

NORTH EAST TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 4, 2024
7:30 PM

Chairman Fredrick Shunk called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, in attendance were Supervisors August Neff and Russ LaFuria, Attorney Tim Wachter, and Secretary Erica Carlstrom.

Chairman Shunk asked for public comments or concerns, Eric Urbanowicz of East Lake Road asked the Supervisors to consider him if the Marina Authority is formed as he would like to be considered for a position on the Authority. No other comments or concerns were received. A motion from August Neff and the second from Russ LaFuria approved the minutes of the February 19th, 2024 meeting as presented and passed by unanimous vote. Secretary Erica Carlstrom presented the Treasurer's report for the month of February 2024 and by a motion from Russ LaFuria and the second from August Neff was accepted as presented and passed by unanimous vote. Bills were presented for February 19th – February 29th, 2024 for approval and payment as follows:

General Fund Checks	#3015-3038	\$	57,751.53
General Fund Debits	Ach's	\$	460.65
Water Fund Checks	#2634-2640	\$	82,561.13
Sewer Fund Checks	#2554-2561	\$	73,102.86

Total approved by a motion from Russ LaFuria and the second from Russ LaFuria was \$213,876.17 and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

The National Grape Co-Op has also requested to use the meeting room on Monday, March 11th, at 6:30pm for their meeting. August Neff made a motion to approve the request allowing them to use the room. Russ LaFuria made the second motion. Passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Supervisor Russ LaFuria made a motion to close the Township Building on April 8th for the Solar Eclipse. He stated with all the extra expected traffic throughout Erie County and for the overall safety of the Township employees he felt this would be best. A second motion to close the Township was received from August Neff. All in favor.

New Business:

Supervisor Russ LaFuria discussed his recent meeting to discuss the Inter-Governmental Cooperation Agreement. The Agreement would be between the Township, Borough, and School District to jointly create the North East Recreation Commission. The agreement is to facilitate recreation for children and adults within the Borough, Township and School District. Also, with the agreement the Township and Borough will take over the responsibility of the lifeguards which would eliminate the School District. The estimated cost would be \$16,000.00 with each municipality responsible for \$8,000.00. We will need to look in to covering them on workers

compensation and who will have them on covered their payroll. A motion to sign and approve the resolution moving forward with passing the Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement was made by Russ LaFuria and the second motion from August Neff. Passed by unanimous vote.

Township Solicitor Tim Wachter had drawn up a Memorandum of Understanding for the North East Marina. The North East Marina is currently owned and operated by the PA Fish & Boat Commission, however due to the costs of dredging, sand movement, and repairs required at the marina the F&B does not plan to put the boat docks back in the water for people to dock their boats. Fish & Boat has agreed to transfer ownership of the Marina to a joint authority formed between the Township and Borough prior to doing so the Township Solicitor felt it best to have some things in place with the MOU stating such things. The first thing was the MOU would be effective from the date of adoption by both parties and extend for a period of 5 years or the date which the Proposed Joint Authority has acquired ownership of the Marina, whichever would occur first. Next upon formation of the Marina Joint Authority both the Borough and the Township would each appropriate set funds to the Authority for the purpose of providing initial funding for development of the necessary organizational documents, sunshine law compliance, engagement of a solicitor, and development of bylaws. The fund amounts would be decided by Township Supervisors and Borough Council Members. One of the biggest requirements listed in the MOU would be the need for a Feasibility and Business Plan to be done prior to the Authority being formed or having any real property transferred. The Feasibility and Business Plan must engage an independent third-party contractor who is experienced in the marina industry and is approved by both the Township and Borough. The consultant performing the study must present their findings and make themselves available to the Township and Borough for questions upon completion. The study must address revenue and expenditure projections, engineering and design hurdles, necessary capital improvements, funding sources and vehicles through which funding will become available to the Authority for the acquisition, improvements and annual operation of the Marina. The Township and Borough would both adopt a joint resolution authorizing the acquisition of the Marina by the Authority. In the Memorandum it further states financial responsibility of the Township stating that it will not appropriate any taxpayer funds to the acquisition, operation, maintenance or improvement of the marina. The Township and Borough reserve all rights and discretion to consider whether to guaranty any debt entered into by the Authority and that the Authority shall not have the power to pledge the credit or taxing power of the commonwealth at any time. The Supervisors discussed the MOU in depth and agreed they liked everything except the part about appropriating initial funds for the development of the Authority. They would rather leave that part out for now and determine an amount later. Township Solicitor Tim Wachter said that would be fine to omit that, he would have his secretary type up a new MOU with that out of there and would send it over in the morning to have the Supervisors sign it and send over to the Borough Council for them to review. A motion from Fredrick Shunk to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the financial verbiage removed. The second motion received from Russ LaFuria. All in favor.

Supervisor Fredrick Shunk discussed the meeting they had regarding the recently approved PennVest loan. Tim Wachter told the requirements that would be needed prior to closing on the loan. The Authority will need to adopt a Reimbursement Resolution that will authorize it to spend money now on the development of the project or any money spent on engineering for the development of the project to be paid back by the PennVest loan. The Township will have to guarantee the loan, PennVest will require a 1st lien on the sewer rents.

Supervisor August Neff brought up the issue with Bort Road bridge. Tim Wachter said we are still in negotiations with CSX as they own the bridge and it is their responsibility to fix it.

After announcements and with all business concluded, a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM was received from Russ LaFuria. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Carlstrom, Secretary