Millcreek Township Government Study Commission Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Millcreek Township Government Study Commission (GSC) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Art Oligeri in the Assembly Room of the Millcreek Township Municipal Building. In attendance were Paul Vojtek (via telephone), Art Oligeri, John DiPlacido, Bill Schaaf, Donna Shaw and Robert Zonna; Alternates Bob Enas, Kim Huff, Marcia Terry and Suzanne Weber; PA DCED Local Government Specialist Mary Ammann and Sheryl Williams. ALOM/Public Partner Consultants Michael Foreman, Toby Cordek and Jerry Andree were also present. Absent were Commissioner James DeDad and Alternates Douglas Krugger, Nancy Shea, Marcia Terry and Suzanne Weber.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Mr. Oligeri called for public comment on agenda items. No public comment was offered.

On motion by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. Oligeri, the minutes of the May 12, 2025 regular meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Schaaf noted that the minutes are not "verbatim" transcriptions of the meetings.

On motion by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. DiPlacido, the bills from ALOM/Public Partners, IN Millcreek Magazine and Printing Concepts totaling \$9,221.18 were approved for payment by unanimous roll call vote.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee member Bill Schaaf stated that the budget is on track with a balance of \$64,107.33 before payment of tonight's bills.

Local Government Structure Committee Chairman John DiPlacido stated that there is nothing to report from his committee, as they have not met since the last public meeting.

Public Outreach, Public Relations, Public Education and Promotions Committee Chairman Art Oligeri reported that his committee met earlier today, and he reported the following: Most of the Commissioners were present at the polls on Election Day to hand out 3500-4000 informational cards. He noted that the IT team is updating the website and Facebook pages twice per month, and stated that the committee's budget is on track. He relayed that Paul Vojtek will be producing the June social media spot, and R.J. Zonna and John DiPlacido will be interviewed on a WICU telecast next Tuesday or Thursday. Mr. Oligeri stated that details for upcoming events are a work in progress and will be published on the website, and reminded Commissioners not to share any information until it has been substantiated. Mr. Vojtek thanked everyone who helped at the polls on Election Day.

Committee of the Whole

Consultant Michael Foreman led a discussion with the Commission regarding future Supervisor salaries and length of their terms of office for both existing and newly elected Supervisors, in the event that the referendum passes in November. He noted that newly elected Supervisors would have four-year terms and could be paid up to a maximum of \$8,385 annually, per the Second Class Township Code, based on Millcreek Township's population. Mr. Foreman explained that current Supervisors would remain under the current system of compensation, except for Mr. Ouellet, and would have the option of appointing themselves paid administrators for 2026. He stated that the Board of Auditors would then approve their salaries for 2026.

Mr. Foreman further explained that in 2027, Ms. Clear would have one year remaining and Mr. Bock would have three years remaining in their respective terms of office, but that they would become part-time Supervisors and would be compensated up to a maximum of \$8,385 annually, per the Second Class Township Code, based on Millcreek Township's population. He noted that the maximum compensation for Supervisors would need to be adopted by Ordinance.

Mr. Foreman then stated that the Commission's Final Report must be adopted by the Commission prior to transmitting it to the County Election Office, no less than 60 days before the November 4, 2025 general election. He gave a presentation on the required elements of the Final Report, noting that the report should give sufficient attention to each of the elements to give voters a comprehensive view of the Commission's work and an explanation of its recommendations.

Mr. Foreman reviewed a list of seven (7) Key Benchmark Timelines that the GSC must meet.

New Business

On motion by Mr. DiPlacido, seconded by Ms. Shaw, the Consultant's notes from their interviews with the Millcreek Township Supervisors were approved and entered into the public record by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

Mr. Oligeri offered members of the audience leftover informational handouts from the Election, if desired.

Public Comment

Former Millcreek Supervisor and Auditor John Groh asked, that if the referendum passes, will the Board of Auditors no longer be needed in January 2027? Mr. Foreman replied yes, that is correct. The term of the current Auditors would end December 31, 2026. Mr. Groh asked what would happen if two (2) of the three (3) Supervisors vote "no" to being appointed as employed Administrators. Mr. Foreman stated that the elected Council would then have to serve as Municipal Administrators.

Planning Commissioner Doug Prozan stated that he served on the 2012 Government Study Commission, and explained that the current Supervisors are actually part-time Supervisors who serve as both legislators and administrators. He cautioned that changing to the proposed Manager/Council form of government will be very expensive, because the state requires that everything must be rewritten again. He expressed disappointment that a recommendation was made so early in the process, and urged the Commission to gather more information, interview more employees, and to keep investigating. He noted that the current Board of Supervisors could decide to hire a Township Manager without changing the form of government, and that a Manager working with the current excellent employees could help the Township. He also explained that a Manager is not required to live in Millcreek, and that a Manager will need three (3) or four (4) Assistant Managers to do the job, which will be costly. Mr. Prozan asked what is wrong with the Second Class Township Code? He urged the Commission to keep gathering more information before submitting the final report.

Millcreek resident Dennis McAndrew stated that he was surprised that a recommendation was made at the last meeting, noting that he thought there was going to be a public presentation and discussion. He said that he thought that the pros and cons of changing to an optional form of government would be listed and that the public would be consulted. Mr. McAndrew wanted to know "how" the Commission came to a decision, and he claimed that they did not let the public know. Mr. Oligeri replied that they did.

Millcreek resident Gerald Servidio stated that he wished Mr. Prozan would have come to earlier GSC meetings. Mr. Servidio, speaking hypothetically if the referendum passes, did not necessarily agree

with the salary for new Council members, and stated that it is confusing to look ahead to 2026 and 2027 and what would happen. He asked what would happen in January 2026 if two of the three Supervisors voted NOT to appoint themselves as paid Administrators. Consultant Toby Cordek reminded everyone that public comment is not a question-and-answer period, and that this portion of the meeting is limited to comments only. Mr. Servidio stated that there needs to be a time when residents can ask questions and receive answers, and hopes that the town hall meeting times will be announced soon.

GSC Alternate Kim Huff addressed Mr. Prozan about the 2012 GSC's recommendation that the Supervisors receive \$5,000, asking why it was never implemented. Mr. Prozan answered that he does not know. She then asked why the 2012 report was never made public, to which he replied that it was sent to local media and published in binders, and that all aspects of this commission were public. Ms. Huff claimed that she could not find a record of the report being made public or noted in the Board of Supervisor minutes, but Mr. Prozan argued that he wrote the report and personally gave it to the Supervisors at a public meeting. She then supposed that if the current Supervisors could hire a Township Manager, would they remove themselves as paid Administrators? Mr. Prozan replied that they actually would be laid off, and added that the average "life expectancy" of a Township Manager is two (2) to four (4) years.

Mr. Groh clarified that Supervisors do not currently receive a \$5000 Supervisor compensation and are employed as full-time Administrators only. He also opined that the Township would have probably hired a Township Manager a long time ago if past Supervisors thought it was warranted.

Consultant Toby Cordek disputed Mr. Prozan's statement that the Administrative Code must be totally rewritten. He stated that some components, such as job descriptions, could be retained.

Millcreek resident and School Board President Gary Winschel commented that Mr. Servidio was referring to townhall meetings for questions and answers. He stated that they are needed and will be vital in getting the community involved.

Good of the Order

Respectfully submitted,

There was nothing for the Good of the Order.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:42 pm on motion by Mr. Schaaf, seconded by Mr. DiPlacido.

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

John DiPlacido, Secretary