

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Upper St. Clair, duly advertised and posted in accordance with law, was called to order at 7:30 PM on Monday, April 5, 2021 at the Community & Recreation Center, 1551 Mayview Road, Upper St. Clair, PA. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Christie	President
Commissioner Paoly	Vice President
Commissioner Burlingame	
Commissioner Enck	
Commissioner Orchowski	
Commissioner Pardini	
Commissioner Plutko	

Matthew R. Serakowski	Township Manager
Mark Mansfield	Assistant Township Manager
Mark P. Romito	Director of Finance
Adam A. Benigni	Director of Community Development
Irving Firman	Township Attorney
Jennifer Slagle	Township Engineer
Amy Wiszczor	Recording Secretary

PUBLIC: Approximately 21 people attended.

At 7:15 PM, the Honorable Ronald A. Arnoni conducted a ceremony in which newly appointed Commissioner Todd Burlingame was sworn into office as Commissioner At-Large of the Township of Upper St. Clair.

Commissioner Christie congratulated and welcomed Commissioner Burlingame to the Board.

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner Plutko presented a Proclamation to Ms. Phoebe Chen, a student at Upper St. Clair High School, for being selected as a flutist to the National Association for Music Education's (NAfME) All-National Concert Band. There was a video presentation of a performance by Ms. Chen. Ms. Chen then thanked the school district for their support of these music programs, her director of the Upper St. Clair wind ensemble and the opportunity to participate and audition for these ensembles.

Commissioner Christie presented a Proclamation to Mr. Chris Gmitter, Library Director, in recognition of National Library Week, April 4-10, 2021.

Commissioner Christie mentioned that the library will be undergoing renovations in the near future.

Mr. Gmitter thanked the Commissioners and the community's support for the library and offered the opportunity to answer questions regarding programs offered at the library and the upcoming renovation project for the library.

REVIEW OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2021

Commissioner Enck moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2021. This was seconded by Commissioner Paoly and carried with a 7-0 voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION RE. PLC16-0008 – TUSCANY POINTE PRD – FINAL APPROVAL – EXTENSION REQUEST

Mr. Benigni stated that Jeffrey W. Thomas, developer of Tuscany Pointe, has submitted a request for a two-year extension of the approval granted by the Board of Commissioners on November 7, 2016 by Ordinance No. 2154. This item was discussed at the Informational & General Affairs meeting on March 29, 2021 and tabled until this evening's meeting. Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners take action on this request.

In response to Commissioner Christie's question regarding any new material to be presented, Mr. Benigni stated there were two (2) letters given to the Board tonight. Commissioner Christie confirmed that these documents were received.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions from the Board and there were none.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any new comments from the public.

Mr. Douglas Florey, 1305 Wellington Drive, stated his concerns in regards to losing the view from the back of his home. If they were aware of the pending apartments behind their home, they may not have made an offer on their home. Mr. Florey continued that the two-year extension would put them and their neighbors in a state of limbo. Mr. Florey was considering renovations to their home, but these renovations would be negatively impacted by the addition of the apartment building. With most of the living space being utilized by the upper floors of their homes, they are concerned with looking directly into the apartment building. Mr. Florey advised that Mr. Jeffrey Thomas asked for the extension due to a stop in construction brought on by Covid-19; however, Mr. Florey advised that construction was continuing based on the previous owner of his house moving and building a new house in Hastings, which the owner moved into in December. Mr. Florey asks the Commissioners to vote no to the extension.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any additional comments from the public or the Board and there were none.

Mr. Irv Firman confirmed with Commissioner Orchowski that his motion was to extend the approval for two years for PLC16-0008.

MOTION AND VOTE TO EXTEND THE APPROVAL OF RE. PLC16-0008 – TUSCANY POINTE PRD – FINAL APPROVAL – EXTENSION REQUEST

Commissioner Orchowski moved to approve PLC16-0008 – Tuscan Pointe PRD – Final Approval – Extension Request. This was seconded by Commissioner Christie and denied with a 1-6 roll call vote. Commissioner Orchowski cast the affirmative vote.

NEW BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION RE. RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TOLLING OF INTERSTATE 79 AT THE BRIDGEVILLE INTERCHANGE

Mr. Serakowski stated that Staff has provided a copy of Resolution No. 1699 that stands in unity with our neighbors of Bridgeville, Collier and South Fayette Townships to oppose the tolling of Interstate 79 at the Bridgeville interchange.

The Staff is recommending the Board of Commissioners adopt Resolution No 1699. This may be accomplished by a simple motion and roll call vote.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions from the Board.

In response to Commissioner Paoly's question, Mr. Serakowski confirmed that the neighboring townships have already approved the opposition to tolling the bridge on Interstate 79 at the Bridgeville interchange.

Commissioner Orchowski made a comment regarding the past history of building a north bound bridge at this interchange and the possibility of future taxes on mileage.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any additional questions from the Board or from the public and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1699

Commissioner Orchowski moved to adopt Resolution No. 1699 opposing the tolling of Interstate 79 at the Bridgeville Interchange. This was seconded by Commissioner Plutko and carried with a 7-0 roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. PROPOSAL TO STUDY ENHANCEMENTS AT THE MORTON FIELDS COMPLEX

Mr. Serakowski stated that following several years of discussion and a pandemic delay, the Staff and the Township are prepared to move forward on a review of the Morton Fields Complex Study. Before the Board tonight is a revised Pashek*MTR proposal which includes the deliverables and several other inclusions within the document. The Staff, in response to questions raised at last Monday's Informational and General Affairs Board of Commissioners meeting, has also included a revised schedule.

Staff recommends approval which can be accomplished by a simple motion and voice vote. Staff is also requesting direction as far as the entity to oversee this project.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Commissioner Orchowski stated his appreciation for the breakdown of costs. Commissioner Orchowski continued that, as proposed, it would be acceptable to have Staff include the Board in

on any communications that occur between the consultant and the Parks and Recreation advisory committee and advise of any meetings which members of the Board could attend if they choose. Once the project is nearing the end, it would be decided what role, if any, the Parks and Recreation committee of the Board would assume regarding the recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Christie's comments regarding the advertisement of meetings and the availability of minutes from those meetings, Mr. Serakowski confirmed the meetings would be advertised and the minutes would be available to the Board.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board or from the public.

Commissioner Christie stated that the Morton Fields Complex is a heavily used recreation facility which is located in the center of the community and it includes several fields and parking facilities. He indicated this study will address the drainage issues and the sliding of the hillside at this facility.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any additional comments or questions from the Board or public and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL TO STUDY ENHANCEMENTS AT THE MORTON FIELDS COMPLEX

Commissioner Paoly moved to approve the proposal to study enhancements at the Morton Fields Complex. This was seconded by Commissioner Plutko and carried with a 7-0 voice vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL FOR A FORMAL GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR THE UPPER ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP LIBRARY – NEXT GENERATION LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Mansfield stated that Resolution No. 1700 authorizes a formal grant application through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for the Upper St. Clair Township Library – Next Generation Library Improvement Project in the amount of \$250,000.

Mr. Mansfield advised this grant would assist in converting the school district wing to help make the library entirely on the 2nd floor which would greatly improve our library.

Mr. Mansfield added that Staff is recommending the approval of Resolution No. 1700 which may be accomplished by a simple motion and roll call vote.

Commissioner Christie applauded the Staff for applying and obtaining grant money from both federal and state government agencies. These grants greatly help the Township to finance these types of projects.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions from the Board or the public and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1700

Commissioner Orchowski moved to adopt Resolution No. 1700 authorizing a formal grant application through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for the Upper St. Clair Township Library – Next Generation Library Improvement Project. This was seconded by Commissioner Paoly and carried with a 7-0 roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL FOR A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR THE MORTON COMPLEX/COMMUNITY GARDENS CONNECTION – PHASE IIB PERIMETER TRAIL PROJECT IN BOYCE MAYVIEW PARK.

Mr. Mansfield stated that Resolution No. 1701 authorizes a grant application through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation program in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for the Morton Complex/Community Gardens Connection – Phase IIB Perimeter Trail project.

Mr. Mansfield added that Staff is recommending the approval of Resolution No. 1701 which may be accomplished by a simple motion and roll call vote.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board or the public and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1701

Commissioner Pardini moved to approve Resolution No. 1701 authorizing a grant application through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Program for the Morton Complex/Community Gardens Connection – Phase IIB Perimeter Trail Project in Boyce Mayview Park. This was seconded by Commissioner Enck and carried with a 7-0 roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL FOR A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MORTON COMPLEX/COMMUNITY GARDENS CONNECTION – PHASE IIB PERIMETER TRAIL PROJECT IN BOYCE MAYVIEW PARK

Mr. Mansfield stated Resolution No. 1702 authorizes a grant application through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for Greenways, Trails, and Recreation program funds in the amount of \$125,000 to be used for the Morton Complex/Community Gardens Connection – Phase IIB Perimeter Trail Project.

Mr. Mansfield added that Staff is recommending the approval of Resolution No. 1702. This may be accomplished by a simple motion and roll call vote.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board or the public and there were none.

MOTION AND VOTE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1702

Commissioner Enck moved to approve Resolution No. 1702 authorizing a grant application through the Department of Community and Economic Development for the Morton Complex/Community Gardens Connection – Phase IIB Perimeter Trail Project in Boyce Mayview Park. This was seconded by Commissioner Plutko and carried with a 7-0 roll call vote.

RECOMMENDATION RE. APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS

Mr. Mansfield reviewed the following contracts for the Board's approval in accordance with the Township Code:

McChesney Lueck Roofing, Public Works Building Roof Replacement \$117,400.00
LLC
McKees Rocks, PA

Industrial Commercial Administration Building Elevator \$ 69,500.00
Elevator Modernization/Rebuild
(Located in the Library)

Mr. Mansfield addressed questions from last week's meeting regarding safety features and capabilities of the elevator. Mr. Mansfield advised this would nearly be a complete rebuild. Significant to the rebuild is a new control system that is not proprietary. This system allows the Township to seek quotes from any maintenance and repair company, which in turn controls the Township's costs moving forward. There will also be improved emergency functions and a lockdown capability.

Mr. Mansfield stated that approval of the above contracts may be accomplished by a simple motion and voice vote.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.

Commissioner Orchowski asked if the upgrade in safety features included direct communication with the elevator company if the elevator becomes stuck. Mr. Mansfield confirmed there would be direct communication with the technician and they would be able to contact the Township Police, if necessary.

Commissioner Christie asked if there were any additional questions from the Board and there were none.

Commissioner Christie mentioned that the township Staff does a tremendous job controlling expenses and fundraising with obtaining grants. These projects have been part of the Township's Comprehensive Planning process for several years.

MOTION AND VOTE TO APPROVE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONTRACTS

Commissioner Plutko moved to approve the above-mentioned contracts. This was seconded by Commissioner Paoly and carried with a 7-0 voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion for adjournment by Commissioner Pardini and a second by Commissioner Burlingame, which carried with a 7-0 voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:06 PM.

Amy Wiszczor
Recording Secretary
April 2021