

BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP

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BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP Board of Supervisors Work Session Agenda July 29, 2020 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Water and Wastewater Operations Center

6:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Commission – “Ready for 100”

Manager's Items:

- NLC Service Line Warranty Program
- Signs showing Support for Police
- Township Insurance Requirements

Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors
Work Session
Minutes

The work session of the Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors was held July 29, 2020 electronically via the Zoom application due to the current State and Federal regulations in place from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Present:	Jon Forest	Chairman
	Maggie Rash	Vice-Chairman
	Paul Calderaio	Member
	Dana S. Cozza	Township Manager
	Daniel Gray	Township Engineer
	Craig A. Smith, Esquire	Township Solicitor
	Luke Rosanova	Bucks County Planning Commission
	Gary Weaver	Township Water/Wastewater Consultant

The work session commenced at 5:00 p.m. with Executive Session to discuss agricultural preservation purchases, offers and appraisals and potential legal matters related to Right to Know Requests.

The regular work session began at 6:00 p.m.

Water and Wastewater Operations Center - Bid

Mrs. Cozza advised the Board of the bid opening results for the Water and Wastewater Operations Center contracts, which were rebid for the Plumbing and Mechanical portions. She said that more bids were received this time for the Mechanical Contract, and that the same bidder was the low bidder for the Plumbing Contract, with a reduced amount submitted this time.

Mrs. Cozza said the business meeting agenda has options for the General, Electrical and Mechanical Contract Bids due to alternate options of adding enlargement of the break room and lightning protection for the garage. The Board agreed that the break room needs to be large enough for all of the staff to gather, and should be added to the contract now, rather than later. The Board also agreed the lightning protection should be included.

Mrs. Cozza explained a matter of concern, not included in any of the bids, is the restoration of the original wooden floors on the 2nd floor, as the condition is unknown until the existing linoleum with asbestos lining is removed.

Mrs. Cozza said with the additional options, the total cost of all four bids is \$5,710,000. She said if the bids are awarded this evening, the farmhouse and site work may begin this fall, with the garage later due to a backup in getting the materials.

Mr. Calderaio reminded everyone that this work is paid out of the water and wastewater capital funds, which comes from fees paid by customers of the Township water and wastewater systems, not from taxes. Mrs. Cozza said at a previous meeting it was agreed

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to split the cost between borrowing part of the funds since interest rates are currently very low and from the capital fund balance, split equally between the separate water and sewer funds.

Environmental Advisory Commission – “Ready for 100”

Andrea Strout, Diane Smith, Malcolm Burgess and Rich Mator all of the Buckingham Township Environmental Advisory Commission, Donald Robb, Jim Baldassare of the Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Commission, and Bill Sabey of the Plymouth Township Environmental Advisory Commission were present.

Ms. Strout introduced Mr. Sabey, explaining that he had guided many municipalities through the “Ready for 100” process, and introduced Mr. Baldassare of Doylestown Township, where they recently adopted the “Ready for 100” resolution.

Ms. Strout gave a presentation which included information on the rising world temperatures and extreme weather events, record levels of CO2 emissions and poisons in drinking water due to oil spills. She then presented ways of working towards 100% clean and renewable energies by mid-century at the latest, including such things as solar and wind options, LED lighting, and individual energy transition plans.

Ms. Strout said the program includes education and making people aware of options and technologies such as the option of selecting wind power on your PECO bill, removing pounds of carbon from the air.

Mr. Sabey explained with the cost of wind and solar expected to be more competitive than natural gas in the next 5-10 years, through aggregated purchasing, the members of the Ready for 100 community may join in a consortium and purchase clean and renewable energy with no additional cost.

Mr. Burgess explained they are asking the township for a commitment to lead the way and to set an example of a long-term movement towards energy neutrality. Mrs. Rash said the sample resolution expresses this commitment.

Mrs. Rash said the township’s largest electrical use is the water and wastewater facilities, and noted the resolution used by Doylestown Township excludes their water authority. Mr. Baldassare responded that the municipality uses are only a small portion of usage, rather it’s only through the participation of the entire community, both residents and businesses, that will benefit be realized. Mr. Sabey noted that Plymouth Township jointly owes their sewer authority with Whitpain and East Norriton, but would like to think local governments could tackle this as an example and include school districts and water authorities. He said it’s a collaborative effort.

Mrs. Cozza applauded Buckingham Township for being one of two municipalities in this area to use the environmentally friendly spray irrigation system for treatment of wastewater. She said in that manner the township reduces electricity usage and recharges

the groundwater in the township. Mrs. Cozza also noted that sometimes the cost is prohibitive for a township, such as installing a geothermal well, with a cost payback of 60 years, by which time the well has likely failed and been replaced. She said utilities provide an additional challenge to consider.

The Board thanked the Environmental Advisory Commission for their presentation and agreed to study the program closely.

NLC Service Line Warranty Program

Mrs. Cozza described a warranty program available to customers of the township wastewater systems for the lateral which connects from the street to the home. She said many residents are unaware that they own that section of the pipe and are responsible for any repairs that may need to be performed on it.

Mr. Forest asked if the warranty program covers grinder pumps, and Mrs. Cozza said no, but she would ask if that could be included.

Mrs. Cozza said Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority used to service this program, and some of the township residents who are their customers had this type of warranty, but that they will no longer offer this warranty effective this September, and some of our residents had called asking what to do. She explained Steve Clark, Director of the Water and Wastewater Department, researched the topic and found this agreement. She said a resident would deal directly with this company, who would market to the residents using the township's logo, and there would be no cost to the township. Mrs. Cozza said part of the agreement is that this would be the only company the township would agree to sponsor.

Mr. Calderaio said he wanted to be sure the residents could choose a different company if they wanted, and Mrs. Cozza said yes, they could, this would just be offered as an option. The Board agreed this was a good option to offer the residents but that the township can make references, it is not in a position to "sponsor" one company over another.

Signs showing Support for Police

Mrs. Cozza said that Mrs. Soffian, Lower Mountain Road, had asked if the township provides yard signs showing support for the police. She said that staff researched the expense by contacting local businesses and they would cost \$8 each if the township ordered 100 signs that said "We Support the Buckingham Township Police". Mrs. Cozza suggested if they were sold for a small profit it could be given to BAN (Buckingham Advisory Network), which supports community functions and services.

Mr. Forest suggested the PBA, not the township, may want to purchase and sell them. Mr. Calderaio agreed with Mr. Forest, and also agreed that providing the profits to BAN would be a great idea.

Mrs. Cozza agreed to gather more information and advise the Board of the results.

Township Insurance Requirements

Mr. Smith advised the Board that there have been changes in the insurance market. He said that previously insurance companies sold an umbrella policy which stands atop the primary policy (takes over when the primary policy has paid all its limits of coverage), and would “drop down” to pay the primary carrier’s obligations in the event the primary policy carrier went bankrupt and could not pay its limits of coverage. He said the township did not see umbrella policies often because the primary limits were set high enough. Mr. Smith said the issue now is that insurers are presently not offering smaller developers, builders and individual homeowners an excess policy or umbrella policy that drops down in the event of the bankruptcy of a primary carrier. However, larger companies such as Toll Brothers, can still get such a policy.

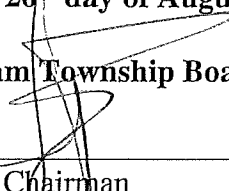
Mr. Smith said that he and Mrs. Cozza had discussed this matter, and thought if both carriers are licensed by the state of Pennsylvania, then there is an insurance guarantee fund that steps in in the event of the bankruptcy of a primary carrier and pays up to \$300,000 of the primary carrier’s obligations. So, if the primary were to go bankrupt, the township could still collect \$300,000.00 of what was owed. However that is a risk as primary policy limits are typically one million dollars. Mr. Smith explained the options are: 1) to continue to require the dropdown insurance understanding it will be difficult for smaller contractors and homeowners to get; 2) to not require the drop down coverage in an excess policy provided the primary insurer is a Pennsylvania licensed insurance company, thereby providing up to \$300,000 coverage in the event of a bankruptcy, but recognizing the township would be exposed for the difference between the primary carrier’s limits and the up to \$300,000.00 paid by the Pennsylvania Property and Casualty Insurance Company ("PP&CIC"); or 3) not to be concerned about it.

The Board agreed with option 2, to excuse the dropdown insurance provided that the primary carrier is a Pennsylvania licensed insurance company covered by the PP&CIC.

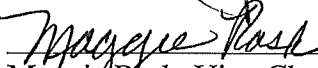
7:30 p.m. The Work Session adjourned.

Approved by the Board of Supervisors on the 26th day of August, 2020.

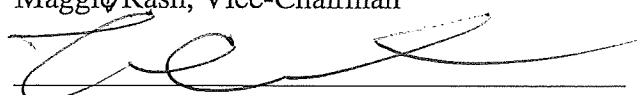
Buckingham Township Board of Supervisors



Jon Forest, Chairman

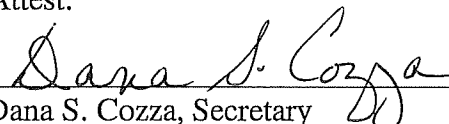


Maggie Rash, Vice-Chairman



Paul Calderaio, Member

Attest:



Dana S. Cozza, Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori Wicen.

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