# ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

# JULY 11, 2024

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
# REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

# TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

**A G E N D A**
**July 11, 2024**
**7:00 PM**

There are three ways for the public to participate in the meeting: in-person, online or by phone. Residents who wish to attend in person can do so in the Abington Township Board Room located at 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001, 2nd Floor. Alternative means of public participation are offered for those who do not wish to or are unable to attend the meetings in person. Residents who wish to participate in the meeting remotely can access the meeting online by a computer, iPad, iPhone, or Android at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88216803878. This link will enable residents to hear the meeting, see presentations, and ask questions. There will be no video interaction capabilities. Residents, who are unable to join online, can listen to and participate in the meeting by calling 1-929-436-2866 and entering the meeting ID number 882-1680-3878 when prompted.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**, *BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DIPLACIDO, LANEY-MARTIN, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, YOUNG-GERTZ, SPIEGELMAN, BOLE, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of June 13, 2024.

b. BOC-01-071124 Motion to adopt Resolution 24-026 for a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority's Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant application in the amount of 2.5 million and committing $110,065 in FY 2025 budget funds for Phase 5 of the Abington Jenkintown Connections Project.

c. BOC-02-071124 Motion to appoint Robin Eisman to the Shade Tree Commission for a term ending 12/31/2027 as included in Exhibit A and as recommended by the Shade Tree Commission.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. BOC-03-071124 Motion to authorize advertisement of an Ordinance amending the Tow fees.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

a. FC-01-071124 Motion to adopt Resolution 24-027 Fire Inspection and Permit Fee Schedule.

b. FC-02-071124 Motion to adopt Resolution 24-028 establishing a fee schedule for licenses for alternative and massage therapy.

c. FC-03-071124 Motion to authorize $299,206.30 to be expensed from Refuse Fund Balance for the purchase of a Tri-Axle Container Lift Truck.

d. FC-04-071124 Motion to authorize $34,100 to be expensed from Refuse Fund Balance for the payment of a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Civil Penalty.

e. FC-05-071124 Motion to approve the May 2024 expenditures in the amount of $5,816,640.13 and salaries and wages in the amount of $3,433,831.42 and authorizing the proper officials to sign and approve invoices and supporting documentation in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of August 2024. (Click here to view supporting information for expenditures in May 2024)

(Motion & Roll Call)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

# BOARD POLICY ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*For Information Purposes Only*

The Township shall conduct business in accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Laws governing the conduct of public meetings and only establish guidelines that shall govern public participation at meetings consistent with the law.

Each commenter shall:

- Direct their comments to the Presiding Officer;
- Speak from the podium or into a microphone designated by the presiding officer;
- State their name for the record;
- Either orally or in writing provide their address for the record;
- Have a maximum of three minutes to make their comments. Each commenter when speaking to a specific agenda item, is to keep their comments relative to that identified agenda item;
- Speak one time per agenda item;
- When commenting on non-agenda items, the commenter is to keep their comments related to matters of the Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
- State a question to the Presiding Officer after all commenters have spoken, and;
- Be seated after speaking or upon the request of the presiding officer;
- Not engage in debate, dialogue or discussion;
- Not disrupt the public meeting, and;
- Exercise restraint and sound judgement in avoiding the use of profane language, and the maligning of others.

The stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Thursday, June 13, 2024 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, LANEY-MARTIN, BROWNE, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, YOUNG-GERTZ, SPIEGELMAN, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER
Excused: Commissioners DiPLACIDO, BOLE

Also Present: Township Manager Manfredi
Assistant Legal Counsel Gallagher

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUCEMENTS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern that the minutes should reflect all events and statements made in May. Also, "Being against a Township-sponsored pride flag raising and celebratory plaque pride events on D-Day does not equate to hating the queer community," and the "black screen, no sound, go-to response is meant to protect the leadership of Abington and this type of editing distorts the facts and is government censorship." And she would not have known about the D-Day or Pride Celebration events if she had not been to the meeting last month and citizens should be able to vote on these types of decisions.

Joe Rooney, resident, expressed concern that no one in the Township wants 150 rowhomes built on St. Basils, and he encouraged the Board to vote "no." The School District has complained they do not have enough classrooms for their middle school and there is a high school at St. Basils that may need renovation, but still has 47 acres of land, and we should rent that property for the School District for 10 years, which is an opportunity that has not been discussed.

John Tracey, resident, expressed concern that Toll Brothers does not care about the neighbors around their build; they will be moving large equipment on our streets; there will be loud noise from construction at all hours and it will cause spillage and release air born materials and toxins into the Fox Chase Road and Manor College area as well as into the stream.

Also, were the Sisters of St. Basils under any restrictions as to who they can resell their land to? Has the EPA been contacted regarding the possible release of asbestos into the air from demolition of the school building and who will be responsible for making sure the demolition will be done per government standards? Do the subcontractors working for Toll need separate permits to work in Abington, what are their designated working hours, and do they need to file per the noise ordinance? And who should we contact if there is any abuse?

Vince Kelley, resident, commented that he is disappointed that the Township did not have the ability to act on this property. St. Basils owned the property since 1929 and did not pay taxes as it was community service, so the Township should have had the first right of refusal. He wants to be sure that the property will be developed appropriately and properly. It is 47 acres of land, and everyone moves outside the city for more open space, and we are fighting for more space in every area, and "then roll over and allow development to occur," which is unfortunate.

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that the Township should have taken that land and preserved it. We need community service land, and don't need any more residences. She expressed concern about proper speaking rights; the budget should be presented early; and about Lubavitch "upping" their contract and the amount they pay for heating should be investigated. And properly vetted items should be the only ones forwarded for advertisement for a hearing.

Liz Kerr, resident, commented that she just found out that St. Basils property had been liable for unpaid taxes all these years, and she asked about looking into the first right of refusal. She expressed concern about Lubavitch not paying what they should, and it is not open to anyone other than their own community.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve Items a. – e. as listed under Consent Agenda as follows:

To approve the minutes from the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting of May 9, 2024.

To approve the Township's 2024 CDBG Annual Action Plan and the associated resolution for submission to HUD.

To adopt Traffic Safety Ordinance No. 2214 amending ordinance Chapter 156 – "Vehicles and Traffic," Article II - "Traffic Regulations" Section 14 – "Stop Intersections," Article III – "Parking Regulations" Section 27 – "Parking Time Limited," and Article III – "Special Parking Zones," Section 28 – to add the following: a "Stop" sign northbound on Ridgeway Avenue at the intersection of Old Welsh Road; and eastbound and westbound on Elliot Avenue at the intersection of Fitzwatertown Road: 2-Hour Parking on Charles Street, both sides, between Fern Avenue and Abington Avenue; and "Handicapped Parking" signs at 1410 Edgewood Avenue; and 640 Penn Avenue.

To approve a lease extension at Alverthorpe Manor for the Lubavitch of Abington effective August 1, 2024.

To adopt Resolution No. 24-023 authorizing the filing of an application for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Item BOC-05-061324:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to approve the Final Major Land Development application LD-23-01 for the location at 711 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA, 19046 (St. Basils).

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Rothman clarified that there was no communication between the Sisters of St. Basils and the Township regarding an opportunity to purchase the property. By the time the Township was involved, there was already an enforceable agreement in place where Toll Brothers were the rightful owners of the property. So, as a resident who lives near this project, he would also have preferred that it went in a different direction, but once that was no longer a reality, he dove in as much as possible to help the residents.

If this passes tonight, he will work hard to make sure that the owner of the property will be held accountable to the Township's zoning and land development requirements during construction and beyond, and he will help residents with any issues that may arise over the next few years with this ongoing project.

He encouraged residents to reach out to him about any concerns relating to demolition and asbestos removal, and he will make sure it is done according to the Township's rules and State laws. He will do his best to help residents with this difficult and unfortunate situation. Also, we did as a community explore alternate opportunities, but at that time, the owners of the property already made decisions to go in a different direction.

Vice President Vahey said he sympathizes with the residents as he cannot imagine what they are going through, and he is sorry for that. To address the idea that this property should be preserved as open space, the Township would have to purchase the property like anyone else and he doubts there are enough funds in the budget to make such a purchase that he assumes was in the millions of dollars.

Also, the Board does have the authority pursuant to a referendum to levy a tax for the very purpose of preserving open space and he is open to having that discussion to try to prevent something like this from happening again, but that will ultimately be up to the voters to decide whether to have a tax for that purpose.

And regarding the School District acquiring the property for a middle school; they would also need to buy the property and demolish the existing school building as St. Basils is over 60 years old and was designed to accommodate 400 students, so it is just as outdated as the middle school, which houses 1,800 students, and there is no way that St. Basils is a viable option, and any idea that it would be a 'cost saving measure for the taxpayers' is farfetched.

Commissioner Zappone clarified that this property was owned by the Sisters of St. Basils and they sold it to Toll Brothers. Is that correct?

President Hecker replied yes.

Commissioner Zappone said so how can we tell them who they can and cannot sell their property to. He can sell his property to anyone he wants to, and he is not going to have the government tell him to whom he can sell it. Rightfully, they own the property and have the right to sell it.

Commissioner Spiegelman said there are complicated rules and regulations for municipal entities and school districts on buying and selling property. It is not something that can be done in the same way that corporations, individuals or the Sisters buy property.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

<u>Item BOC-06-061324:</u>

Public Hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance No. 2215 amending the code of the Township of Abington at Part II [General Legislation], Chapter 162 [Zoning], by amending and restating Article III [R-1Low Density Residential District], Article IV [R-2 Low Medium Density Residential District], Article V [R-3 Medium Density Residential District], Article VI [R-4 Medium High Density Residential District], and the Use Matrix Appendix to refine the provision of the E-10 [Life Care Facility (Continuing Care)] and E-12 [Nursing Home] uses.

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to open the Public Hearing.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0. The Public Hearing opened at 7:36 p.m.

A court stenographer was present to transcribe the testimony at the hearing.

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to close the Public Hearing.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0. The Public Hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by President Hecker to adopt Ordinance No. 2215 as stated in the agenda.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

Item BOC-07-061324:

Vice President Vahey made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Schreiber to authorize the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance No. 2216 amending Chapter 162, the Zoning Ordinance to regulate the size of billboards.

Manager Manfredi explained that the impetus for this has been inquiries by various companies to place billboards in locations that may not be suitable. Township Solicitor reviewed the ordinance and advised that the Township move swiftly, and that is why this matter is on the agenda this evening.

Ms. Gallagher said that this would limit the size of the billboard faces to 200 ft., which is consistent with the largest sign area in the BC Districts and the recommended size limitation is generally consistent with the Montgomery County Planning Commission's model sign ordinance for visibility along roadways that are not limited access highways, and this is consistent with existing Township ordinances.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Browne questioned whether the ordinance covers both printed and digital billboards.

Ms. Gallagher replied yes.

Vice President Vahey asked about any location limitations.

Ms. Gallagher replied this will apply anywhere in the Township.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether there is a limit to the number of billboards within a certain radius.

Ms. Gallagher replied that is not part of this ordinance and she will need to review the existing code to see whether there is a limitation.

MOTION was ADOPTED 13-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Item FC-01-061324:

Commissioner Winegrad made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the April 2024 expenditures in the amount of $2,730,234.25 and salaries and wages in the amount of $2,281,372.97 and authorize the proper officials to sign and approve invoices and supporting documentation in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of July 2024.

Roll call resulted in motion being passed 13-0. Commissioners DiPlacido and Bole were absent during roll call.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Adele Kubel, resident, expressed concern about scheduling a pride celebration with flag raising on D-Day that goes against pride values and the values of an inclusive community. D-Day is an inclusive day of national remembrance for all those who fought and for the thousands that died. D-Day was the turning point in WWII, the deadliest conflict in human history. All heroes must be celebrated equally and less than one percent of WWII veterans are alive.

Also, she was concerned that Abington Township needs a Roslyn Library building; the Community Development Office needs to have a summer job program for high school students; commercial codes are not evenly enforced, and she submitted two petitions to the Township.

Joe Rooney, resident, commented that this has not closed yet, and Toll will pay the Sisters once they get the Township to agree to the waivers. Also, we should be congratulating and thanking our police and employees for their great work and promoting police officers at public meetings.

John Tracy, resident, commented that Toll does not have a great product and it's very expensive. This is not a great thing happening in our neighborhood and he wants to keep his community as nice as possible.

Vince Kelly, resident, commented that the trend has been that Catholic schools have not been able to sustain because enrollment has decreased over the last few years. Also, there were stipulations relating to the agreement of sale about whether they could get approvals from the Township to change the property from Community Service to residential and there were stopgaps that could have been taken, so in the future, are we going to stand up and make sure development is handled appropriately?

Lora Lehmann, resident, commented that the Township knew about St. Basils in advance and the Township has the funds for it, and it is "spot zoning." Also, she was concerned about Cedar Road having no land development, but construction and demolition is ongoing.

John Thygeson, resident, questioned whether an environmental impact study was done for St. Basils property. Also, when did the number of homes go from 105 to 150?

Commissioner Rothman replied the plan was for 105 homes when it was for single family homes, but there were concerns from the public about adding more students to the school system, so as the project evolved, the space will be utilized by carriage homes. He does not recall that there was a commitment for an environmental study; however, Toll is required to comply with environmental parameters of land development per the Planning Commission in which they have done so.

Commissioner Laney-Martin said she would like to take a moment to celebrate David Mwaria, an Abington High School student living in her ward who was selected as the winner of the prestigious National Merit Scholarship placing him among the elite in the nation as well as in Crestmont of Ward 5.

David M. Waria received the National Merit University of Texas at Dallas College Scholarship, and his probable career field is electrical engineering.

It is important to celebrate our young people who are students in our community striving for excellence by uplifting them with our positive vibes and energy.

Additionally, Deacon Benjamin Berry, a WWII Veteran, who is 100 years old, born on September 21, 1923, grew up in Crestmont and graduated from Abington High School at age 19, and then entered the U.S. Military spending time serving in Normandy, France. Benjamin Berry was decorated with the French Legion of Honor and received this award on March 18, 2024 in Philadelphia.

In acknowledgement of David Mwaria who is just starting out in life, and Benjamin Berry who had a full rich life, both from Willow Grove, Crestmont section.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

The following ordinances and resolution were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 13, 2024:

Ordinance No. 2214
Ordinance No. 2215
Resolution No. 24-023

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | BOC-01-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Administration | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Resolution for Phase 5 of the Abington Jenkintown Connections Project

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

This action is for the approval of a resolution designating Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager, as the official to execute all documents and agreements between the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to facilitate and assist in obtaining a Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) in the amount of $2,500,000. This grant is for Phase 5 of the Abington Jenkintown Connections Project. This action will also commit $110,065 in Township funds to be allocated to the project in FY 2025.

Phase 5 of the Abington-Jenkintown Connections Project includes the widening of Jenkintown Road (S.R. 2021) to provide a 250-foot southbound left-turn lane and a 75-foot northbound left-turn lane and widening Meetinghouse Road to provide a 325-foot westbound channelized right-turn lane. With the proposed improvements, the use of Greenwood Avenue as the route for the right turn would no longer be needed. It is proposed to close Greenwood Avenue at Jenkintown Road (S.R. 2021) by removing a small portion of the existing pavement. The existing right-of-way and the majority of the existing cartway and access to Meetinghouse Road will be maintained for access to the Abington Friends School.

The Township has successfully obtained $500,000 in grant funds for this project. The total project cost is $3,483,795. In addition to the $110,065 Township funding allocation, the Township will be performing in-kind services to offset the total cost to the Township including inspection services, sidewalk installation and traffic signal modifications.

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

October 8, 2020: Resolution 20-049 was authorized by the Board of Commissioners for this same grant and project. The Township was awarded $150,000 through that application.

July 8, 2021: Board of Commissioners meeting agenda item FC-02-070821 was approved authorizing Supplement #3 for McMahon Associates to further design of Phase 5 to enhance our CFA MTF application based on feedback from the CFA on the Township's 2020 application.

June 9, 2022: Resolution 22 -017 was authorized by the Board of Commissioners for this same grant and project. The Township was awarded $500,000 through that application.

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*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to adopt Resolution 24-026 for a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority's Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant application in the amount of 2.5 million and committing $110,065 in FY 2025 budget funds for Phase 5 of the Abington Jenkintown Connections Project.

Thomas Hecker, *Board President*
Matthew Vahey, *Board Vice President*
Richard J. Manfredi, *Township Manager*

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

Resolution 24-026

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township, Montgomery County, hereby request a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of $2,500,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Abington Jenkintown Connections-Phase 5 Project in Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager as the official to execute all documents and agreements between the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Richard J. Manfredi, duly qualified secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township, Montgomery County Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held the 11th day of July, 2024 and said resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix by hand and attach the seal of the Township of Abington this 11th day of July, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

BY:_____

Thomas Hecker, President

Attest:_____

Richard J. Manfredi, Secretary

## Exhibit 2 - Engineer's Conceptual Opinion of Cost

7/3/2024

**Project: AJC Intersection Improvement Project - Phase 5**

**Applicant:** Abington Township

| | Total | MTF Request | MTF Grant Award (2022-2023) | Funded Locally (not included in match) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Design | $ 125,000 | | | $ 125,000 |
| Utilities | $ 140,000 | | | $ 140,000 |
| Inspection | $ 293,000 | $ 74,205 | | $ 218,795 |
| Construction | $ 2,925,795 | $ 2,425,795 | $ 500,000 | |
| **Total** | **$ 3,483,795** | **$ 2,500,000** | **$ 500,000** | **$ 483,795** |

**Notes and Assumptions:**

Construction estimates are based on quantities estimated as part of the engineering evaluation conducted in July 2024 and unit prices from recently bid local projects with PennDOT oversight.

The estimate does not include the cost of acquiring temporary or permanent easements that may be needed for the project. Additionally, it does not include the cost of legal fees associated with the right-of-way acquisition process.

The estimate does not include relocating or resetting existing underground utilities within the limits of the project or the provision of any future utilities. Impacts to existing underground utilities will need to be determined during the preliminary engineering of the project through subsurface utility engineering.

The estimate does not include any environmental remediation (including but not limited to removal and replacement of contaminated soils or environmental impact mitigation.

The estimate includes a contingency of 5% of infrastructure cost.

**Disclaimer:** This opinion of cost was prepared at the request of Abington Township for the purpose of the Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) grant application. This opinion of cost is based on the engineering evaluation performed in July 2024. Please note that opinions of cost are subject to change based on plan/design revisions, fluctuations in unit costs, field conditions, and differences in locale. Opinions of cost are provided for use in budgeting, but in no way intended to be construed as a final cost for the project. Final costs are contingent only on actual bids from contractors.

Cost estimate prepared under the direction of:

Stephen C. Giampaolo, P.E.
McMahon Associates, Inc.
835 Springdale Drive, Suite 200
Exton, PA 19341
(610) 594-9995
sgiampaolo@mcmahonassociates.com

**Engineer's Opinion of Cost for**
**Abington Township Pedestrian and Stormwater Improvement Project**
**Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA**

| Item No. | Description | Unit | Qty. | Unit Cost | Total Item Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ***Standard Items*** | | | | |
| 0201-0001 | CLEARING AND GRUBBING | LS | 1 | $166,000.00 | $166,000.00 |
| 0203-0001 | CLASS 1 EXCAVATION | CY | 2139 | $94.00 | $201,066.00 |
| 0203-0004 | CLASS 1B EXCAVATION | CY | 93 | $177.00 | $16,461.00 |
| 0205-0200 | FOREIGN BORROW EXCAVATION | CY | 750 | $120.00 | $90,000.00 |
| 0212-0001 | GEOTEXTILE, CLASS 1 | LF | 888 | $3.00 | $2,664.00 |
| 0212-0014 | GEOTEXTILE, CLASS 4, TYPE A | SY | 2657 | $4.00 | $10,628.00 |
| 0313-0320 | SUPERPAVE ASPHALT MIXTURE DESIGN, BASE COURSE, PG 64S-22, < 0.3 MILLIION ESALS, 25.0 MM MIX, 3" DEPTH | SY | 331 | $28.00 | $9,268.00 |
| 0313-0522 | SUPERPAVE ASPHALT MIXTURE DESIGN, BASE COURSE, PG 64S-22, 3 TO < 10 MILLIION ESALS, 25.0 MM MIX, 4" DEPTH | SY | 226 | $34.00 | $7,684.00 |
| 0313-0526 | SUPERPAVE ASPHALT MIXTURE DESIGN, BASE COURSE, PG 64S-22, 3 TO < 10 MILLIION ESALS, 25.0 MM MIX, 6" DEPTH | SY | 2432 | $67.00 | $162,944.00 |
| 0350-0104 | SUBBASE 4" DEPTH (NO. 2A) | SY | 331 | $28.00 | $9,268.00 |
| 0350-0106 | SUBBASE 6" DEPTH (NO. 2A) | SY | 2657 | $23.00 | $61,111.00 |
| 0413-0195 | SUPERPAVE ASPHALT MIXTURE DESIGN, WEARING COURSE, PG 64S-22, < 0.3 MILLION ESALS, 9.5 MM MIX, 1 1/2" DEPTH, SRL-L | SY | 311 | $28.00 | $8,708.00 |
| 0413-0297 | SUPERPAVE ASPHALT MIXTURE DESIGN, WEARING COURSE, PG 64S-22, 3 TO < 10 MILLION ESALS, 9.5 MM MIX, 1 1/2" DEPTH, SRL-E | SY | 6108 | $23.00 | $140,484.00 |
| 0413-6045 | SUPERPAVE ASPHALT MIXTURE DESIGN, BINDER COURSE, PG 64-22, 3 TO < 10 MILLION ESALS, 19.00 MM MIX, 2 1/2" DEPTH | SY | 2657 | $28.00 | $74,396.00 |
| 0460-0001 | ASPHALT TACK COAT | SY | 9427 | $5.00 | $47,135.00 |
| 0491-0012 | MILLING OF ASPHALT PAVEMENT SURFACE, 1 1/2" DEPTH, MILLED MATERIAL RETAINED BY CONTRACTOR | SY | 3454 | $17.00 | $58,718.00 |
| 0601-7014 | 18" REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE, TYPE A, 15' - 2' FILL, 100 YEAR DESIGN LIFE | LF | 81 | $441.00 | $35,721.00 |
| 0604-7013 | 18" REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE, TYPE A, (OPEN JOINT), 2' - 1.5' FILL, 100 YEAR DESIGN LIFE | LF | 603 | $276.00 | $166,428.00 |
| 0605-2711 | TYPE C FRAME AND BICYCLE SAFE GRATE | EA | 10 | $1,654.00 | $16,540.00 |
| 0605-2850 | STANDARD INLET BOX, HEIGHT </=10' | EA | 10 | $3,859.00 | $38,590.00 |
| 0610-7002 | 6" PAVEMENT BASE DRAIN | LF | 888 | $45.00 | $39,960.00 |
| 0630-0001 | PLAIN CEMENT CONCRETE CURB | LF | 1670 | $67.00 | $111,890.00 |
| 0633-0200 | PLAIN CEMENT CONCRETE MOUNTABLE CURB, TYPE A | LF | 161 | $276.00 | $44,436.00 |
| 0676-0001 | CEMENT CONCRETE SIDEWALK | SY | 265 | $221.00 | $58,565.00 |
| 0686-0010 | CONSTRUCTION SURVEYING | LS | 1 | $33,075.00 | $33,075.00 |
| 0695-0004 | DETECTABLE WARNING SURFACE, POLYMER COMPOSITE | SF | 97 | $83.00 | $8,051.00 |
| 0802-0001 | TOPSOIL FURNISHED AND PLACED | CY | 168 | $193.00 | $32,424.00 |
| 0804-0001 | SEEDING AND SOIL SUPPLEMENTS - FORMULA B, INCLUDING MULCH | LB | 69 | $17.00 | $1,173.00 |
| 0931-0001 | POST MOUNTED SIGNS, TYPE B | SF | 85 | $50.00 | $4,250.00 |
| 0941-0001 | RESET POST MOUNTED SIGNS, TYPE F | SF | 39 | $39.00 | $1,521.00 |
| 0960-0001 | 4" WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS | LF | 2788 | $4.00 | $11,152.00 |
| 0960-0002 | 4" YELLOW HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS | LF | 2492 | $4.00 | $9,968.00 |
| 0960-0005 | 6" WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS | LF | 658 | $6.00 | $3,948.00 |
| 0960-0021 | 24" WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS | LF | 314 | $28.00 | $8,792.00 |
| 0960-0022 | 24" YELLOW HOT THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS | LF | 446 | $28.00 | $12,488.00 |
| 0960-0101 | WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "ONLY", 8'-0" | EA | 4 | $552.00 | $2,208.00 |
| 0960-0222 | WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "RIGHT ARROW", 12' - 0" X 3' - 0" | EA | 2 | $552.00 | $1,104.00 |
| 0960-0224 | WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "LEFT ARROW", 12' - 0" X 3' - 0" | EA | 2 | $552.00 | $1,104.00 |
| 0960-0257 | WHITE HOT THERMOPLASTIC LEGEND, "YIELD LINE", 24" X 36" TRIANGLE, (MIN 4 TRIANGLES PER LINE) | LF | 18 | $204.00 | $3,672.00 |
| | ***Special Items*** | | | $0.00 | |
| 0900-0001 | POST CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT | LS | 1 | $500,000.00 | $500,000.00 |
| 0900-0002 | TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODIFICATIONS | LS | 1 | $56,000.00 | $56,000.00 |
| 0900-0003 | UNDERCUTTING | CY | 600 | $72.00 | $43,200.00 |
| | ***Subtotal Construction Cost*** | | | | **$2,312,795.00** |
| 0901-0001 | Maintenance and Protection of Traffic | % | 10.0 | | $231,000.00 |
| 0901-0002 | Mobilization | % | 8.0 | | $185,000.00 |
| 0901-0003 | Erosion & Sediment Control | % | 2.5 | | $58,000.00 |
| 0901-0004 | Contingency | % | 5.0 | | $139,000.00 |
| 0901-0005 | ***Total Construction Cost*** | | | | **$2,925,795.00** |
| 0901-0006 | Construction Inspection | % | 10.0 | | $293,000.00 |
| 0901-0007 | ***Total Construction Cost + Inspection*** | | | | **$3,218,795.00** |
| 0901-0008 | Utility Pole Relocation | EA | 7 | $20,000.00 | $140,000.00 |
| 0901-0010 | ***Total Project Cost*** | | | | **$3,358,795.00** |

Thomas Hecker, *Board President*
Matthew Vahey, *Board Vice President*
Richard J. Manfredi, *Township Manager*

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

July 11, 2024

Mr. Rick Siger, Secretary
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Center for Business Financing – Grants Office
Multimodal Transportation Fund
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

RE: **Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application**
**Exhibit 3 - Funding Commitment Letter**
Project Name: Abington-Jenkintown Connections Project Phase 5
Applicant: Abington Township

Dear Secretary Siger:

Abington Township is requesting a waiver for Local Matching Funds in accordance with fiscal codes enacted by the state legislature which extend to December 31, 2024. Abington Township is requesting $2,500,000 for the construction of the proposed improvements. This request will supplement the previous DCED MTF award of $500,000 secured by the Township. The Township has previously obligated and spent $175,000 of township funds towards project development. The Township will continue to fund and progress the final design and permitting for the project and will provide in-kind services for construction inspection to supplement the inspection services requested as part of the grant funding. The Township is committing to fund $110,065 in cash funds to this project.

This investment clearly displays Abington Township's commitment to this project as well as our strong interest in providing safe multimodal transportation options for residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project for our community.

Best Regards,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager

1176 Old York Road, Abington PA 19001 | www.abingtonpa.gov | 267-536-1000 | TTY/TTD: 9-1-1 | Fax 215-884-8271

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | BOC-02-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Administration | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

APPOINTMENTS BCCC - 2024 - STC

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

The Township Board of Commissioners actively engages citizens to serve on our volunteer Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils. After reviewing and considering citizens who expressed their interest to serve, the attached Exhibit A presents the slate of individual(s) to be considered for appointment to the various positions as listed.

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

n/a

*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to appoint Robin Eisman to the Shade Tree Commission for a term ending 12/31/2027 as included in Exhibit A and as recommended by the Shade Tree Commission.

| 2024 Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils Slate | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Board, Commission, Committee or Council | First Name | Last Name | Term Expiress |
| | | | |
| Shade Tree Commission | Robin | Eisman | 12/31/2027 |

# ROBIN EISMAN, PHD

**795 Roslyn Ave** **215-663-5644**
**Glenside, PA 19038** **reisman@alumni.princeton.edu**

## OVERALL BACKGROUND

In addition to paid and volunteer positions in the ecological conservation and restoration field, and other environmental projects, my background includes academic laboratory research and scientific/medical writing for pharmaceutical companies.

## RESTORATION / RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Abington Township Shade Tree Commission** (Fall 2020 – current): Have been tending Edgehill Woods, participating in STC meetings and actively volunteering for other STC projects.

**Friends of High School Park**, Cheltenham Township, PA (2010-2014 and 2021): Restoration work in community park being restored with native species; member of Park Restoration & Management Committee. [See also 'Community / Environmental Leadership' below.]

**Friends of Poquessing Watershed** (2012-2014): Co-wrote successful grant for restoration of small section of Poquessing Creek riparian area; carried out water quality monitoring as part of Delaware River Watershed Initiative, including water sampling, volunteer training and public outreach, under auspices of Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

**Natural Lands Trust** (2004-2012): Hopewell Big Woods Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist: Field work on bog turtle habitat conservation/restoration, habitat connectivity, and forest structural diversity. Authored habitat management and monitoring & evaluation plans for state park and surrounding landscape.

**The Nature Conservancy**, Pennsylvania office (1996): Wrote proposal and obtained funding for fieldwork on experimental method of bog turtle habitat restoration; performed vegetation censuses, analyzed data; results published: *Ecological Restoration 2001*:19(1), 54-55, Thorne & Eisman.

## SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

**Clean Air Council / Friends of the Earth, Halon Recovery Program** (1995-1996): Received grant for local arm of EPA-funded program to minimize release of ozone-depleting halons; administered and implemented local program; researched and wrote educational material; coordinated publicity and outreach to media, government, and business; coordinated strategic planning between groups.

**Cedar Park Neighbors, Philadelphia** (1988-1993): Coordinated and expanded neighborhood recycling program; recruited and coordinated other volunteers; publicized program; served as liaison between municipal offices and neighborhood organization. (Volunteer work)

## SELECTED COMMUNITY / ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

**Friends of High School Park**, Cheltenham Township, PA (2010-2014): Member of Board of Directors; on Restoration & Management and Communications Committees; edited newsletter.

**Gabe Tayar Park**, Abington Township, PA (2007-2014): Initiated and managed vest-pocket park using volunteers; emphasis on native plantings.

**Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education**, Philadelphia (2009-2013): Member of Land & Facilities Advisory Committee (originally Ecology Commttee).

**Cedar Park Neighbors**, Philadelphia (1991-1993): Member of Board of Directors.

## EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Univ. of Pennsylvania**: | PhD, Genetics |
| **Princeton University**: | BA, Biochemistry |
| **Additional courses**: | Woody Plants I; Planning Law and Administration: *Temple University (Ambler)* |
| | Environmental Ethics: *Teton Science School* |
| | Several short courses on wetlands: *Rutgers Univ. Extension* |

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| July 11, 2024 | BOC-03-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
|---|---|---|
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Police | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Tow Ordinance

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

In 2015, the Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 2088 which regulated towing activity in the township as allowed under §3353 of the PA Vehicle Code, which reads: "*Any city, borough, incorporated town or township may, by ordinance, provide for rates to be charged for removal of vehicles and for municipal regulation of authorized towing services…*"

Under the adopted ordinance, the Board of Commissioners provided rates to be charged as follows:

Non-commercial vehicles weighing 10,000 lbs. or less: $125

Non-commercial vehicles weighing between 10,000 lbs. and 26,000 lbs.: $175

Commercial vehicles: $225 per hour + $5 per mile

These fees are only applicable to a vehicle being towed at the request of the Police Department, and the towing of unattended vehicles from private lots without the expressed consent of the vehicle owner. Additional fees are included for special circumstances, such as difficult location of vehicle, or cleanup of vehicle debris.

It is the APD's belief that the proposed rates set forth above are reflective of the current economic conditions faced by the towing companies. Increasing the rates to the amounts listed above would give the towing operators some room to continue their compliance with the ordinance as costs go up in the future. This buffer should also relieve the Board of Commissioners from having to revisit this issue for some time. We do not propose raising any other fees as set forth in the ordinance at this time.

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*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

n/a

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*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to authorize advertisement of an Ordinance amending the Tow fees.

# Abington Township Police Department

## Traffic Safety Unit

1166 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001
Business: 267-536-1078; Fax: 215-886-1455

Patrick Molloy, Chief of Police www.abingtonpd.org 267-536-1100


## Proposal to Increase Towing Rates under Chapter 160 of the Abington Township Code

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 2088 which regulated towing activity in the township as allowed under §3353 of the PA Vehicle Code, which reads: "*Any city, borough, incorporated town or township may, by ordinance, provide for rates to be charged for removal of vehicles and for municipal regulation of authorized towing services...*"

Under the adopted ordinance, the Board of Commissioners provided rates to be charged as follows:

Non-commercial vehicles weighing 10,000 lbs. or less: $125

Non-commercial vehicles weighing between 10,000 lbs. and 26,000 lbs.: $175

Commercial vehicles: $225 per hour + $5 per mile

These fees are only applicable to a vehicle being towed at the request of the Police Department, and the towing of unattended vehicles from private lots without the expressed consent of the vehicle owner. Additional fees are included for special circumstances, such as difficult location of vehicle, or cleanup of vehicle debris.

ISSUE

In recent years, we have been contacted by tow operators complaining that the rates set forth in the 2015 ordinance are no longer tenable in the current market. Some have even claimed that they are losing business because they cannot operate in compliance with the ordinance, while also being profitable.

In speaking with our Tow Companies who provide towing for APD, their insurance costs alone have increased an estimated 60% over the last couple of years. Additionally, they report that costs for fuel, vehicle registration, and tolls have all risen. They stated that most tow companies in the area charge a base fee of approximately $175-$200 per tow for a standard passenger vehicle, and some include a fuel surcharge and additional mileage fees. Additionally, they expect their costs to increase once again next year with the current economic conditions. The owner of one of our Tow companies reports similar challenges and concerns and agrees that the fees in the current ordinance are too low.

# Abington Township Police Department

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Patrick Molloy, Chief of Police www.abingtonpd.org 267-536-1100


TOWING DATA

Since January 1, 2023, a private company towing on behalf of the property owner at the 100 York Apartments has towed 320 vehicles. Since October of 2023 (as far back as county dispatch tow logs go), one of our Tow companies has been called for APD tows a total of 181 times, while the other Tow company has been called a total of 174 times. Many of these calls include towing of multiple vehicles from accident scenes. The estimated total amount of vehicle's towed by both Tow companies on behalf of APD is 400-450.

COMPARISON TO OTHER TOWNSHIPS

The below table shows the tow fees allowed by surrounding jurisdictions:

| | Non-CMV <10,000 lbs | Non-CMV >10,000 lbs | CMV >26,001 lbs | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Upper Moreland | $125 | $175 | $225 | |
| Lower Moreland | | | | No Ordinance |
| Cheltenham | $150 | | | Plan to increase to $200 in 2025 |
| Jenkintown | | | | No Limit, fee must be posted |
| Upper Dublin | $140 | $250 | $425 | |
| Whitemarsh | $200-$225 | $250-$300 | $450-$595 | |
| Horsham | $250 | | | |
| Ambler Borough | $170 | $275 | | |
| Bensalem | $175-$265 | | | Depends on tow vehicle needed |

# Abington Township Police Department

## Traffic Safety Unit

1166 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001
Business: 267-536-1078; Fax: 215-886-1455

Patrick Molloy, Chief of Police www.abingtonpd.org 267-536-1100


PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE

With these facts in mind, the Police Department is supportive of increasing the fees set forth in chapter 160 of the Abington Township Code. We would propose raising the fees as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Non-CMV <10,000 lbs | $200 |
| Non-CMV >10,000 lbs | $250 |
| CMV | $300 |

An additional change that the department proposes to the ordinance is to include a requirement that a towing company must be able to accept cash *or* electronic payment, such as a credit card, for hooking fees in the case where an owner returns to an unattended vehicle being towed from private property before it is removed. In one case, an owner returned to car and wished to pay the hooking fee to have their vehicle released. The tow company originally stated that they would only accept cash, which the owner did not have at the time. While that situation was resolved amicably with assistance by the department, as the ordinance currently reads, there is nothing *requiring* the tow company to accept various forms of payment.

With the abundance of platforms available that allow mobile businesses to accept credit card payments, we believe this is a reasonable requirement to add to the ordinance in the interest of vehicle owners.

CONCLUSION

It is our belief that the proposed rates set forth above are reflective of the current economic conditions faced by the towing companies. According to the CPI Inflation Calculator[1], the value of $125 in 2015 now equates to $165.99 as of April 2024. Increasing the rates to the amounts listed above would give the towing operators some room to continue their compliance with the ordinance as costs go up in the future. This buffer should also relieve the Board of Commissioners from having to revisit this issue for some time. We do not propose raising any other fees as set forth in the ordinance at this time.

The department also feels that the proposed changes help vehicle owners, as it increases their protection from predatory practices that would cause them to incur even more costs should they mistakenly park in an unauthorized location. In sum, we believe both changes would be a reasonable update to the ordinance that reflects current market trends, and benefits both local businesses and vehicle owners.

We thank the board for its consideration, and would be happy to discuss this issue further if desired,

Officer Michael Coughlin #4232

[1] https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=125&year1=201503&year2=202404

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | FC-01-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Code | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Fire Inspection and Permit Fees

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

Proposal to update Fire Inspection and Permit Fee Schedule as outlined in the attached memorandum.

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

n/a

*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to adopt Resolution 24-027 Fire Inspection and Permit Fee Schedule.

**M E M O R A N D U M**

To: Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager
From: Christopher Platz, Fire Marshal
CC: Tom McAneney, Director of Fire and Emergency Management Services
Date: Friday May 10th, 2024
Subject: Proposal to Update Fire Fee Schedule

---

The Fire Department, specifically the Fire Marshal's Office staff, completes a variety of operations and programs during their daily operations outside the scope of fire suppression efforts. These include a Fire & Life Safety Inspection Program as well as Fire Protection permitting process. These programs provide a vital effort that protects both the Fire Department during emergency response as well as our residents, visitors, and those who enjoy time in our community.

These programs, and primarily the staff who perform the related functions, are funded through the fee schedule outlining various fees for each program. The current fee schedule was last updated by Resolution 92-038 adopted on November 12, 1992, **over 31 years ago**. The fee schedule contains fees for the annual Fire & Life Safety Inspections of commercial occupancies, construction and operational permits, and several other operations of the department. In the 31+ years since it's last update, the cumulative rate of inflation is 122.6%, equating to $1 in 1992 is equivalent to $2.23 today. Of five surrounding municipalities, three have updated their schedules in the past 12 months, with the other two updating in 2018 and 2011.

The annual Fire & Life Safety Inspection Program is a vital operation in which Fire Marshal's Office staff completes inspection within the commercial occupancies of the Township, verifying that fire protection systems are functioning properly, maintenance of exit pathways, mitigation of electrical hazards, and a variety of other dangers. The goal of the program is compliance through education, as most occupants/owners are generally unaware of the hazards present. We focus on not only correcting the issues, but working with businesses to explain why it is a hazard and how to prevent it in the future.

In the 2024 budget, the Fire Department was approved to add a second full-time Fire Inspector. This role would be responsible primarily for completing annual Fire & Life Safety inspections throughout the community, which include over 1900 inspectable occupancies amassing over 19 million square feet. The additional role would be funded through an update of the current fee schedule to align with today's level of work and compensation expectations. While our fee schedule has not been updated in 31+ years, surrounding departments update regularly, most annually, to keep pace with costs.

Below is a basic breakdown of just a small portion of our current fees versus 5 neighboring departments, as it relates to Fire & Life Safety Inspections. Of note, each department has a slightly different way of assessing each, so the comparison is not exact, but gives a clear image of the difference in where our program fees fall in relation to our surrounding communities.

**Abington – Last Updated 1992**

| | Square Feet | Fee | Square Feet | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Business, Factory, High- Hazard, Mercantile, Storage** | Up to 3,500 sq ft | $35 | 36,000-50,000 | $125 |
| | 3,501-12,000 | $75 | 50,000-100,000 | $200 |
| | 12,001 – 36,000 | $100 | Over 100,000 | $300 |

**Cheltenham**

Fees range from $50 to $350
*Last updated 2018

**Horsham**

Fees range from $50 to 480
*Last updated 2024

**Lower Moreland**

Fees follow same range as Abington
*Last updated 2011

**Upper Dublin**

Fees range from $75 to $420+ (additional based on square footage, no limit)
*Last updated 2024

**Upper Moreland**

Fees range from $100 to $575+ (additional based on number of stories, no limit)
*Last updated 2024

As can be seen in the above snippet of the differences in fees, our baseline fee falls at less than half of the average baseline fee for the surrounding communities who have updated in the past year. Two of the 3 who have updated in the past year also have fees that account for substantially large buildings and the time it takes to complete these inspections. For reference, the Willow Grove Park Mall has approximately 396,000 square feet not including the actual stores themselves. Their fee under our schedule is only $300.

To determine the proposed fees, first we reviewed how our current schedule functioned and the potential flaws to address. We then evaluated surrounding municipalities, focusing our evaluation on the above 5 municipalities, but also reviewed dozens of municipalities in Montgomery and Bucks County. From there we determined how to standardize the fees, averages across the area, and designed fees that covered the costs of the program while minimizing financial impact.

In today's economic environment we are cognizant of the financial impacts on local businesses of increasing these fees, so the proposed fee schedule is designed to phase in the change over the next several years. The first year would cover the cost of the additional role, while the following would progress the fees to properly align with the true cost of the annual Fire & Life Safety Inspection program.

Should you have any questions, please reach out at any time.

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | FC-02-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Code | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Resolution setting the fee schedule for licenses to Alternative and Massage Therapy

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

On June 21, 2021, the Abington Township Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance 2183 governing the operation, inspection and licensing of massage and alternative therapy establishments. This Resolution is to set the annual fees for licensing of such establishments as well as alternative therapy technicians in Abington Township.

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

The Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance 2183 regarding the operation, licensing and inspections of Massage and Aternative Therapy Establishments on June 21, 2021.

*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to adopt Resolution 24-028 establishing a fee schedule for licenses for alternative and massage therapy.

Thomas Hecker, *Board President*
Matthew Vahey, *Board Vice President*
Richard J. Manfredi, *Township Manager*

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 24-028

A RESOLUTION OF ABINGTON TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR LICENSES FOR ALTERNATIVE AND MASSAGE THERAPY

WHEREAS, Abington Township ("Township") is a First Class Township duly organized and existing pursuant to the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Township is empowered under the First Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 55101, et. seq., to pass resolutions for the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Township has adopted Ordinance No. 2183, which establishes regulations of massage and alternative therapy establishments within the Township, including licensing requirements related to such establishments; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2183 provides that the Abington Township Board of Commissioners shall, from time to time, establish license fees for massage establishments, alternative therapy establishments and alternative therapy technicians; and

WHEREAS, the Abington Township Board of Commissioners believes it is in the best interests of Abington Township to establish a fee schedule for licenses for massage establishments, alternative therapy establishments and alternative therapy technicians; and

WHEREAS, the Township incurs certain costs associated with the review of applications for licenses for massage establishments and alternative therapy establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Township has estimated those aforesaid costs for licenses for massage establishments and alternative therapy establishments to be $500.00 per applicant; and

WHEREAS, the Township incurs certain costs associated with the review of applications for licenses for alternative therapy technicians;

WHEREAS, the Township has estimated those aforesaid costs for licenses for alternative therapy technicians to be $100.00 per applicant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reasons set forth above, the Abington Township Board of Commissioners establishes that the required fees for licenses for massage establishments and alternative therapy establishments within Abington Township shall be $500.00 per annum; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for the reasons set forth above, the Abington Township Board of Commissioners establishes that the required fee for licenses for alternative therapy technicians within Abington Township shall be $100.00 per annum.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Resolution was adopted by Abington Township at its public meeting held on THE 11TH day of JULY, 2024.

ATTEST:

_____
Richard J. Manfredi
Township Manager and Secretary

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

_____
Thomas Hecker, President
Board of Commissioner

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | FC-03-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Finance | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Funding for Refuse Truck

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

The purchase of a Tri-Axle Container Lift Truck for the Refuse Department in the amount of $300,000.00 was approved in the 2023 Refuse Fund Budget . Due to supply chain delays and other unforeseen circumstances, the delivery dates were pushed from October 2023 to February 2024 and then to June of 2024. The truck is currently available for delivery. The Township auditors, Barbacane, Thornton and Co., recommended the funds be requested from Fund Balance. Since the budgeted amount was not spent in 2023, it is still in the fund balance actual numbers.

This action will supplementally appropriate the $299,206.30 in the Refuse Fund Balance to a capital line item in the FY 2024 Budget or the Tri-Axle Container Lift Truck.

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

N/A

*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to authorize $299,206.30 to be expensed from Refuse Fund Balance for the purchase of a Tri-Axle Container Lift Truck.

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | FC-04-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Finance | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Funding For DEP Civil Penalty

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

This agenda item is related to a Public Works Refuse administrative oversight that resulted in penalties from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the expiration of the Township's Storm Water Discharge Permit at the Trash Transfer Station in March of 2023 and associated paperwork.

This permit was originally issued in 2015 and remained in effect until the PA DEP changed the parameters of the permit. In December of 2022, a Public Works staff member received notice of the need for renewal, but this email was not acted upon. During the permit lapse, the Township performed all of the work associated with the previous permit, regular inspections were conducted and documented; water samples were collected and reported; and quarterly inspections on storm water best management practices were performed by DEP for our other permits. The error was administrative and resulted in no environmental harm.

The penalty was assessed for failure to submit timely reports and permit renewal before the March 2023 expiration of the permit. The Township, through the Manager's and Solicitor's office, successfully negotiated a reduction in the penalty amount.

The Public Works Department has since submitted for renewal of the permit, which will be reviewed, once this civil penalty matter is resolved. The Township Manager has and continues to implement additional measures and redundancies to ensure that administrative procedures aid in preventing errors of this kind in the future.

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

N/A

*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to authorize $34,100 to be expensed from Refuse Fund Balance for the payment of a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Civil Penalty.

*BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING*

*AGENDA ITEM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July 11, 2024 | FC-05-071124 | FISCAL IMPACT |
| *DATE* | *AGENDA ITEM NUMBER* | Cost > $10,000 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Finance | | |
| *DEPARTMENT* | | PUBLIC BID REQUIRED |
| | | Cost > $20,100 |
| | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

*AGENDA ITEM:*

Expenditures Salaries & Wages for May 2024

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*

N/A

*PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:*

N/A

*RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS:*

Motion to approve the May 2024 expenditures in the amount of $5,816,640.13and salaries and wages in the amount of $3,433,831.42 and authorizing the proper officials to sign and approve invoices and supporting documentation in payment of bills and contracts as they mature through the month of August

2024. (Click here to view supporting information for expenditures in May 2024)

(Motion & Roll Call)