

**Newlin Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2024**

Call to Order: The Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting convened at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024, at the Township Garage located at 1751 Embreeville Road. Present were Supervisors Bill Kelsall (Chair), Jim Cornell (Vice-Chair) and Bob Pearson. Secretary/Treasurer Gail Abel was unable to attend. Mr. Cornell served as Secretary.

Announcements: Mr. Kelsall advised that the Township had received notification from PECO that its current Reliability and Resiliency Plan includes work along several roads in Newlin Township, including Strasburg Road, Stargazers Road, Youngs Road, Laurel Road, Brandywine Creek Road, Harveys Bridge Road and Green Valley Road. Tree/vegetation work will begin in July 2024, with equipment upgrades and installations scheduled for the second half of 2025. PECO will notify affected residents before commencing work.

Comments: Erica Lee asked about the gates at both ends of the vacated portion of Laurel Road. Mr. Pearson explained that Drew Gentile has the key (or combination) for the lock on the gate closest to Wheatland Drive, and that Richard Mitchell has the key (or combination) for the lock on the gate closest to Strasburg Road. He confirmed that along that vacated portion, the Township still owns the three parcels it acquired in 2021.

Minutes for Approval: Mr. Cornell presented the minutes of the June 10, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve those minutes was seconded by Mr. Kelsall and unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Mr. Cornell presented the monthly Financial Report: As of June 30, 2024, the Township had \$801,781.37 on deposit, including \$314,064.77 in general and unrestricted funds. Overall, this represents a net increase of \$36,998.44 since May 31, 2024. Mr. Pearson's motion to accept the Financial Report was seconded by Mr. Kelsall and unanimously approved.

Bill Payment Authorization: Mr. Cornell presented a list of pending bills, invoices, and other recurring/routine payments totaling \$155,033.55 (\$20,697.54 from the General Fund Account, \$35,775.00 from the Fire & EMS Tax Account and \$98,561.01 from the State Liquid Fuel Fund Account) and requested payment authorization. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve the requested payments was seconded by Mr. Kelsall and unanimously approved.

America 250 Celebration – Resolution 2024-02: Mr. Cornell advised that the Chester County Planning Commission had requested that the Township adopt a resolution supporting the efforts of the America250 PA Chester County Commission in planning for the County's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, and presented the text of Resolution 2024-02. Mr. Pearson's motion to adopt Resolution 2024-02 was seconded by Mr. Kelsall and unanimously approved.

Kennett Library Update: Bradley Peiper and Chris Manna, Kennett Library's President and Executive Director, respectively, were present to discuss the new Kennett Library. Mr. Manna noted that we are nearing the anniversary of the new Library's August 2023 opening, and highlighted some of

its new and expanded programs and offerings, including adult literacy, free books for children, the children's imagination library, the auditorium (including Monday Movie Night), tutor rooms, and "makerspace" facilities. He noted that Wi-Fi usage at the Library is now the highest of any library in Chester County, that Library visitation has increased 109% from last year and that circulation is now the highest ever for Kennett Library. He added that the number of Newlin Township library cardholders increased from 178 in 2023 to 217 in May 2024, that 342 Newlin Township residents attended Library programs in April and that Library visits from Newlin Township residents in May 2024 were up 300% from a year ago.

Mr. Peiper noted that the new Library's services will cost \$1.1 million in its first year of operation, and advised that its Board of Trustees was asking each of the eight municipalities it serves to enact a Library Tax of 0.2 mils in order to fund Library operations. He estimated that that would yield an annual Library contribution of approximately \$26,500 from Newlin Township, at an average annual cost of \$40.34 per Newlin Township household.

Mr. Cornell noted that based on additional data provided by Mr. Peiper, the Township's per-household Library cost, as requested, would be close to the average annual per-household cost of the eight municipalities served by the Library. Mr. Pearson reviewed the importance that our nation's founders placed on libraries: The Library of Congress was founded by Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin proposed the first library in Pennsylvania. He also recalled a cogent observation by news anchor Walter Cronkite: "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." He noted that the amount requested was actually about \$9,500 less than the Township's Library contributions over the last several years (which included capital contributions for the construction of the new Library). Mr. Peiper voiced concern that 2024 might not be the best year for a local Library Tax referendum in light of the nationwide polarization arising in connection with the upcoming Presidential election.

After further discussion, Mr. Pearson's motion that a Library Tax referendum be deferred until November 2025, but that the Township's 2025 Budget should include a Library contribution from the General Fund in the amount that would have resulted from a 0.2 mil Library Tax, was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Kimberly & Michael Bucci Stormwater O&M Agreement – 115 Newlin Greene Circle: Mr. Kelsall advised that Zoning Officer Craig Kologie of Castle Valley Consultants had reviewed and approved the application and proposed Stormwater Management Agreement and Plan for 115 Newlin Greene Circle. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve the Stormwater Management Agreement and Plan was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Road Master Update: Mr. Pearson reported that in the past two weeks the Township had oiled and chipped Youngs Road and Laurel Road and a portion of Harveys Bridge Road, but that the Marlborough Springs Road project remained on hold pending confirmation that sufficient funds will be available this year. He noted that a resident had voiced concerns of excessive speeding and truck traffic on Brandywine Drive and had asked PennDOT to conduct a traffic study, but advised that the Township could complete that study more expeditiously and would commence the study later this month.

Adjournment: Upon Mr. Pearson's motion, seconded by Mr. Cornell, the meeting was adjourned.

Time: 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Cornell, Secretary *pro tem*