Scott Township Workshop Meeting Agenda

Minutes

Scott Township
2/11/2025 7:30 PMEST @ 301 Lindsay Rd Carnegie Pa 15106 and Zoom

Attendance

Present:
Members: Stacey Altman, Tom Castello, Sam Dalfonso, Brandon Edwards, Denise Fitzgerald, Kathy Gazda, Marie Hartman, Tom Kelley (remote), Karla McGill (remote), Eileen Meyers, Lisha Mihalko, Mark Mox, Matt Podsiadly, Michelle Sedlak (remote), Nick Seibel, Jim Stoker, John Vogel, Angela Wateska

Absent:
Members:

Call to Order, Moment of Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Commissioner Gazda, Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Sedlak, Commissioner Seibel, Commissioner Castello, Commissioner Dalfonso, Commissioner Meyers, Commissioner Wateska, Commissioner Altman

1. Public Comments on all Agenda Items Listed Below

The purpose of public comment is to hear the public's comments and express their views. Please email the Manager or your Commissioner if you have any questions concerning agenda items.

Amanda
Mad Science

Amanda explained her program and expressed her interest in being included in partnering with Scott Township to provide a recreation program for the residents.

Commissioner Castello asked who their customers typically are.

Amanda explained that she instructs some of the camps, they have 20 or so community partners throughout the summer. They also employ local teachers and local college students. All of their instructors have at a bare minimum their 3 clearances to work with children and go through the safety and classroom management training that some of them are studying to be teachers, and are teachers on break for the summer. Retired teachers have some sort of educational background as well.

Commissioner Castello asked how many participants they have per teacher.

Amanda stated they have a 10 minimum and a 20 maximum. So, the maximum number of kids that would be with us at any time would be 20.

Commissioner Sedlak expressed her interest in having these events in the parklets throughout the community.

Amanda stated that her program would require some essentials. the basic requirements for facilities used for their programs are the need for tables and chairs for all the kids, which can be picnic tables, or, a pavilion and some kind of green space. Amanda explained that all 3 of the camps don't necessarily have to happen at the same place. We can have perhaps 3 different sites, one for each of the 3 weeks proposed.

Commissioner Wateska stated that the brochure states that they need running water and access to electricity.

Amanda explained that the water is mainly used for chemistry experiments and for cleaning the equipment. The main need for electricity would be for heating up a hot water kettle for some of the experiments.

Commissioner Castello asked Amanda if she would have a problem with sharing the program with another company.

Amanda said she wouldn't mind that and would love to do that.

2. Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement

2.A. Discuss

Discuss the reappointment of Todd Tulowitzki as a member of the Planning Commission for a 4-year term, effective March 1, 2025.

Mox confirmed that they did receive Todd's letter of interest. Mark stated that he has been on the Planning Commission, and he does a great job. Mark stated that he has a lot of good input, especially with his experience and knowledge of the Township that he does have.

2.B. Discuss

Discuss the hiring of an Intern to assist with the Comprehensive Plan starting in May 2025.

Mox stated that last Wednesday he went to Carnegie Mellon where they were having a fair and he was given the opportunity to meet a number of interns. Mark stated that he did find one that would be very beneficial to the Township. This individual will be graduating but continuing for his master's next year. He is eligible for the program. Mark asked the Board of Commissioners if they would be interested in meeting him.

Commissioner Castello expressed his interest.

Commissioner Altman even if it's on Zoom due to his schedule and currently being in school.

Commissioner Castello asked about the cost to the Township.

Denise Fitzgerald stated that it is a topic for Executive Session.

2.C. Discuss

Discuss establishing a Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Plan.

Mox stated that he had a great meeting with Denny Puko this morning to go over the book and his involvement. Denny said that he will do whatever we need him to do. Mark explained that Denny has a wealth of knowledge, and he feels that he will be a huge asset for the Township.

Mark said that Denny's recommendation on the steering committee is that we consider getting the Planning Commission involved. Mark suggested having Denny come in and meet the Planning Commission first.

Commissioner Sedlak asked if this was the same Comprehensive plan that the Township signed up for last year.

Commissioner Dalfonso said no, that is the Strategic Management Plan, the financial one which is entirely different than this one.

Mox continued explaining what Denny recommends, due to the sunshine law, we have to be careful how many people we have from the planning commission, therefore, most would be planning commission members and then we would have some of the Board of Commissioners, maybe one or 2 Commissioners on the steering committee, and then also look at some key residents also be included on the committee.

Denise mentioned that Denny would be willing to serve on that committee as well.

Commissioner Dalfonso asked who they plan to reach out to because Sam would like to suggest maybe taking some resumes in on this as well to see who might have the expertise necessarily planning, but who has those established community connections depending on whether it's from that nonprofit sector of the community that we have here.

Mark said that Denny was looking at the board and Denise recommended who they feel would be good to have on this committee.

Commissioner Gazda asked if there was any information from the old Comprehensive plan that would still be viable.

Mark stated that there is, however, he would hesitate to use it. He confirmed that the use of the old plan would be more on reviewing the recommendations and what was implemented.

Commissioner Altman mentioned that the next Planning Commission date is March 5, 2025, for those board members who would like to attend.

2.D. Discuss

Discuss the reinstatement of Professional Code Services, Inc. as the Township's Certified Third-Party Agency to perform building plan review and inspection services on an as needed basis.

Mark stated that the Township received a letter from Professional Code Services, Inc. (PCS, Inc.) telling us that they did not feel that given the number of employees they had at that time and the fact that we were located at the end of their territory, that they could be a third-party agency any longer. Since this time, PCS, Inc. has been able to secure two part-time inspectors and one full-time inspector, and they feel that they can continue to provide services for us.

Commissioner Gazda asked if the RFP had already gone out.

Denise confirmed that the RFP had already been sent. There were a couple of proposals received, but we don't need to use them since we will be able to stay with PCS, Inc.

Commissioner Dalfonso asked if Mark had any thoughts on the proposals that were received.

Mark said that one is a large company, and it wouldn't be the same level of service that we get with PCS, Inc. now. There would be multiple different inspectors coming in and so forth. The other two were actually very small companies.

Code Enforcement Update

Mark advised that the department had a total of 9 permits issued totaling an estimated cost of the construction work going on at $1. Million dollars. The Township had some substantial improvements that have come in, for instance, Flynn's Tire Service will be taking over the American Freight turning this location into the biggest facility that they have in the State. Long John Silver's on Washington is being renovated, and there is a garage on Hope Hollow Rd they are converting one of the residential garages into a commercial garage so that has been completed and the Township issued a temporary occupancy permit. The owner needs to complete a sub-consolidation plan because they want to use restrooms and so forth from another building and since they're two separate ones that needed to be combined so they agreed to that. Green Tree sports cards are currently located in Green Tree they're moving to the Green Tree Shopping Center. Mark continued to state that the department issued 69 notices of violations and attended two magistrate hearings, 17 building inspections, and one right-to-know request.

3. Solicitor's Report

No report.

4. Engineer's Report

4.A. Discuss

Discuss the Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Costs distributed to the Commissioners for evaluation and selection of roadways to be included for improvement in 2025.

Marie Hartman stated that this is mostly a reminder to provide her with a final list of what roads the Commissioners feel need to be included in this bid.

Commissioner Castello suggested completing the park.

Commissioner Dalfonso suggests not going all the way up Somerville Dr., he stated that it was only part of that road that is in very bad condition. He would suggest the short area from Pembroke up to Moynelle Dr. be paved.

Commissioner Seibel stated that he would agree with Castello about finishing the park, however, we also have to consider that some of these roads are access to their homes.

Commissioner Sedlak stated that she feels if the Township paves the park they will have issues with speeding again. When these roads are paved people tend to speed more than those roads that have not been paved.

Commissioner Castello said that residents speed no matter what the condition of the roads are.

Commissioner Dalfonso said that we were looking at some improvements with regard to crosswalks and stuff of that nature, he doesn't suggest we go and pave everything if we're going to be digging it up to put new crosswalks in.

Marie explained that the Township submitted a Grant request several times for a traffic calming plan at the park, however, we have not been successful in obtaining that yet.

Commissioner Sedlak said that a park with potholes is a traffic-calming plan.

Marie stated that the park paving begins as you come off of Lindsay Road and go all the way through the main road of the park.

Commissioner Altman asked what budgeting was.

Marie stated that she believes the board agreed to $750,000.000 for roads through the Township and $250,000.00 for Lindsay Road.

Commissioner Altman said if the park is left out of the bid, then the list could be completed from roads 1 through 7 on the list and that would total roughly $710,000.00. If the park is left in the roads to be completed it would be 1 through 3 on the list. Stacey expressed her opinion about paving Lindsay Road this year.

Commissioner Castello agreed with Stacey's comment to pave Lindsay Road.

Marie said if the Board would eliminate the park, we are slightly over budget, but keep in mind, we budget for base repair that sometimes isn't needed. Typically, the roads come in under the bid amount because of this. If it's the board's desire, we could bid everything in the priority one category except for the park, or we could place one as an add-in alternate and see where the bids come in.

Commissioner Sedlak asked how much signs would cost. Michelle suggested installing signs throughout the Township stating that if you encounter potholes at more than 15 miles per hour and it hurts your car, that's not a Township problem, that would be on the resident.

Commissioner Altman asked for confirmation from the board members and stated that everyone agreed with, including Lindsay Road in the bid and eliminating the park.

4.B. Discuss

Discuss the Scott Park Lodge and Community Center Roof Replacement Project and the Township's request for the Contractor to provide pricing for additional work to be included in the contract pending review by the Township and approval by Allegheny County Economic Development to use the entirety of grant funding.

Marie stated that the grant was in the amount of $150,000.00. The contract came in significantly under that. Marie and Denise had discussed what else could be added and would be consistent with the project scope and the County would approve to get us closer to the $150,000.00 grant amount. Marie also explained that they had a pre-construction meeting with the contractor. They showed him some things that the Township is interested in doing with this project. A recommendation will be given prior to the next meeting.

4.C. Discuss

Discuss the Hope Hollow Road / Greentree Road Green Light Go Application. The full application submission date is February 28, 2025.

Marie stated that we submitted the pre-application and are awaiting feedback and comments from the County to submit a full application. The deadline for submission is the end of February.

4.D. Discuss

Discuss approval of Change Order No. 1 (Final) for the 2024 ACHD Sanitary Sewer System Cleaning / CCTV Project submitted by Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC. prepared to adjust the Contract amount based upon the measurement of final in-place quantities and work performed in the deduct amount of -$21,463.99.

Marie stated that this is a deducted amount for this Change Order.

4.E. Discuss

Discuss approval of Partial Payment No. 4 (Final) for the 2024 ACHD Sanitary Sewer System Cleaning / CCTV Project in the amount of $6,206.36 submitted by Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC. based upon work completed between December 1, 2024, to January 7, 2025.

Marie is requesting payment be submitted as the work has been completed.

Marie also mentioned that there will be a grant submission for a PA Small Water grant. Typically, these projects are infrastructure projects that pertain to water, sewage, or stormwater issues. The applications she believes are due starting April 30, 2025. Marie will be discussing different projects with Denise so they can provide ideas to the Board for your consideration.

5. Standing Committee Report - Finance

No report.

6. Standing Committee Report – Public Safety

6.A. Discuss

Discuss Carothers Avenue (Meyers).

The Chief stated that there have been 14 reportable traffic accidents on Carothers Avenue. For those not familiar with reportable traffic accidents result in injury or a vehicle not being able to move after the accident. Out of the 14, only 4 had to do with speed. 5 of the 14 were impaired, and eight of them were just driver actions, for instance, sideswiping parked cars. The Chief stated that in the stretch of Carothers where the stop sign is being suggested only had four accidents there. He would recommend talking to Marie about looking at doing a traffic study for probably the length of Magazine Street. The Chief stated that he would recommend that we look at the Police Department working with Marie and her colleagues and complete a proper study for that area.

Commissioner Meyers asked in the meantime, could the Chief have more police presence in that area. Eileen also suggested putting speed limit signs that tell you at what speed you are traveling, and it flashes at you if you're going too fast.

The Chief stated that the Township did budget for 4 permanent speed signs that will be permanently affixed. They just arrived and therefore we're going to start working on getting those installed. The initial plan was to install them at Green Tree Road, Kane Boulevard, Vanadium Road, and Finley Avenue as they were all confirmed to be hot spots for speeding. If the board chooses, he will have no issue with holding off on Finley Avenue and placing it on Carothers Avenue as suggested.

Chief of Police's Update

The Chief advised that there were 420 officer activities for the month of January, with nine criminal arrests which cleared 20 different cases. He stated that the Township did receive the approval for the HGC.

Commissioner Gazda asked Matt for an update with the Mobile Command Center.

Matt stated that they haven't even started building it yet. We are looking at 16 to 18 months.

Commissioner Dalfonso asked if all the funding concerns have been alleviated now.

Matt confirmed that he believes yes.

7. Standing Committee Report – Public Works

7.A. Discuss

Discuss the proposed Resolution for improvements to the Veterans' Bridge.

Denise stated that the majority of the Veteran's Bridge rehabilitation will be paid for through grant funding and the Township would be responsible for 5% of the actual cost. They are estimating the cost would be around $200,000.00.

8. Environmental Committee (Sewer Committee and MS4 Updates)

Commissioner Wateska mentioned the scheduled Environmental Committee meeting for tomorrow, February 12, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

9. Parks and Recreation

9.A. Discuss

Discuss proposals received for Recreation Programs.

Eileen explained that Denise provided a recreation calendar which included all three of the interested candidates that we had come forward.

Commissioner Dalfonso said he would like to consider eliminating the 30% profit that the Township would make. This isn't something that the Township is looking to receive funding for.

Commissioner Sedlak expressed her interest in wanting to see these programs in the parklets.

Commissioner Meyers stated that the parklets don't all have the parking accessibility that would be required, they would have to be taped off and close all the parklets to the public.

Commissioner Altman suggested rotating one week at a time with the three different programs that showed an interest.

Denise will update the calendar and provide the revised to the board.

9.B. Discuss

Discuss Concession Stand Proposals (deadline is 2/20/25).

Commissioner Meyers stated that proposals have been requested.

9.C. Discuss

Discuss pool party pricing for the 2025 season.

Pool Manager: Benon Brewer expressed his interest in raising the private pool party pricing so the Township can support the operations of the pool for these events. He would suggest that the price be increased to $500.00 for those less than 100, and increase 200 or more to $750.00.

Commissioner Sedlak asked if there was a limit of parties that the Township accepts.

Benon said one on Saturday night and one on Sunday night.

Commissioner Altman stated that she feels it should remain the same. She doesn't want to overwork the guards or Benon.

Benon asked for confirmation on the swimming lessons. Last year we offered ten 30-minute lessons for $60.00. Other areas charge $100.00 for 4 30-minute lessons and that is taught by school swimmers and college swimmers and that is the demographic of our lifeguards.

Commissioner Seibel stated that if the price is going to be increased, it should be done gradually.

Denise asked Bennon to explain what he is requesting.

Benon stated that he would recommend that instead of $60.00 for ten 30-minute lessons, it should be $60.00 for five 30-minute classes. Benon would also suggest that family night be for pass-holders only.

10. Public Relations Report

No report.

11. Library Liaison Report

Commissioner Sedlak mentioned that National Library Lovers is celebrated in February. Duke's Rib House and Grill are having a fundraiser on Thursday, February 13, 2025, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, and Chick-fil-A in Collier Township is having a fundraiser on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Please visit scottlibrary.org for more information.

12. SHACOG

12.A. Discuss

Discuss approving the request from SHACOG for the Joint Bid for O&M Point (Open-Cut) Repairs of Sanitary Sewers - Year 13. (Request due to SHACOG office by Friday, February 28, 2025).

Commissioner Edwards stated that we do not typically do.

Denise asked the Board of Commissioners if they are in agreement with denying this request.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to deny the request.

Commissioner Edwards also said congratulations to Coraopolis for joining SHACOG.

13. Standing Committee Report – Administration

No report.

Manager's Update

No report.

14. Conferences and Workshops

No report.

Commissioner Meyers also suggested discussing the condition of the chairs at the pool. She would suggest that Benon get new chairs and that residents be charged for the use of those chairs.

Commissioner Castello wanted it noted that he is not in agreement with charging residents for the use of the chairs at the pool.

Jim Stoker also mentioned that the cashiers are overwhelmed to begin with and asked that the Board keep that in mind when making their decision on this.

Denise said that the chairs are in the budget for this year.

Commissioner Altman said to move forward with the changes previously discussed and hold off on making any other changes for the use of chairs.

15. Public Comments on Items Not Listed on the Agenda

The purpose of public comment is to hear the public's comments and express their views. If you have any questions concerning items not listed on the agenda, please email the manager or your commissioner

16. Commissioner's Request

Commissioner Meyers said Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Commissioner Seibel mentioned that he reviewed the State Inspection Report for the Veteran's Bridge. It was built in 1993, and is currently listed in fair condition.

Commissioner Edwards asked about the water man break on Crosswinds.

Denise stated that Tom Kelley would review this and get back to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Edwards also wanted to mention that the Nixon School project is destroying our roads and he wants to make sure this is on the radar.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Dalfonso, seconded by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Executive Session: None

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTT SEAL ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA.