

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 25, 2007**

The work session meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township was held on Thursday, January 25, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Commissioners Foltz, Troutman, Spadt, Klotz and Doyle; R. Kurtz Holloway, Solicitor; Rodney P. Hawthorne, Township Manager, Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

Solicitor Holloway announced that an executive session to discuss real estate and litigation matters was held this evening from 5:00 p.m. to immediately prior to the start of the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Mr. Tom Wojton, Rupert Road, voiced his opposition to the \$100.00 trash fee and mandatory leaf collection. The Board of Commissioners addressed Mr. Wojton's concerns and answered his questions about the trash fee and leaf collection.

Mr. Wojton stated that he notified the offices of Senator Rafferty and Representative Quigley with his concerns. He asked Mr. Hawthorne if he received a response from either office. Mr. Hawthorne reported that as of this date, he had received no response from Senator Rafferty or Representative Quigley.

Mr. Brian Smith, 405 Walnut Ridge, asked when the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes would be posted on the Township website. Mr. Hawthorne advised that the minutes would be posted by the end of February 2007.

Mr. Smith also inquired about plans for the installation of sidewalk on Buchert Road near Walnut Ridge Estates. Mr. Hawthorne advised that the Township is working with the Walnut Ridge Homeowners Association on this project. The developer of Buchert Ridge Community has agreed to pay for the sidewalk.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution No. 693-A—Mr. Troutman motioned to approve Resolution No. 693-A amending Resolution No. 693, revising the list of properties to be added to the Township's street light assessment roles. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

Mr. Troutman would like to eliminate the street light assessment and incorporate it into the general fund. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of abolishing the street light tax.

Mr. Doyle advised that North Coventry Township bought their streetlights and suggested that the Board consider purchasing Lower Pottsgrove's streetlights. Mr. Doyle has been in contact with Kevin Hennessey, Manager of North Coventry, and he is expecting information on the streetlight purchase from Mr. Hennessey. No action was taken and the matter was tabled until further information is available.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Quotes for Snow Plow for Ford 250—John Fogel obtained three telephone quotes for the snowplow upfit for the 2006 Ford F-250 pick up truck. Quotations were received from the following contractors:

Contractor	Price Quoted	
T. P. Trailer, Inc.	\$4,232.00	<i>Low Bid</i>
The Plow Shop	\$4,372.00	
Triad Truck	\$5,108.00	

Mr. Spadt motioned to accept the telephone quote from T. P. Trailer, Inc. in the amount of \$4,232.00 for the snowplow upfit for the 2006 Ford F-250 pick up truck. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

Open Space Plan Recommendation—Mr. Hawthorne advised that the Board of Commissioners previously approved the Lower Pottsgrove Township Open Space Plan. The Commissioners were provided with a copy of Page 8-3 of the Open Space Plan and Mr. Hawthorne referred to highlighted Section C-2. Woodlands. This section of the Plan recommends that the Township establish a woodland preservation ordinance, which would require developers and property owners to submit a plan to the Township showing the extent of any proposed tree clearing or timber harvesting.

Mr. Troutman motioned to authorize Solicitor Holloway and Township staff to draft a woodland preservation ordinance, as recommended in the Lower Pottsgrove Township Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan. Mr. Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

CDL License—Public works employee Jamaal Gray recently passed the CDL (Commercial Driver's License) test. Mr. Troutman motioned to increase Jamaal Gray's rate of pay from \$11.96 per hour to \$15.00 per hour, effective immediately. Mr. Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

Speed Limits—Mr. Hawthorne received a letter from Christine Kat Weitzenkorn requesting that the Board of Commissioners support placing 25 mph speed limit signs on Stuart and Brookwood Drives.

Mr. Doyle's opinion was that this type of request should be in the form of a petition from several residents, not a letter from one resident.

Mr. Spadt felt that the Township has a severe speeding problem and supported placing the 25 mph speed limit sign.

Mr. Hawthorne advised that the Police Department would first do a traffic study to determine the feasibility of lowering the speed limit on these roads.

Mr. Spadt motioned to authorize Chief of Police Michael Shade to initiate a traffic study to determine if the speed limit on Stuart and Brookwood Drives should be lowered from 35 mph to 25 mph. Mr. Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

Mr. Klotz felt that the speed limit on all Township roads in residential areas should be 25 mph. Mr. Hawthorne will have Chief Shade research and advise the names of the Township roads with speed limits over 25 mph.

Resignation—Mr. Troutman motioned to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Jim Leh from the Township Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

Mr. Leh served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for over nine years. Mr. Klotz recommended that the Board present Mr. Leh with a plaque for his service to the Township. Township staff will order the plaque, which will be presented to Mr. Leh at a future Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Klotz noted that resident Patty Abdalla submitted an application in 2005, in which she expressed an interest in serving on the Township's Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Klotz felt that Ms. Abdalla was well qualified and would be an asset to the Township.

Since Ms. Abdalla is interested in serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Mr. Doyle suggested that she meet the Commission members at its meeting on January 29, 2007. Mr. Spadt recommended that Ms. Abdalla be introduced to the Board of Commissioners as well, at its regularly scheduled meeting February 5, 2007. The Board authorized Township staff to contact Ms. Patty Abdalla and request that she attend both the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on January 29, 2007 and the Board of Commissioners meeting on February 5, 2007.

Warrant No. 736—Mr. Troutman motioned to approve Warrant No. 736 for the month of December 2006. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

The following information was included in the Commissioners packets:

1. Public Management Article. "Improving Local Government Decision Making."
2. Memo to Bruce Foltz and Lew Babel and information emailed to Rod Hawthorne from Reggie Brinson, Emergency Management Specialist. Re: 2007 Radiological Planning.
3. Letter to Sally Moyer from R. Kurtz Holloway. Re: Questions about EMS tax and 2% employer commission.
4. Update on new computer and programs for Jennifer Corley.
5. Review letter from Matthew Edmond, Montgomery County Planning Commission. Re: Buchert Ridge Phase II.
6. Review letter from Matthew Edmond, Montgomery County Planning Commission. Re: Buchert Ridge Phase I Amendment.
7. Minutes from December 18, 2006 Planning Commission Meeting
8. Agenda for January 22, 2006 Planning Commission Meeting

9. Letter to Jim Leh acknowledging his service to the Township.
10. Memo to Tony Doyle from Michele Cappelletti. Re: Trash Contract Breakdown of Costs.
11. Ringing Hill Fire Company financial information.
12. Update on Recycling Center Grant.
13. Letter to Rodney Hawthorne from Robert Brant, Zoning Solicitor. Re: James Vlahos Zoning Application.
14. Information on Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners Convention.
15. Pottstown Public Library Annual Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Holloway reported that during executive session, architect Don Wirt delivered a presentation on historic building restoration to the Board of Commissioners. He asked if the Board was interested in requesting a proposal from Mr. Wirt for his services.

Mr. Spadt motioned to request a proposal from architect Don Wirt for historic building restoration in the Township, as specified by the Township Manager. Mr. Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Doyle had no comments.

Mr. Klotz stated that during the recent snowfall, the Police Department was overwhelmed with accidents. Chief of Police Mike Shade assisted the officers on the street and Det. Sgt. Mike Foltz kept things running smoothly in the Department. Mr. Klotz expressed that the Police Department is a fine team and they go beyond the call of duty to meet the needs of the Township and its residents.

Mr. Klotz acknowledged that the Township often benefits from relationships that Rod Hawthorne has established with various individuals and organizations. He felt that Mr. Hawthorne's connections throughout the community have proved to be invaluable and advantageous to the Township.

Mr. Spadt stated that as Executive Director of the Montgomery County Association of Township Commissioners, he is planning the annual Spouse Appreciation Night. The event will be held on Friday, May 4, 2007. He asked all to "save the date."

Mr. Spadt requested that the Commissioners read the article from Public Management magazine, which was included in their information packets. He felt that the article, entitled "Improving Local Government Decision Making," was very informative.

Mr. Spadt stated that road crew did an excellent job keeping the Township roads clean during the first snow of the season. He commended John Fogel for a job well done.

Mr. Troutman advised that he recently toured the Sunnybrook facility. He reported that the Sunnybrook Foundation is in the process of entering into an agreement with Gambone Development to buy the entire property.

Mr. Troutman reported that the Townships that are part of Regional Planning recently met to consider the possibility of establishing a regional parks and recreation commission. They also discussed hiring a facilitator to guide the process and determine the feasibility of a regional group.

Mr. Foltz reported that he and Lew Babel would be touring the Exelon Nuclear Plant in Limerick.

Mr. Foltz (Emergency Management Coordinator), Mr. Babel (Fire Marshal and Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator) and Mr. Mike Rightnour (Assistant Fire Marshal) will be attending all day training on February 24, 2007.

Mr. Foltz thanked Alyson Elliott for becoming involved with Exelon Nuclear's CAP.

Mr. Foltz asked for an update on ordering the new truck for the Public Works Department. Mr. Hawthorne reported that bid specifications for upfitting the chassis of the truck were sent to 12 vendors in the PACC buying group. Solicitor Holloway explained that this was done because PACC had a number of vendors with varying profit percentages and the price difference could be extensive.

Mr. Hawthorne advised that the proposals are to be submitted to the Township office before 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at which time the bids will be read aloud. The proposals will then be given to the Solicitor's office for review.

Estimated delivery date for the truck in September 2007.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Hawthorne asked the Commissioners to review a proposal from Don Wirt that was included in their packets.

Mr. Troutman motioned to adjourn the public meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Spadt seconded the motion and it was unanimously. Vote was 5-0.

A conditional use hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2007, prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, which will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele M. Cappelletti
Township Secretary