

**Newlin Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2022**

**Call to Order:** The Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting convened at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 2022, at the Township Garage located at 1751 Embreeville Road. Present were Supervisors Bill Kelsall (Chair), Jim Cornell (Vice-Chair) and Bob Pearson, and Secretary/Treasurer Gail Abel.

**Announcements:** No announcements were made.

**Comments:** Barbara Forney brought to the Board's attention that there is a funding source requiring no matching funds from the PA Racehorse Development and Gaming Act Statewide Local Share Account. Projects are eligible if they improve the quality of life in the community. Categories include acquisition; construction, demolition; infrastructure; and purchase of vehicles, machinery, equipment. Eligible project cost is a minimum of \$25,000 and the maximum of \$1,000,000. The application deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pearson suggested that the Township apply for a grant to replace its aging backhoe. After discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting to adopt a resolution authorizing the application once Ms. Forney completes it.

Gary Levesque was in attendance. Mr. Levesque has been appointed the new rental manager for the Township's residential rental units.

**Minutes:** Ms. Abel presented the minutes of the January 10, 2022, Board Meeting. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve those minutes was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

**Financial Report:** Ms. Abel presented the monthly Financial Report: As of January 31, 2022, the Township had \$776,533.98 on deposit, including \$418,966.77 in general and unrestricted funds. Overall, this represents a net decrease of \$135,304.85 since December 31, 2021. Mr. Pearson's motion to accept the Financial Report was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

**Payment Authorization and Account Transfers:** Ms. Abel presented a list of pending bills, invoices and other recurring/routine payments totaling \$55,540.47 (\$44,043.68 from the general fund, \$11,496.79 from the State Liquid Fuel Fund), and requested payment authorization.

The Secretary also asked for approval to transfer \$15,000 from the general fund to the TD Bank Debit Account where the Township's General Obligation Note automatically gets deducted monthly. This will cover about 3 months of payments.

The Secretary also advised that a bill for D.T. Taylor in the amount of \$22,738.50 was not received in time for the January bill approvals, and that after the January meeting she had gained payment approval from the Chairman.

Mr. Pearson's motion to approve the requested payment and transfer authorizations and endorse the Chairman's decision for the payment to D.T. Taylor was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

**Embreeville Bridge Update:** Mr. Cornell advised that at an on-site meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, PennDOT representatives had said that they expect Embreeville Bridge repairs to be completed by the end of 2022. In response to a question from Mr. Levesque, Mr. Pearson advised that the project primarily involved the repair and remediation of a damaged Bridge arch. Mr. Levesque asked if the Township could request that PennDOT widen the hard curve on the side of the Bridge closest to the Embreeville Mill. The Supervisors undertook to do so. The discussion briefly turned to whether modifications to Mr. Levesque's KOA Campground property might alleviate the flooding of Route 162 now routinely occurring near the end of the Embreeville Mill farthest from the Bridge. Mr. Pearson will coordinate with the Township Engineer to pursue this matter. Mr. Levesque also commented that the edges of Route 162 from Stargazers Road to Embreeville Bridge are deteriorating. Mr. Pearson undertook to bring this to PennDOT's attention. Mr. Pearson also advised that the Township has received numerous requests for traffic enforcement on the detours around the closed Bridge and noted that radar signs used to limit speeds are an allowable expense under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mr. Kelsall's motion to authorize the Road Master to purchase a radar sign was seconded by Mr. Pearson and unanimously approved.

**Brandywine Battlefield Sign Arrangements:** Bill McGowan, representing the Newlin Historical Society, was in attendance to discuss Brandywine Battlefield sign arrangements. Mr. McGowan expressed disagreement with the Supervisors' previous determination to place the sign on the Wickersham property on Marlboro Spring Road and advised that the Historical Society strongly prefers its placement at the Barnard Orchard property on Unionville Wawaset Road. After discussion, the Supervisors decided to defer any final decision on the placement or language of the sign. Mr. Cornell requested that NHS and the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force reach agreement on sign language well in advance of the Supervisors' March meeting.

**1050 Glenhall and 121 Ridings Way Stormwater Agreements:** Ms. Abel noted that the Township had received two proposed Stormwater Best Management Practices Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection Plans and Agreements: One from Marsh Creek Homes, LLC (as owner of the property at 1050 Glenhall Road) and one from Albert C. & Elisabeth C. Elvanian (as owners of the property at 121 Ridings Way). She advised that Craig Kologie, the Township's Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer had reviewed both plans. Mr. Pearson stated that a review by Jim Fritch, the Township Engineer, would be more appropriate. The Supervisors deferred action on these matters.

**Unionville Area Regional Plan Vision Partnership Grant:** In connection with the current 10-year review of the Unionville Area Plan (which includes Newlin Township, Ms. Abel presented an application for a Chester County Vision Partnership Grant. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve and sign the application was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

**Natural Lands Letter of Support for Grant Application:** Ms. Abel presented a letter of support requested by Natural Lands in connection with its application for a grant, under the Chester County Preservation Partnership Program, relating to the ChesLen Preserve. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve the letter of support was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

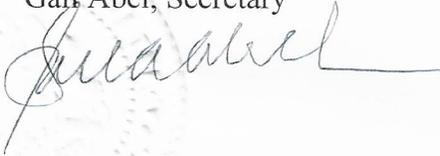
**Planning for Increase in Fire & EMS Tax:** Bennett Baird, the Township's Commissioner on the Kennett Regional Fire and EMS Regional Commission, noted that the Township's annual expenditures for Fire and EMS services ("F&EMS") have increased substantially over the last ten years, and now exceed its annual F&EMS tax receipts. He expects further increases in the years ahead. He advised that the increases reflect additional paid firefighters in response to a steadily diminishing pool of volunteers (a nationwide trend), higher costs for F&EMS vehicles and supplies, higher EMS wages and, more recently, increased Newlin-based F&EMS call volume.

After discussion, the Supervisors agreed that the Township must increase its F&EMS millage from the current combined rate of 0.60 mills and undertook to establish the new combined rate (to become effective in 2023) in the coming months. Mr. Pearson's motion to include a notice to this effect along with the property tax bills being distributed later in February by Berkheimer Associates was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

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

Time: 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail Abel, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Abel", written over a faint circular seal or stamp.