

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 1, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 1, 2009 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, President; Jonathan H. Spadt, Vice President; Stephen M. Klotz; Anthony A. Doyle and James C. Phillips.

Jennifer V. Marsteller, Treasurer; R. Kurtz Holloway, Solicitor; Rodney P. Hawthorne, Manager; Alyson E. Elliott, Assistant Manager; Chief of Police Michael Shade; Scott Exley, Township Engineer, Fire Marshal Lew Babel and Michele Cappelletti, Township Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Bill Wolfgang, 2325 Pruss Hill Road, asked how the Township is progressing with reducing expenses. Commissioner Foltz noted that there was no tax increase this year and the 2009 budget was significantly cut. Mr. Hawthorne said that reduced engineering and legal fees, savings within the different departments in the Township and receipt of grant funds saved the Township approximately \$325,000 in 2008. Commissioner Spadt commented that the Finance Committee was conservative (during the budget process) and predicted the economic downturn. He said we are on track to have a good year budget-wise. Commissioner Phillips agreed that we are right on target.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2009 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

REPORTS:

Police

Chief Shade highlighted the following from his May 2009 report—

1. **Bike Rodeo**—Off. Rob Diesinger did a great job organizing the bike rodeo. It was held at the Lower Pottsgrove Elementary school and there were 67 participants. Chief Shade thanked Township staff members Jane and Jen and Sandy and Deb of the Police Department for their help at this event.
2. **Municibid**—Chief Shade requested approval to sell the 2006 Ford Crown Victoria on Municibid.

Commissioner Spadt made a motion to authorize Chief Shade to list Unit 88-03, a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, for sale on Municibid. Commissioner

Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

All statistics and information are included in Chief Shade's written report. Chief Shade asked the Commissioners to contact him if they had any questions or comments.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel reported the following statistics for April 2009:

| Station | Total Calls | Total Hours of Service | Total Personnel Hours | Total Personnel Training Hours | Total Fundraising Hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sanatoga (Station 58) | 21 | 19.5 | 114 | 132.5 | 0 |
| Ringling Hill (Station 59) | 17 | 28.75 | 92 | 115.5 | 420.5 |

Mr. Babel reported the following statistics for March 2009:

| Station | Total Calls | Total Hours of Service | Total Personnel Hours | Total Personnel Training Hours | Total Fundraising Hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ringling Hill (Station 59) | 30 | 21 | 172 | 63.5 | 886 |

Mr. Babel reported that he, along with members of Ringling Hill Fire Company, were present at the Relay for Life at Pottsgrove High School.

Highway—Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read the Public Works Report for the month of May 2009. The full report outlining all work completed will be posted on the bulletin board.

COG—Commissioner Phillips could not attend the most recent COG meeting. He reported that a new park/ballfield was discussed and John Reber of Pottstown Parks and Recreation is supporting it.

Engineering—Mr. Exley reported that the Sunnybrook Road Bridge guiderail project has not been dropped and is back on the list of projects for PennDOT to look at.

Treasurer—Ms. Marsteller delivered the Tax Collector’s Monthly Report to Taxing Districts for the month of May 2009. She asked the Commissioners to contact her if they had any questions or comments regarding her report.

Commissioner Doyle asked if the Township is about where it should be. Ms. Marsteller felt that the Township is in good shape and should be on track from last year.

Commissioner Spadt motioned to accept the Tax Collector’s Monthly Report to Taxing Districts for the months of May 2009, as presented by Jennifer Marsteller. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Solicitor—No report.

Parks and Recreation—Ms. Elliott reported that the Parks and Recreation Report was not in the Commissioners packets because it was not approved by the Parks and Recreation Board at its last meeting. She reported the following activity for the month of May:

1. After a brief meeting on May 26, 2009, the Board took a tour of the Bateman Trail in the Township’s newest park. The 20-foot wide trail will eventually connect to Sprogel’s Run.
2. Modifications have been made to parking at Gerald Richards Park. Stormwater issues at this Park are being discussed.
3. Jen Corley has been working on coordinating community bus trips with Limerick and New Hanover Townships, which would be an additional service offered to our residents.
4. We are working on an agreement with Coventry Christian School to exchange field rental fees for authorization to use the school’s parking area.

Commissioner Spadt noticed a clean-up effort at the Township property at Yerger Road and Keim Street. Ms Elliott advised that a local Girl Scout troop has been working on a year-long project to make improvements to Ringing Rocks Park for their Bronze Award.

Commissioner Doyle asked if there is a remedy for the water problem at the Sanatoga Park soccer field. Ms. Elliott advised that John Fogel intends to install an under-drain once the fields are dry enough to get in with the equipment and do the work.

Commissioner Doyle noticed the outside edges of Sanatoga Park aren’t being mowed. Ms. Elliott will check into the matter.

Commissioner Klotz commented that turn signs with a double diamond are being defaced with graffiti. Commissioner Foltz will check with John Fogel on this problem. Commissioner Klotz requested that the police keep an eye on the signs.

Commissioner Doyle asked if the Township ever got a call from PennDOT regarding trees that need to be maintained on state roads. Mr. Hawthorne thought John Fogel did get in touch with someone from PennDOT and he will follow up with Mr. Fogel.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

The following information was included in the Commissioners packets:

1. Letter from Board of Commissioners to Lester C. Taoso, District Executive, PennDOT. Re: E. High Street Bridge
2. Letter from Thomas Quigley. Re: Response from PennDOT regarding E. High Street Bridge
3. Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission Information

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Letter to PennDOT—Commissioner Phillips reported that the Board sent a letter to Lester Taoso at PennDOT and apparently it did some good. Mr. Phillips announced that a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building to discuss the E. High Street Bridge closure with PennDOT.

Commissioner Doyle referenced an article in the Mercury about a grant for \$1,775,000 that will be used to reduce the width of vehicle lanes on the Hanover Street Bridge and on the street in both Pottstown and North Coventry and to add space for bike lanes, parking and a multi-use trail from River Road to High Street. Commissioner Doyle felt that article was important because it showed that the state does have money available for these types of projects.

Restored Funding—Commissioner Foltz stated that at the last meeting, the Board decided to look into restoring funding to the Historical Society, Visiting Nurse Association and Senior Citizens. Mr. Hawthorne reported that the Finance Director just returned from vacation and he will check into the matter this week.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution No. 815—Approval of Resolution No. 815, Occidental Chemical/BCW Minor Subdivision plan, was tabled.

Warrant—Warrant No. 765 for May 2009 was distributed for review via e-mail.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Doyle said he is still pushing to extend the hours of operation at the Township Building. Commissioner Spadt advised that extended hours were discussed at budget time and flex time was considered as a cost savings but there were issues with staffing. Commissioner Spadt was in favor of revisiting the matter. Ms. Elliott said that we would need to make changes to the personnel manual. The Commissioners discussed flex time and the availability of key staff during the extended hours. Commissioner Foltz was against extending the hours. The Board will further discuss the concept of extended hours at a future meeting.

Commissioner Doyle asked about installing a fence at the wall in Redner's parking lot. Mr. Hawthorne advised that Mr. Place is working on it. Mr. Place will also send a letter to the owner of the vacant gas station at the corner of Mervine and Charlotte Streets. Commissioner Doyle spoke to the Manager of Redner's and he was told that Redner's leases the building and the fence would be the landlord's responsibility.

Commissioner Doyle asked about the Township funding the three non-profit organizations (Historical Society, Visiting Nurse Association and Senior Citizens). Commissioner Foltz said the Commissioners should know by the next meeting if funding can be restored.

Commissioner Doyle was concerned about the recent school bus accident at the curve on Pleasant View Road. According to an article in the Sanatoga Post, the bus went off the shoulder of the road and into a ditch near Donna Lane. Commissioner Doyle would like Mr. Hawthorne to contact PennDOT about installing ballasts in this area.

Commissioner Phillips encouraged everyone to attend the June 4 meeting with PennDOT.

Commissioner Klotz had no comments.

Commissioner Spadt had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz had no comments.

Solicitor Holloway had no comments.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hawthorne and Ms. Elliott had no comments.

At 7:35 p.m., Solicitor Holloway announced that pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, the Board would be recessing into an executive session to review legal issues surrounding a contract matter. The Board reserved the right to reconvene into public session to take any official action deemed necessary following the executive session.

The Board reconvened into public session and, there being no further action, adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele M. Cappelletti
Secretary