feasibility study would be needed to see if that would be an option.

Mr. Kusnir closed citizen comments regarding the agenda items.

Commissioner Bufalini: Motion to accept the single bid received for Collection, Removal and Disposal of Garbage, Rubbish, Bulky Waste, Yard Waste and Designated Recycle Material from Valley Waste beginning 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025, with an option for 2026.

Commissioner DiPietro: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

Commissioner Kusnir: Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-06 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, BEAVER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM MUNICIPAL TAXES AND REVENUES TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2023.



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Commissioner Force: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried.	

Commissioner DiPietro: Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2022-07 AN ODINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, BEAVER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE REQUIRED TO DEFRAY SPECIFIC EXPENDITURES AND LIABILITIES FOR OPERATION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2023.

Commissioner Michna: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

Commissioner Kusnir: Motion to approve correction #2 for the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the pension plan for non-uniformed employees of Hopewell Township. This is with regards to Act 205 of 1984, as amended, which governs the funding requirements for all municipal plans. The MMO has increased \$145.74.

Commissioner Force: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes



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Commissioner Kusnir Yes
Commissioner Bufalini Yes
Motion Carried.

Commissioner Michna: *Motion to approve Resolution 2022-26 A RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, BEAVER COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELECTING TO AMEND ITS NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW AS AMENDED AND AS APPLICABLE TO MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES.*

Commissioner Force: *Second the Motion.*

Roll Call Vote:
Commissioner Michna Yes
Commissioner Force Yes
Commissioner DiPietro Yes
Commissioner Kusnir Yes
Commissioner Bufalini Yes
Motion Carried

Commissioner Kusnir: *Motion to rescind all prior Hopewell Township Police Department policies, procedures, general orders, and direct orders pertaining to any operation of the department or its officers to the extent that the same conflict with or are inconsistent with any of the policies obtained through contracted services with Lexipol and adopted through Hopewell Township.*

Commissioner Bufalini: *Second the Motion.*

Roll Call Vote:
Commissioner Michna Yes
Commissioner Force Yes
Commissioner DiPietro Yes
Commissioner Kusnir Yes
Commissioner Bufalini Yes
Motion Carried

Commissioner DiPietro: *Motion to approve Resolution 2022-27 A RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP,*



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BEAVER COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO HEREBY REQUEST A COVID-19 ARPA PA SMALL WATER AND SEWER GRANT OF \$490,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE RACCOON CREEK BAR SCREEN REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

Commissioner Bufalini: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

Commissioner Kusnir: Motion to approve Resolution 2022-28 A RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, BEAVER COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO HEREBY REQUEST A COVID-19 ARPA H2O GRANT OF \$2,220,100 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR THE SEWER COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Commissioner Force: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

Commissioner Kusnir: Motion to appoint Thomas Lewis to Park Advisory Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bob Stiegerwald, with a five (5) year term commencing on January 1st, 2023 and concluding on December 31st, 2027.



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Commissioner DiPietro: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

8:42 P.M. **Engineer's Report**
Engineer's Report was Discussed, Submitted, and is on File.

8:42 P.M. **Items for Discussion**
No Items for discussion

8:42 P.M. **Citizens Forum**

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Dr., Hopewell Township, PA

Ms. Pistorius inquired what progress is being made with the landslide in her back yard. Mr. Yurcina and Mr. Gilberti reached out to Geotech for confirmation and waiting for the report to provide a timeline.

8:45 P.M. **New Business**
Commissioner Kusnir: Motion to amend the agenda to add item number 13.

Commissioner DiPietro: Second the Motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Michna	Yes
Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes
Motion Carried	

Commissioner Force: Motion to appoint Diane Palsa, Delinquent Tax Collector for the period December 31, 2022, until April 15, 2023.

Commissioner DiPietro: Second the Motion.



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Commissioner Force	Yes
Commissioner DiPietro	Yes
Commissioner Kusnir	Yes
Commissioner Bufalini	Yes

Motion Carried

8:45 P.M.

Old Business

No Old Business

8:45 P.M.

Executive Session

Executive session is needed to discuss the Police Bargaining Agreement and Police Personnel.

9:30 P.M.

Executive Session Out

Vice President Kusnir announced there are no items that need to be acted upon following executive session.

9:30 P.M.

Janice Gibson, Hopewell Park Board

Ms. Gibson requested an early booking for the 2023 Pavilion rentals as she has a large committee in place that would like to move forward with planning a non-denominational prayer event on July 1st. Pavilion #1, #2 and the Amphitheater will be used. The Commissioners granted her request.

9:34 P.M.

Mike Wasik, Hopewell Township Fire Department

Mr. Wasik asked if there has been any news from the DCED study regarding joining forces with other municipalities. Mr. Yurcina said they have not received any information. Mr. Kusnir said he does not see the value in a merger seeing it as a financial drain on the Township. Mr. Wasik agreed.

9:45 P.M.

Adjournment

Commissioner Force: Motion to Adjourn.

Commissioner Michna: Second the Motion.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Minutes Recorded by: Jamie Yurcina 12/12/2022
Minutes Prepared by: Nora Janicki 12/20/2022