

MINUTES

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NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF JANUARY 6 2025

PRESIDENT PAUL CZAPRACKI, CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROLL CALL:

THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS attended MR. JOHN ZYLA, MS. DEBORAH FORGACH - ZALESKI, MR JOHN VISHNEFSKI, MR.MICHAEL ROKE, AND MR. PAUL CZAPRACKI. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, JOSEPH HILLAN, ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER SLUSSER, AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANT JENNIFER POLITO.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

MR.RICHARD STEWART COMMENTED ON BURNING ISSUES AT 26 EAST KIRMAR AVENUE IN ALDEN

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MR.ROKE MOVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2024 COMMISSIONERS MEETING BE APPROVED. MR.ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS:

MR HILLAN REPORTED CASH ON HAND AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	(FNCB)	\$89,390.67
CONTINGENCY FUND	(PLGIT)	\$612,166.68
CAPITAL PURCHASE ACCT	(PLGIT)	\$28,948.66
RECYCLING FUND	(PLGIT)	\$26,574.07
REFUSE FUND	(PLGIT)	\$25,866.77
LIQUID FUELS	(PLGIT)	\$39,170.36
REFUSE FUND	(PSBT)	\$177.34
RECREATION USE FUND	(FNCB)	\$100.01

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 \$822,394.56

MR. VISHNEFSKI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI, MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

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APPROVAL OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING DECEMBER 2024:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF NON-RECURRING BILLS PAID DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER TOTALING \$378,271.44. MS.ZALESKI MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

APPROVAL OF RECURRING BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JANUARY 2025:

MR HILLAN PRESENTED THE COMMISSIONERS WITH A LIST OF BILLS DUE FOR PAYMENT IN JANUARY TOTALING \$55,301.73. MR.ROKE MOVED THAT THE LIST BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT. MR. ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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| a. STREET DEPARTMENT | MR CZAPRACKI |
| b. POLICE DEPARTMENT | MR ZYLA |
| c. CODE ENFORCEMENT | MS ZALESKI |
| d. FIRE DEPARTMENT | MR ROKE |

MR.ROKE THANKED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ALL OF THE RESPONDING FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR THEIR EFFORTS AT THE RECENT FIRE AT THE FORMER PULASKI SCHOOL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE TANKER TRAINING THAT WAS HELD IN NOVEMBER IN GLEN LYON SAVED A WHOLE BLOCK FROM POTENTIAL FIRE DISTRUCTION.

MR.ZYLA ASLO THANKED EVERYONE FOR THEIR EFFORTSAND PROFESSIONALISM DURING THE INCIDENT.

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| e. PARKS & RECREATION | MR.VISHNEFSKI |
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SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ATTORNEY SLUSSER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT REPORT:

JENNIFER POLITO REPORTED THAT THE TOWNSHIP INCOME FOR 2022 WAS \$3,037,077.70 AND THE EXPENSES WERE \$3,313,509.23

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR JASON KOWALSKI IN REGARDS TO THE FIRE AT THE OLD PULASKI SCHOOL. THE LETTER WILL BE ATTACHEMENT 1 OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES.

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THE 2025 REFUSE AND RECYCLING BILLS HAVE BEEN MAILED. THE FEE FOR 2025 IS \$385.00 PAYABLE BY APRIL 30.

THE WVSA IS PREPARING AN ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT ON THE SAN SOUCI HIGHWAY. ON TONIGHTS AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS THERE IS A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT.

THE LOWER SOUTH VALLEY COG FUELING STATION SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY APRIL 2025. THIS SHOULD RESULT IN A 20 TO 25% SAVINGS IN GASOLINE FUEL COSTS. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP IS ON TONIGHTS AGENDA.

BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST NO GLASS WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE CURB. GLASS IS TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE DUMPSTER AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING PARKING AREA

NO NONSENSE NEUTERING VOUCHERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

NEW BUSINESS:

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$7,848.75 FROM THE REFUSE ACCOUNT AND \$14,687.25 FROM THE RECYCLING ACCOUNT TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNT TO COVER EXPENSES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPOINT JASON KOWALSKI AS NEWPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF FOR 2025. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO APPOINT KYLE GRUBER AS NEWPORT TOWNSHIP DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF FOR 2025. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MR.ROKE MOVED TO HIRE JOHN ZEGARSKI AS A PART TIME FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER. MR.ZYLA SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT JEREMY BLANK AS NEWPORT TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF FOR 2025. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

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MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT PENN EASTERN ENGINEERS AS THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP ENGINEER FOR 2025. MS.ZALESKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES: "AYES" MS. ZALESKI. MESSERS, VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI. "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO APPOINT B H & W CONSULTING SERVICES AS THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CODE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR 2025. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MR.ZYLA MOVED TO APPOINT THE SLUSSER LAW FIRM AS THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR FOR 2025. MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.1 OF 2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING AN OFFICIAL ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE REVISION (LIMITED SCOPE). MR.ROKE SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ROKE, ZYLA, CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

MS.ZALESKI MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO.2 OF 2025 A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVING A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HANOVER TOWNSHIP AND LOWER SOUTH VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RELATIVE TO THE USE OF A REGIONAL MUNICIPAL FUELING STATION SITUATE IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP. MR.VISHNEFSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AYE AND NAY VOTES. "AYES" MS. ZALESKI MESSERS. VISHNEFSKI, ZYLA, ROKE AND CZAPRACKI "NAYS" NONE

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

MS.ZALESKI THANKED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ALL OF THE RESPONDING FIRE COMPANIES THAT RESPONDED TO RECENT FIRE AT THE FORMER PULASKI SCHOOL IN GLEN LYON.

ADJOURNMENT:

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS, MR CZAPRACKI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:33PM

JOSEPH HILLAN
TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

PAUL CZAPRACKI
PRESIDENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Newport Township Emergency Management

351 West Kirmar Ave.
Nanticoke, PA 18634
570-855-4446
ema@newporttownship.org

January 3, 2025

Dear Board of Commissioners,

Due to the active commercial structure fire at 5 Market St in Glen Lyon, at the recommendation of the Township Emergency Management Coordinator, a State of Emergency was declared by Commissioner Zyla at 22:31 on 12/23/24. The factors that prompted the declaration were the ongoing 3rd alarm commercial structure fire with all of Newport Township Fire Dept's resources fully committed as well as Nanticoke Fire Dept, and numerous other mutual aid companies. Water supply deficiencies were aided by the activation of the Luzerne County Tanker Taskforce providing supplemental water to the scene with the use of tanker shuttles. This operation disrupted traffic in Glen Lyon, causing many road closings and detours. Frigid temperatures and icing complicated safety at the scene, as well as the request of command on scene to shut down power, to allow ariel apparatus to operate safely.

Due to the power being disconnected to all of Glen Lyon, initially, then slowing being restored and isolated to Market St and Newport St, a warming shelter for any residents effected was set up at the Municipal Building at 22:46. Emergency Management Facebook as well as the township text message notification system was used to notify residents. Transportation to the shelter was arranged for if needed. The shelter was staffed by one neighboring Emergency Management Coordinator and a volunteer from the township. The Township Emergency Operations Center, also at the municipal building, was operated on a minimal basis to coordinate resource requests from the scene. There were two resource requests. 1. Medic 9 requesting a generator for a patient on a ventilator. This was fulfilled by an EMA generator, however was subsequently not needed. 2. Request by the Tanker Taskforce at 00:29 on 12/24/24 for diesel to refill tankers operating at the scene. Falzone's was contacted and they delivered 100 gallons of diesel to the scene.

The warming shelter and Emergency Operations center were closed at 04:05 12/24/24 due to most affected areas having power restored. No residents took advantage of this shelter. Units were gradually released from the scene and roadways began to open. Newport Twp. Fire personnel as well as the Emergency Management Coordinator remained on scene while Stell Construction demolished the structure due to the extensive damage and ongoing active fire within the building. Units cleared the scene at 17:56 12/24/24.

From an Emergency Management perspective, we were able to provide resources needed to the scene as well as to the residents of the Township. As a result of some deficiencies and lessoned learned, revisions will be made to the Township Emergency Operation plan, which hopefully will be completed next month. I would like to thank all the Fire personnel, Nanticoke City Fire, all the mutual aid companies, as well as the public who provided food, coffee, water, and refreshments to the emergency

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responders. Finally, I would like to thank Kindra Kowalski for helping staff the Emergency Operations Center and set up the warming shelter along with Amy Saraka. Overall, on the Emergency Management end, everything worked well. As it was said by Commissioner Zyla, this is what we train for.

Sincerely,



Jason Kowalski

Emergency Management Coordinator

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