



**West Pottsgrove Township
980 Grosstown Road
Stowe, PA 19464**

**Board of Commissioners Workshop
Meeting
November 16, 2022
7:00pm**

The regular monthly Workshop Meeting for the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Board President; Steve Miller at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Board members present were Commissioners; Miller, Palladino, Shawell, Green, and Valentine. Also present was Township Manager; Debi Roesener, Township Secretary; Courtney Harris, and Township Solicitor; Jamie Ottaviano.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Miller called an executive session at 7:02pm. The Board returned from executive session at 7:18pm. Mr. Miller stated the executive session was for a contractual matter.

MINUTES

Commissioner Green made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 19, 2022 Workshop meeting. Commissioner Valentine seconded the motion, all were in favor of approving all minutes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Commissioner Valentine made a motion to approve the bill list as presented, in the total amount of \$63,097.02, seconded by Commissioner Green. All were in favor of approving the bill list.

OLD BUSINESS

Sewer Projects Update

Grosstown Rd. PS & Force Main Permitting – The special study was sent to DEP for review and approval and we have received no feedback from DEP at this point.

I/I Reduction – Sewer Specialties contract was closed out at the November 2nd meeting.

Grants – Anthony Wayne Drive sanitary sewer replacement – we received and signed the agreement and forwarded it back to the County.

Joint Municipal Sewer Meeting – They reiterated the costs for the upcoming year which has not changed.

Municipal Projects Update

Angelo's Cleaners Land Development – No change, they have not been back in.

Drainmen Plumbing, Inc. Land Development - Drainmen Plumbing is on the agenda for Planning Commission November 17th at 7pm.

Baseball Field Drainage (980 Grosstown Road) – There was a grant awarded previously for Old Timers Field. Ms. Roesener met with the Little League and Tricia, our regional rec coordinator as far as scheduling that project for the spring.

Panda Express – Seems to be back on track to move forward.

Old Business – Continued

Trash Contract – Bid Results – JP Mascaro and Sons and their legal representative were in attendance. They gave a brief overview of the contract specs and reiterated that they were the only hauler to bid on the contract. They spoke about the justification on the price. JP also took questions from the public.

Gail Johns – 1044 Manatawny asked JP about the quality of service. The last time Mascaro serviced our Town the service was awful. JP stated they service 110 Municipalities across the area and their reputation has shown that they provide a high level of quality service. He also stated there are many more Mascaros involved in the daily operations of the company now than before. JP assured Ms. Johns that the service will be better.

Leonard Norris – 657 Constitution Ave. stated there does not seem to be an option and that this is the only choice. He said he was here to speak for some residents who were older and unable to drive at night. He said “we can’t afford that” Mr. Norris called to White Tail and once a week for them to come for trash and recycling it was \$87 a quarter. He stated that he feels as though the residents should be able to go with the trash hauler of their choosing. Mr. Norris also stated he wasn’t sure what the outcome would be of this but he and other residents are ok with going to private haulers and would be choosing to opt out of the contractual service should the Board go that direction and asked how they would be penalized if they went that route. Mr. Miller stated we are hearing questions and comments at this time and at the end the Board would share their thoughts prior to making a vote.

Mark Stofflet – 673 Constitution Ave. stated he agreed with Mr. Norris. He also spoke to many older residents who can’t afford the estimated quarterly trash and recycling bill through JP Mascaro. He also asked what the penalty will be for not participating in the contractual trash/ recycling program. Mr. Miller again stated that after all questions have been addressed the Board would address these other situations. Mr. Stofflet also asked if the Board seriously considered going to individual private haulers.

Todd Miller – 1036 Edgewood Dr. asked why Waste Management didn’t bid? Commissioner. Miller stated he would get to that in the Boards discussion. Mr. Todd Miller then addressed JP Mascaro and asked why he didn’t think White Tail would honor the cost they provided to Mr. Norris when quoted for services? JP explained that the quote provided by White Tail only includes the usage of the bin, no additional trash or recycling, no bulk, no locked in rates, etc.

Laurie Stofflet - 673 Constitution Ave asked if the Board would take public comments after the discussion and decision was made. Commissioner Miller said yes.

Matt from Grosstown Road – Asked clarification for bulk costs. JP clarified that bulk is included in our contract unlimited once a month.

Commissioner Miller provided a summary of the history of the bid process, in summary the Waste Management five year contract was coming to an end. We were able to extend the contact 3 times on a

month to month basis while we secured a new contract. Our new bid specs were placed out for bid twice, both times JP Mascaro was the only hauler to bid on the contract. The first set of bid specs was identical to what the prior contract was for, the second set of bid specs was revised slightly in hopes of making it more appealing to more haulers. Yard waste was removed, weekly bulk was removed, weekly recycling was added, and the option to go with a two or three year locked in rate verses a five year contract was changed.

With all that being said, understanding the price increase, the discussion that occurred is that the Township would cover the cost of the recycling, leaving the trash costs the responsibility of the residents. Should we go this route this would be an increase of approx. \$20 more a quarter than what we were paying under Waste Management.

Commissioner Miller then addressed the residents who questioned “did the Board consider going to private haulers” the answer was yes. Commissioner Miller stated that by going this route the increase of \$20 a quarter was locked in for three years where with a private hauler there is no locked in rate for any set timeframe. He also stated that the Township is responsible for recyclables In the Township.

Ms. Roesener stated that we heard everyone’s concerns, people called, emailed, wrote on social media, stopped in, etc. This has been an ongoing process for the last several months. The Township did our due diligence, the numbers from JP Mascaro were broken down, surrounding areas were contacted as well and all the costs were in line with this current contract, other Municipalities are also handling the costs of recycling and the trash costs are on the residents.

Mark Stofflet – Questioned what is bulk trash? Are we going to have new containers, and is recycling weekly or bi weekly? Bulk is standard household materials – JP read a list of items that can and cannot be placed out for bulk – all pretty standard.

Ben Updegrave – Questioned broken toters – JP confirmed they have a crew that goes around repairing toters as needed.

Matt – Grosstown Road questioned about penalty for not participating in the contractual trash/ recycling. Mr. Ottaviano stated that it is a Township Ordinance so if you decide to hire someone other than JP Mascaro or not put trash out you are still responsible for your JP Mascaro bill and if it is not paid it will be sent to collections.

One of the residents asked what the quarterly bill is going to be. Ms. Roesener stated it will be \$95.52 a quarter. Another resident asked if we were comfortable with the Township handling the cost of recycling due to possible tax increases and other increases. Ms. Roesener stated that the plan is to obtain some grant funding and push some other projects back to cover the cost of the recycling.

David Defrancesco – 32 E Race St. asked why we can’t just get rid of recycling all together. The Board explained we are required to provide recycling service.

In summary Commissioner Miller reiterated that we did everything we could to come to the best possible outcome. In addition Ms. Roesener stated that even though she is new to this position, she grew up in this Township, and her parents still live in this Township and personally she is always looking out for the best case scenario for the residents. Commissioner Shawell made a motion to accept the three year contract and for the Township to pay the costs of recycling. Commissioner Valentine seconded the motion. All were in favor of accepting the three year contract from JP Mascaro and the Township covering the costs of recycling.

Amendment to SALDO & Draft Stormwater Ordinance – we made a major revision to our SALDO and Stormwater, it's been submitted to MCPC for review and comment.

PARCC Ordinance – Commissioner Green made a motion to adopt the new Ordinance adding Washington Township to PARCC, seconded by Commissioner Shawell. All were in favor of adopting the Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Upland Square – 1097 State Street Development – Gambone presented to the Board a preliminary plan with additional residential plans. The Board expressed some concerns with the residential plan relating to the school district and taxes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Leonard Norris - 657 Constitution Ave. thanked the Board for all their efforts with the trash contract and he commented that he also agreed regarding the comments about the school system and housing for the Gambone property.

Gail Johns – 1044 Manatawny Road – Ms. Johns asked why we are dealing with the man who isn't the owner for 1040 Manatawny Street. We are just doing what we can, and will continue to site and work with DEP and the Courts as needed.

CORRESPONDENCES/ UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Tree Lighting – Friday December 2, 2022 @ 7pm
- Shop w/a Cop – December 3, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

President Miller asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Palladino to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Valentine. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting of West Pottsgrove Township has concluded at 8:28 P.M. On November 16, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,



Courtney Harris
Township Secretary