Board of Supervisors - May 2, 2022

TOWNSHIP OF FALLS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

ROLL CALL:

JEFFRY E. DENCE, CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JEFFREY M. BORASKI, VICE-CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
BRIAN M. GALLOWAY, SECRETARY	PRESENT
JOHN W. PALMER, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT
ERIN M. MULLEN, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT

The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with roll call and piedge to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Galloway. Member Galloway joined the meeting during public comment. Also present were Township Manager/Chief Code Enforcement Officer & Zoning Officer Matthew Takita, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, Township Solicitor Lauren Gallagher, and Township Engineer Joe Jones.

ITEM # 1 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM

Mr. Pete McGuire asked Manager Takita if he met with Chief Whitney to discuss the vote of no confidence and how long was your meeting. Chairman Dence said we cannot comment on that tonight. Mr. McGuire asked if the chief had the opportunity to review or discuss any of those ascertains. Chairman Dence said we are not commenting on any of that tonight. Mr. McGuire asked how long Chief Whitney has worked for Falls Township. Mr. Clarke said this is public comment. This is your opportunity to make comments to the Board of Supervisors about matters of concern. This is not a question-and-answer period. Please feel free to make a comment. The board does not respond especially on matters where it may involve a personnel matter. They are not responding based on my advice. Mr. McGuire said he is concerned about a lot of the news coverage he saw about the chief and thinks this is an item that needs to be addressed.

Ms. Marlena Bonham said she is concerned for public good. She understands you are not discussing anything about Chief Whitney. Ms. Bonham asked if there is a pending Federal investigation going on in Falls Township. Chairman Dence said we are not going to comment on any of that. She asked if they would comment on Chief Whitney receiving a subpoena and being placed on administrative leave. Chairman Dence said they are not commenting on any of that. Ms. Bonham said she wants to make sure the concerns and the best interest of the community are not on township officials that are targeted in the investigation and that are in the best interest for the township.

Ms. Kristin Kendira said she would like to make public comment on Chief Whitney and concern for the public good. It is her understanding he was placed on administrative leave for a vote of no confidence. Chairman Dence said we are not commenting on that tonight.

Ms. Kendira asked if you would agree that this is a symbolic gesture. Chairman Dence said we are not commenting on any of that tonight. Ms. Kendira asked if Chief Whitney had an opportunity to discuss this with anyone. Chairman Dence said we are not having a question-and-answer session. This is public comment. If you want to make a comment, you are welcome to do. Ms. Kendira asked when it will be discussed. Mr. Clarke said we do not comment on personnel matters. If there comes a time when there is going to be some action to be taken, that will be discussed at a public meeting and the board will comment at that time. Ongoing personnel matters that are still under review will not be commented on.

Mr. Gregory Luma said his comments are centered around Jones Engineering and the disposition of them within the township building as well as the amount of employees by Jones Engineering that appear to have a relationship with the board. Given the amount of relationships between client/tenant in the building as well as the amount of inter-personnel relationships between Jones Engineering and the board, he would believe recusing yourself on future matters in terms of Jones Engineering would be beneficial to the public good.

Mr. Len (no last name given) This gentleman said he would prefer not to state his full name and left the on-line meeting room.

ITEM # 2 CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR TOWNSHIP BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Manager Takita said the board is being asked to consider authorization for advertisement for Request for Proposals for architectural services for Township building renovations. This is only for architectural services, not engineering. Member Galloway moved to approve the authorization for advertisement for Request for Proposals for Architectural Services for Township Building Renovations; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

ITEM # 3 CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TOWNSHIP BUILDING RENOVATIONS

This is for Phase I environmental assessment. Member Galloway moved to accept the proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers in the amount of \$5,900 for Engineering Services for Township Building Renovations; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

ITEM # 4 CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM JONES ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES FOR CIVIL DESIGN AND INSPECTION FOR TOWNSHIP BUILDING RENOVATIONS

This proposal includes surveying and preliminary analysis, design, sub-consultant selection coordination, bid administration, inspection and construction administration, field

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engineering and construction administration. The total of this proposal is \$224,250. Member Boraski asked if this is for the entire length of the project. Mr. Jones said yes. Member Galloway moved to accept the proposal from Jones Engineering in the amount of \$224,250 for Civil Design and Inspection for Township Building Renovations; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

ITEM # 5 CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ENTRUST ADVISORS, LLC TO ASSIST THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER WITH AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

Member Palmer moved to table this agenda item; Member Mullen seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

ITEM#6 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Clarke said the board held an Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss various personnel matters and several matters involving Collective Bargaining Agreements.

ITEM # 7 MANAGER COMMENT

There was no Manager Comment.

ITEM#8 BOARD COMMENT

Member Boraski – no comment

Member Mullen - no comment

Member Palmer – no comment

Member Galloway said he attended Bulk Disposal Day last month and the folks down there did a wonderful job.

Chairman Dence - no comment

Member Galloway moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Boraski seconded the motion all board members were in favor. (5-0) The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Brian Galloway, Secretary

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