

Rochester Township Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2022

Call to Order: Chairwoman Teams called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Gina Teams, Chairwoman
Commissioners: Michael Lucci, Mike Mamone, Dennis Iannini
Stephen Chesney, Township Solicitor; Dave Kovac, Township Engineer;
Melissa Carpenter, Township Secretary

Via Phone: George Bauer, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Kevin Foltz and Rich Lockhart, Sergeants; Paul Abbott, Public Works; Michael Mamone III, Fire Chief

Remarks of Citizens:

Laura Hoffmeier – requested we add a day to the meeting schedule so there is a 30-day window to contest the budget. Ms. Hoffmeier also asked the Board to consider wisely when doing the budget that we are in a recession and inflation is on the rise. Mrs. Teams stated that so far, we have not considered a tax increase.

Chuck Zarillo – suggested that this a good time to consider a merger with Rochester Borough Police Department since both departments do not have a Chief. Mrs. Teams replied that we are still considering the regionalization with Rochester Borough and New Sewickley Township. Mr. Lucci stated that Chief Leindecker is not looking to regionalize he would prefer a contract.

Keith Sweesy, Rochester Baseball – wanted to know if there is an agreement with Rochester Baseball to use the ballfield on Pentland Avenue. Mr. Sweesy stated they are using the field for pony and little league games. Mr. Mamone requested when the 2023 Rochester Board is appointed, they come in and meet with us to discuss the field usage.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Mamone to accept minutes of the September 15, 2022 Regular Meeting as submitted. Second by Mr. Iannini. Motion carried 4-0.

Committee Reports:

Motion by Mr. Iannini to accept the committee reports as submitted for September. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 4-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Solicitor Chesney stated he is still working on the meeting procedure rules policy. The right-to-know policy is completed and the Board needs to appoint a right-to-know officer.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Kovac reviewed his report and the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant that is due by December 21, 2022. The grant has a 15% match up to \$500,000.00 and is good for MS4 projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Mamone will be attending the next East Rochester Borough meeting to discuss the Fire Service Agreement and the EMC Resolution.

Mr. Lucci discussed the new gate being installed for the ballfield road.

Discussion on the 2007 Freightliner.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to have the 2007 Freightliner appraised and sell it on Municibid with the appraised value as the minimum bid amount. Second by Mr. Lucci. Roll call vote: Mr. Lucci-yes; Mr. Iannini-no; Mr. Mamone-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 3-1.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to add Chief Earl Gardner and Officer John Netherland names to the Police Memorial Honor Roll Plaque. Second by Mr. Iannini. Roll call vote: Mr. Iannini-yes; Mr. Mamone-yes; Mr. Lucci-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Solicitor Chesney discussed the Rochester Area School Joint Cooperative Police Service Agreement for their school resource officer to have jurisdiction on school property. Discussion on who would have jurisdiction after hours and at events that our police department work at. Solicitor Chesney will work with Sergeant Foltz and send Solicitor Fedeles the changes to the agreement.

Discussion on the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solicitor Chesney informed the Board they will have to pass a Resolution per Act 57 of 2022 to direct the tax collector to allow for taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for a waiver from penalties and additional costs.

Motion by Mr. Iannini to accept Patrolman Adam Beaver's resignation effective October 20, 2022. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to accept Paul Abbott's resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board. Second by Mr. Lucci. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Iannini to accept Bob Gill's resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board. Second by Mr. Lucci. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to accept Lynn Long's resignation from the Planning Commission. Second by Mr. Lucci. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to accept Ken Brewer's resignation from the Planning Commission. Second by Mr. Iannini. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to appoint Richard Lucas to the Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring December 31, 2024. Second by Mr. Iannini. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to appoint Jim Bannon to the Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring December 31, 2023. Second by Mr. Iannini. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to appoint Laura Hoffmeier to the Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2022. Second by Mr. Iannini. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to approve payment of bills as reviewed by the Township Board of Commissioners. Second by Mr. Mamone. Roll call vote: Mr. Mamone-yes; Mr. Lucci-yes; Mr. Iannini-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Remarks of Officials:

Chief Mamone thanked the Board for attending the October 4th VFD meeting. Chief Mamone said the VFD is considering purchasing a 2001 Ladder Truck with a Pumper for \$45,000.00. Rochester Borough approved selling their two fire trucks and the money will go into the truck fund. The VFD is requesting that we insure the vehicle and maintain it. Mr. Lucci asked if they had a plan in case Rochester Borough backs out of our agreement. Chief Mamone replied since it is also a pumper, we can still use the truck. Chief Mamone said the cost for insurance and maintenance should be split with Rochester Borough.

Motion by Mrs. Teams that we amend the agenda to add a motion to pay for insurance and maintenance on the 2001 Ladder Truck. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to approve paying for insurance and maintenance on the 2001 Ladder Truck. Second by Mr. Lucci. Roll call vote: Mr. Lucci-yes; Mr. Iannini-yes; Mr. Mamone-yes; Mrs. Teams-yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Lucci strongly agrees with Mr. Zarillo's suggestion that we consider a regionalization with Rochester Borough Police Department. Sergeant Dawn Shane from Rochester Borough met with the DA's office and they are willing to assist with the pension. Mrs. Teams stated that New Sewickley Township has never said they were not interested in the regionalization. Mr. Lucci said the Freedom Borough Mayor contacted him that Harmony Township is no longer interested in a regionalization and they might be interested in regionalization with us. Freedom Borough is also looking for someone to do their code enforcement and suggested if all three communities hire one code enforcement officer, we might be able to save money.

Sergeant Foltz submitted the technology grant for body cameras, cameras for each vehicle and a new server.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:42pm. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Mamone to adjourn out of Executive Session at 9:01pm. Second by Mrs. Teams. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Lucci to adjourn to the meeting at 9:01pm. Second by Mr. Mamone. Motion carried 4-0.

*Minutes prepared by Melissa Carpenter
Minutes submitted to BOC for review on October 25, 2022.*

Gina Teams, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Date

Attest: _____
Melissa Carpenter, Secretary