

TOWN HALL

January 13, 2022

The Chair, Mr. Mueller, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. Trustee Port and Trustee Rambo were present. Board Administrator Melissa Palmer and Fiscal Officer Karen Walder were present.

The following Department Heads was present: Fire Chief John Frazier, Police Chief Tom Swaidner and Zoning Inspector Shane Wrench.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mr. Mueller asked Fiscal Officer Karen Walder if the funds are available if the Trustees decide to go with a steel building. Mrs. Walder explained that since the previous appropriation measure expired at year end, it is up to board to decide how much money to appropriate when Permanent Appropriations are voted in March. There was discussion about using ARP funds as a supplement if they are able. Mr. Rambo asked the board if spending \$750,000 is worth it. Anything could happen during the construction process and could drive the price up.

Mrs. Palmer explained the Board has 45 days to decide on the current bids. It was suggested that the Trustees could ask the bidders for an extension on the bids. Ms. Port stated that if they don't go with one of the current bids, they will have to go back to the drawing board and start over, and further stated that if they awarded the job now, payments under the contract would not commence until May or June. Mrs. Walder explained that the issue was one of properly encumbering the funds for the entire project, not one of cash flow.

Mr. Mueller suggested funding the construction using Capital Reserve funds. Mrs. Walder reminded the board that Reserve funds may only be used for items identified in the Reserve Study. She also expressed unease based on the questions from the board. She is concerned by the Board's lack of understanding of the Township's financial position & process of encumbering funds, which jeopardizes the ability to successfully move the project forward.

There was discussion about going a different route – a potentially lower cost pole building – and many opinions regarding the longevity and cost of wood versus steel were offered. Mr. Rambo asked if it was worth it to potentially spend twice as much for a steel building of the same size. A discussion also took place regarding the bid process itself.

Mr. Mueller said he would like to hire Mr. Dixon, who was in attendance, to review the plans and advise the board. Mr. Rambo and Ms. Port agree that they first need to decide on the current competitive bids and then go from there. Mrs. Walder recommended that the board reach out to the Township's APA on the process to either award or reject the bids.

The board discussed asking Action Contractors for an extension. The board agreed to send the documents to the APA for review.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to forward the documents from the low bidder to the APA for her review. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Jim Mueller, Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Ezzone