

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 21, 2022

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at Sunnybrook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook Road, Pottstown Pennsylvania.

The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen, and Michael McGroarty were all present. Earl E. Swavely was absent.

Edward C. Wagner: Manager, and Jamie Ottaviano: Solicitor were also present.

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded and he asked any speakers to give their names and address for public comments. The township is following social distancing guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease and Control to limit exposure.

Executive Session Announcement

In accordance with the Sunshine Law, Mr. Ottaviano announced that the Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss a matter of litigation and personnel. There was no formal action taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Phil and Natasha Mount – 58 Pinehurst Dr., Pottstown, PA 19464

Mr. and Ms. Mount expressed their concerns about firearm usage in their neighborhood. Mr. and Ms. Mount explained that there have been multiple incidents within the last year and stated how it has become difficult for them to feel safe in their home. They requested the installation of a fence to be installed along Pebble Beach and the Gerald Richards Park. Commissioner Foltz explained to the Mounts' that the Police Chief does not attend the second meeting of the month; however, the Township Manager will get them connected with the Chief the following morning. Commissioner Foltz assured Mr. and Ms. Mount that Chief Bell would speak with them the following morning to schedule a meeting to discuss this matter further.

Brian Boerjan – 43 Pebble Beach Ln., Pottstown, PA 19464

Mr. Boerjan expressed his concerns about firearm usage in his neighborhood. Mr. Boerjan explained to the Board a specific firearm incident that occurred during his son's outdoor birthday party last year. Commissioner Foltz explained to Mr. Boerjan that the Police Chief does not attend the second meeting of the month; however, the Township Manager will get him connected with the Chief the following morning. Commissioner Foltz assured Mr. Boerjan that Chief Bell would speak with him the following morning to schedule a meeting to discuss this matter further.

Julio Algarin – 63 Pinehurst Dr., Pottstown, PA 19464

Mr. Algarin expressed his concerns about firearm usage in and around neighborhood. Mr. Algarin also expressed his concerns regarding his neighbor potentially operating a business from his residence. Mr. Wagner reminded Mr. Algarin that Mr. Groff the Code Enforcement Officer spoke to him last November and asked for his assistance in taken pictures over the weekend since this is when the activity in question operates. Mr. Algarin stated he declined to do so, and Mr. Groff needs to work nights and weekend to address the problem. In addition, Mr. Algarin requested information in regard to how much funding does the Rolling Hills Community receive thru the federal government. Mr. Wagner stated he was unaware of the percentage of funding they receive but would be happy to obtain information regarding the company and provide it to him on Friday morning. This is something the Township would not normally track; however, Mr. Wagner would be happy to assist in directing Mr. Algarin to the correct individual to answer your questions.

Commissioner McGroarty suggested that Mr. Wagner arrange a meeting with the neighbors tonight to discuss their concerns with Chief Bell and other members of the Police Department. The residents in the audience welcomed this suggestion and wait to hear from Mr. Wagner on dates and times prior to the next meeting on May 2.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

2022-06 Zoning Hearing Application for Nick Mastroianni 4130 Prospect Hill Lane requesting a variance pursuant to Section 250-21D (4) excess accessory building of 600 SF. Mr. Wagner explained that the applicant has proposed a 30 ft. by 40 ft. pole barn for personal use. Mr. Wagner explained that Ordinance 355 changed in December of 2021 for accessory buildings over 1,000 sf will need to obtain a variance. The Mastroianni will need to demonstrate a hardship in order to be granted a variance. The Board left the decision up to the Zoning Hearing Board.

OLD BUSINESS: None

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on H&K Group Letter Dated April 8th w/ regards to excess topsoil at Sanatoga Green

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the removal of the topsoil up to 4,000 cubic yds. to be used at the Pottstown Gun Range in Berks County. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Motion to advertise a public hearing for an Inter-Municipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License to Royal Farms 300 Armand Hammer Blvd on May 19th at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to advertise a public hearing for an Inter-Municipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License to Royal Farms 300 Armand Hammer Blvd on May 19th at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Motion to hire Coyle, Lynch, & Company to conduct an appraisal of 1963 E High Street for \$3,800.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to hire Coyle, Lynch, & Company to conduct an appraisal of 1963 E. High Street for \$3,800. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Motion to enter into an agreement w/ Ryan Lehman to mow the fields at Bleim & Pleasantview Rds.

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to enter into an agreement w/ Ryan Lehman to mow the fields at Bleim & Pleasantview Rds. at no cost to the Township. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Glenn Kopensky of 225 S. Park Road requests a waiver from Section 125-6.H for the installation of a driveway on the property line.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the waiver to request relief from Section 125-6.H for the installation of a driveway next to the property line. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Discussion on returning the Commissioners meeting back at the Township Building.

All Commissioners are in favor of moving the meetings back to the Township Building. Mr. Wagner advised the Board to make a motion to advertise for the change of location. Commissioner Lopez made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to advertise the change of location for the Board of Commissioners meeting beginning May 2, 2022, at the Township Building 2199 Buchert Road. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Ordinance 357 amending Chapter 250, Article XXI, “Gateway Interchange (G-IN) District” to permit additional uses, dimensional requirements for uses in the G-IN District, and to add, amend and delete certain special development regulations consistent with the expanded uses proposed.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Ordinance 357. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Ordinance 358 providing for the inspection of the private sanitary sewer laterals and privately owned sanitary sewer systems for discussion and consideration.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Ordinance 358. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 3-1 in favor. Bruce Foltz was opposed.

Resolution 818-L disposition of records according to the Municipal Records Manual.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Resolution 818-L. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT #919 FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022.

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #919 for the month of March 2022. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2022

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2022. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. the vote was 4-0 in favor.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty did not have any comments.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez addressed the public regarding their concerns about safety in their neighborhood. Commissioner Lopez assured the public that the community's health, safety, and welfare are of utmost importance to the Township Commissioners and the Manager and that the Township will be looking into these issues with the Chief of Police. Commissioner Lopez stated that the Board does take these concerns very seriously and stated he is confident that the Township Manager will continue to follow up with them the following day.

Commissioner Mohollen—Commissioner Mohollen echoed Commissioner Lopez agreeing that the health and safety of the residents is a top priority.

Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz also echoed Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Mohollen. Commissioner Foltz also stated that the neighbor next to the Public Works Pole Barn gave a donation to the Township for the Township allowing her to utilize their property for the removal of a tree on her property. Commissioner Foltz was thankful for her generosity.

Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner had no comments.

Solicitor Ottaviano – Solicitor Ottaviano had no comments.

Lynda Algarin – 63 Pinehurst Dr., Pottstown, PA 19464

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Algarin expressed her concerns about firearm usage in her neighborhood. Ms. Algarin explained that she is fearful to be at her home. Ms. Algarin also stated that the entire neighborhood is also beginning to become frightened. Commissioner Foltz assured Ms. Algarin that Chief Bell would speak with her the following morning to schedule a meeting to discuss.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Madison Orler
Township Secretary