

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 7, 2018**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Michael Hudak, President
Thomas Nolan, Vice-President
Malissa Davis, Commissioner
John Gallagher, Commissioner
John Merhottein Commissioner (Via Phone)
- OTHERS PRESENT** James Broughal, Township Solicitor
Doug Bruce, Township Manager
- CALL TO ORDER** President Hudak called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** Solicitor Broughal announced that the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session on May 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss litigation matters pursuant to Section 708a of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
- COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**
- PASTOR LARRY VANDEVER NAZARETH** Pastor Vandever stated he is the administrator for The Coalition for Feral Cats of Lehigh Valley. He explained that the feral cat situation is not just local but throughout the Lehigh Valley and that the humane way to take care of this is by a process called TNR which is Trap, Neuter/Spay, and Return which stops the population growth immediately. Pastor Vandever mentioned also the cats that can be domesticated, we get them adopted. Pastor Vandever said he would like to meet with the board to discuss further. President Hudak asked Pastor Vandever to leave his name and number with the Recording Secretary.
- BARRY ROTH
4323 CHETWIN TERR.** Mr. Roth said there are graffiti markings under a bridge in the township and would like it removed. Mr. Bruce said he will follow up on his complaint. Mr. Roth said he is also concerned that Bethman Road and Church Road is becoming a short cut from State Route 33 and would like to get that on the agenda for next year.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Davis-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2018 regular public meeting as presented.
- PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- ORDINANCE 09-18** **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 02-14 TO REVISE THE TERMS OF THE 2014 GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE TO REDUCE THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT BEING REPAID; TO MODIFY THE REPAYMENT SCHEDULE; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION THEREOF**
- Upon motion (Nolan-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to Adopt Ordinance 09-18 authorizing an amendment to Ordinance No. 02-14 to revise the terms of the 2014 General Obligation Note to reduce the principal amount being repaid; to modify the repayment schedule; and authorizing execution thereof.

ORDINANCE 10-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 06-17 TO REVISE THE TERMS OF THE 2017 GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE TO CONFIRM THE DRAW PERIOD OF THE NOTE; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION THEREOF

Upon motion (Nolan-Gallagher), the Board of Commissioners voted by voice vote to adopt ordinance 10-18 authorizing an amendment to Ordinance No. 06-17 to revise the terms of the 2017 General Obligation Note to confirm the draw period of the note; and authorizing execution thereof.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION R043-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTIGATOR ANTHONY STEVENS TO ATTEND THE 2018 NEW JERSEY POLYGRAPH ASSOCIATION TRAINING SEMINAR MAY 21-23, 2018, IN ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R043-18 authorizing Investigator Anthony Stevens to attend the 2018 New Jersey Polygraph Association training seminar May 21-23, 2018, in Atlantic City, N.J.

RESOLUTION R044-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN SECOND ADDENDUM TO THE FEBRUARY 2, 2016, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM EXTENDING THE DATE OF COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Upon motion (Davis-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R044-18 authorizing the execution of a certain second addendum to the February 2, 2016, agreement between the County of Northampton and the Township of Bethlehem extending the date of completion of the project to December 31, 2018.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDERS

- PO 20181101 – TriTech Software Systems. – PPIS – \$2,583.00**
- PO 20181114 – Bergey’s Inc. – Public Works – \$2,525.11**
- PO 20181115 – Gilmore & Associates Inc. – Public Works – \$5,590.47**
- PO 20181135 – Rock N Roll Racing – BTCC – \$2,800.00**
- PO 20181186 – CoreLogic – Finance – \$6,498.50**
- PO 20181188 – Boyle Construction – Administration – \$3,440.00**
- PO 20181189 – Miller Municipal Supply LLC – Public Works – \$4,566.20**
- PO 20181191 – KeyNetGPS – PPIS – \$2,000.00**

Upon motion (Gallagher-Davis), the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously by voice vote to approve Purchase Orders PO 20181101, PO 20181114, PO 20181115, PO 20181135 (\$700 of the \$2,800 was approved) , PO 20181186, PO 20181188, PO 20181189 and PO 20181191.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY GAMING

Mr. Nolan stated that the Gaming Authority which had disbanded earlier this year, had a surplus of money in a non-committed account. At a special meeting, the

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members authorized the money to be evenly distributed to the surrounding municipalities except for the City of Easton to be used for human services or public safety expenses. The amount was determined to be \$31,000.00. Mr. Nolan asked for recommendations as to where the money would best be suited. Mr. Gallagher suggested the money be allocated for emergency vehicles. President Hudak said in the past the money was used to purchase police vehicles and would support a second police vehicle purchase. Mr. Gallagher said he would like the money to be allocated towards a fire vehicle. No decision was made by the board.

HOUSENICK MANSION EXTERIOR STABILIZATION PROJECT

Mr. Nolan said that the board has been discussing and finalizing the external stabilization of the Housenick Mansion for some time. He said 3 bid contracts expire on May 16th and that the carpentry contract had to be rebid. The intent is that Mr. Nolan wishes to move forward with the project. President Hudak said that the Trustees offered to give the Township \$1.3 million in \$130,000 annual payments over the next four years to restore the exterior of the mansion with a commitment from the Township to renovate the interior within four years. The catch is that the Township must be able to open the mansion's first floor to the public within four years. President Hudak said that while he appreciates the Trust's offer, he could not ask the taxpayers to fund a project without knowing what the cost will be. Mr. Merhottein said he is not in favor of a 4 years commitment without funding and without knowing the cost of the project as it would be fiscally irresponsible. He said he would like to negotiate further with the Trustees. Ms. Davis said she would like a consensus to award the bids tonight but feels 4 years is short. She would like to use the money offered by the Trust and then come up with a firm plan.

Resident Rod Law commented that he does not have enough facts to be comfortable with the decision. He said that Mr. Nolan has said in the past that no public funds would be used. Mr. Law asked the board to not vote on project. Mr. Nolan said that a commitment is needed. President Hudak said he hopes to talk to the Trust to extend the timeline.

Resident Karen Berry said that she has been following this issue for 10 years. She encouraged the board to form a committee to determine the purpose for the mansion. President Hudak said they will hire a consultant. Mr. Gallagher said he would like Mrs. Berry on board to volunteer.

Resident Barry Roth asked the board to ask local businesses for donations. President Hudak said as a First Class Township, they are not able to solicit funds.

Resident Tom Keiffer commented that the township is delaying the work.

Attorney William Leeson, Chairman of the Housenick Foundation spoke on behalf of the trust and said that the frank comments are appreciated. It is his hope that the board can appreciate the foundation's concerns. Solicitor Broughal asked if the foundation would consider the start of construction for the interior after 5 years with 2 years to complete. Attorney Leeson said he had some concerns with that type of proposal. The board did not agree to the offer as presented and was therefore withdrawn. A special meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2018 at 7 p.m. to determine if a new offer would be presented and to vote on the bid package for the exterior restoration of the mansion.

Upon motion (Gallagher-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted

by voice vote to award the contracts and agree to the alternates at the May 16, 2018 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, upon motion (Nolan-Davis), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zapata
Recording Secretary