

# ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

**MAY 11, 2023**



## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKING SESSION**



# TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

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## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKING SESSION

### **A G E N D A** **May 11, 2023** **7:30 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**

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Working Session of April 13, 2023.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Presentation on the Feasibility Study for potential Economic Development in Abington Township by Delta Development Group, Inc.

#### **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 Working Session was held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 via webinar and in-person at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with President Hecker presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners BRODSKY, ROTHMAN, DiPLACIDO, VAUGHN, THOMPSON, WINEGRAD, HENRY, ZAPPONE, CARSWELL, SPIEGELMAN, BOLE, SCHREIBER, BOWMAN, VAHEY, HECKER

Excused: Commissioner VAUGHN

Also Present: Township Manager MANFREDI  
Township Solicitor CLARKE

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Vahey to approve the minutes from the Working Session of January 12, 2023.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Presentation by Raftelis of the Township Strategic Plan:

President Hecker announced that public comment will be taken following the presentation by Raftelis.

Commissioner Bole, Chairman of the Strategic Plan Committee, said that Raftelis is the vendor/partner selected from several proposals to assist the Township to buildout and articulate a multiyear strategic plan for Abington Township.

He thanked Manager Manfredi and Township staff for their assistance as well as members of the Strategic Plan Committee Commissioners Henry, Schreiber, Winegrad, and Carswell for their partnership, leadership and input that helped shape the direction of this plan. He also thanked the residents for their input and ideas, many of which were implemented into the draft plan.

A strategic plan should articulate a framework for how the Township decides on the most important projects, inform who we aspire to be, and our values and how to act on them. The plan is an overlook of the horizon on what to budget for and measure our success against. It will be used to identify specific projects over the next few years and declare their importance both for the here and now as well as the long-term future of Abington.

Ms. Julia Novak, Executive Vice President of Raftelis, introduced Catherine Carter, and said that we have worked on this plan for several months with the Strategic Plan Committee who provided their input in shaping this project.

Goals of the project are to set long-term direction for Township government; incorporate the perspectives of internal and external stakeholder groups and the community and identify major outcome areas, which are “the things that must go well” for Abington to be successful, and the strategic plan is designed to answer three questions:

- What do we know to be true today?
- What do we hope will be true in the future?
- What must go well to make it so?

**Vision Statement –**

Abington is a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming community, supported by engaged and informed residents, a diverse local economy, and regional connections that make the Township an attractive destination for all to thrive.

**Mission Statement –**

Abington Township’s dedicated team is committed to providing quality SERVICE to all within our community.

**Values –**

- Sustainability
- Excellence
- Respect
- Vision
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Engagement

**Focus Areas –**

**Fiscal Sustainability -**

Abington achieves its fiscal sustainability through emphasis on decision-making that balances short-term needs with long-term impacts; balanced revenue distribution; implementation of sound fiscal policies, budgeting practices, and financial reporting practices; financial planning to support current and future provision of Township services; and meeting benchmarks for financial reporting requirements established by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

**Economic Growth –**

Abington fosters economic growth through the pursuit of local economic diversity with a variety of business types and sizes; investment in community infrastructure including services, corridors, and the environment; a reputation for being an easy and safe place to do business; and partnerships with public, private, and government entities.

**Sustainable Infrastructure –**

Abington’s focus on sustainable infrastructure serves the Township today and tomorrow through neighborhoods, transportation systems, and technology and telecommunication infrastructure that allows people to connect; design, develop, and maintenance of modern, resilient facilities; efficient resource use and mitigation of negative environmental impacts; and financially responsible investment in adaptable assets and green infrastructure.

**Inclusive Community –**

Abington’s inclusive community is built on the Township’s commitment to celebration of diversity in people, cultures, and ideas; responsive, community-focused public safety; access to a wide array of housing options, neighborhood resources, and accessible public spaces; and a welcoming atmosphere for residents, business owners, and visitors.

**Vibrant Public Spaces –**

Abington’s vibrant public spaces support a thriving community by ensuring equitable access to geographically diverse Township facilities; state-of-the-art, multi-use spaces that encourage collaboration and foster civic engagement; and desirable amenities that create a sense of place and make Abington a safe, accessible destination for residents and visitors.

**Excellent Public Services –**

Abington’s excellent public services are the result of its commitment to quality customer experiences and investment in the development of our valued, dedicated employees and volunteers; inclusive community outreach and engagement; effective collaboration and trusted partnerships; innovation, continuous improvement, and data-driven decision-making; and a values-driven organization culture.

President Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Bole said in addition to tonight’s presentation, there is a document that articulates specific strategies from which the Township will implement projects that will be discussed during budget time and what the Township will measure the success of the strategic plan against.

Commissioner DiPlacido commented that he really likes the draft mission statement.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that the values listed are “spot on,” and this was fantastic work by Commissioner Bole.

President Hecker clarified that there will be a place on the Township’s website where residents can track progress. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied yes, there will be a dedicated page.

President Hecker asked for any public comment.

Lora Lehmann, resident, expressed concern about not having any documents, and she was opposed to the “flowery epithets” of the strategic plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary