

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 3, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz President, Earl E. Swaveley, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen and Michael McGroarty.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Charles Garner, Solicitor; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal and Kathryn Vlahos, Secretary were also in attendance.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded and asked any speakers to give their name and address.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swaveley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION:

Randy Galitto of Alloy 5 Presentation on the Municipal Campus Building—Mr. Galitto made a presentation updating the board on the new municipal building. The process is segmented into six phases starting with schematic design phase to substantial completion of the building. At each phase Mr. Galitto will make a presentation updating the board. Currently we are in the schematic phase where we look at a draft site plan, building layout and elevations, and sketches. This phase will be completed in early March. The next phase will be the design development which will take approximately 60 days to complete. Mr. Galitto explained that the building had been shrunk down to about 15,850 square feet which could possibly get even smaller after they find out utilities and right of ways that could change the building foot print. Mr. Galitto opened up for any questions regarding the building size.

Commissioner McGroarty asked if the current design is the tightest that they could get it right now without eliminating necessary areas or is there still opportunity to downsize areas?

Mr. Galitto responded that there is always opportunity to make something more efficient and their goal is to tighten it up.

Chief Foltz asked where the reductions have been made in the building since the new design is smaller than before.

Mr. Galitto replied that wall thicknesses and some hallways have been reduced.

Commissioner McGroarty asked at what phase in the process will they make a final determination on whether they are going to proceed with the project.

Commissioner Foltz refreshed the board on a topic that he brought up at the last meeting for a preemption light device at the intersection of North Keim Street and Buchert Road. The township received a quote back to put a preemption device at that light for \$11,500. Commissioner Foltz expressed that it is his personal opinion to not add the preemption device at that intersection at this time and asked for the opinion of Chief Foltz.

Chief Foltz replied that when the light at North Keim Street and Buchert Road receive upgrades by state law it will require a preemption device on it. There is not much gained by putting the device up sooner. After some discussion the board decided that particular intersection does not have the volume of traffic to justify adding the device before the light gets upgraded.

Emergency Management

- There were no EOC activations for the month of January.

- On January 25, 2020 the township experienced heavy rain, with a lot of street flooding and some roads needed to be barricaded.

- Reviewed and certified the Emergency Operations Plan for 2020.
- On January 7, 2020 Commissioner Lopez met with Lieutenant James to discuss the emergency management responsibilities of Lieutenant.

- Exelon Emergency Preparedness in corporation with PEMMA and Montgomery County Emergency Preparedness Agencies will be hosting a training day for emergency workers, first responders and volunteers in the all the municipalities surrounding Limerick Generating Station on Saturday February 22, 2020 from 7AM to 5 PM which will be held at Pottstown Middle School.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel highlighted the following statistics from the January 2020 Fire Marshal report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	29	36 hrs. 45 min	80 hrs.	322 hrs.	30min
Ringing Hill (Station 59)	25	min	45min		

(Hours are approximate)

Mr. Babel highlighted the following statistics for the year 2019 Fire Marshal report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Average Attendance Per a Call	Total Class Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	376	499 hrs. 45 min	1076 hrs. 45 mins	7 mins	315 hrs. 30 mins
Ringing Hill (Station 59)	341				

(Hours are approximate)

- There were three structures that were lost in 2019 due to fire damages, with the total estimated loss of \$400,011.

Highway Public Works Department

Commissioner Foltz read out loud the January report.

C.O.G.

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report on COG for January.

Engineering

Chad Camburn of Bursich Associates provided a written Engineers' Report updating the Board on various projects and activities going on in the Township. He highlighted the following projects:

- Phase I plans for Sanatoga Green were reviewed on January 23rd, at this point majority of comments are finishing up the agreements and cleaning up the plans for recording purposes. Phases 2 and 3 were received and are being reviewed currently.
- The new plans for 663 Storage Center, which has been in revised design for several months now and were received on January 21st.
- Rita's Water Ice sanitary sewer connection design has been approved and the escrow numbers have been approved as well. The Sewer Authority solicitor is finishing up the agreements for that project.
- At the Pottsgrove High School the County Conservation District issued the notice of termination for their NPDES permit. Final inspection should be completed to make sure that the escrow money can be released for that property.
- There are five projects that are currently in the planning stage, all five projects are in the final approval stage. There are also five projects that have been approved with conditions, those conditions are outstanding, which some of the projects date back years.
- There are seven projects or phases that are currently under construction.

Solicitor

Solicitor Garner provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during the month of January and there was nothing to comment on at this time.

Commissioner Foltz brought up the issue of the property maintenance concerns in the township and would like to know how we can enforce residents to maintain their property more effectively. Solicitor Garner stated that the board would have to examine whether it is a problem with the ordinances that are written or it is an issue with the enforcement or continued enforcement.

Park and Recreation

Mr. Wagner reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held in early April. Mrs. Kraynik is also working on scheduling performers for the Summer Concert Series.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission

Regional Planning Meeting took place on January 22, 2020. There was an update on the Homestead Act from Montgomery County Planning Commission.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority
Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday February 10 at 6:30 p.m. The board is looking to award the replacement of 1,400 linear feet of sewer main on North Valley and Valley Court to the contractor. In addition, a second sewer replacement project of 850 linear feet on Woodland Drive went out to bid last Thursday.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

Update on the proposed Route 422 Westbound Ramp at the Sanatoga Interchange—Mr. Wagner stated that he spoke to PENNDOT and expressed the townships concerns with the proposed westbound loop ramp of Rt. 422 and the height clearance of 14' under the bridge decking. There is a meeting scheduled for February 27th at PENNDOT District 6 offices which Mr. Wager will get an update on the height restriction as well as other concerns PENNDOT wishes to express. Mr. Wagner will provide an update at the March 2nd meeting.

Update on the 2207 Donna Lane Driveway Modifications Request to PENNDOT—Mr. Wagner reminded Commissioners that a resident came to the board meeting back in October 2019 requesting a driveway onto North Pleasant view Road. The board decided that they would leave the decision up to PENNDOT. PENNDOT in return issued a letter that gave the owner two options, one was to leave the driveway in the present condition on Donna Lane and possibly widen it and to allow to additional radius for entrance into the garage. The second option was to allow for a driveway on North Pleasantview Road. The township is currently waiting on a sketch plan and design from the resident.

PENNDOT regarding a Pole at the intersection of Bleim and North Pleasantview—Mr. Wagner informed the board that he received an email from PENNDOT stating that the utility pole at Bleim & Pleasantview Rds. is actually indeed outside PENNDOT's right of way and it is on township property. The legal right of way is approximately one foot of the existing roadway. PENNDOT is saying that they have no authority to enforce the pole to be placed further away. The concerns are that the pole is a foot off the road and there is also an 8-inch gas main that is a foot off. Mr. Wagner said that he will schedule a meeting with Allan Myers, Med Ed and Chad Camburn, PENNDOT as well as PECO.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item added to the Agenda Offer of full time Police Officer to Christopher Vasek—Commissioner Lopez made a motion to retain Officer Vasek as a full time Officer at Lower Pottsgrove Police Department. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion.

Commissioner Foltz opened for public comment on the motion of Officer Vasek becoming a full time Officer at Lower Pottsgrove Police Department. Being no public comments Commissioner Foltz closed for public comments and the motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 against and Commissioner Foltz abstaining for reason of conflict of interest.

Stormwater Waivers for 1135 Crestwood Drive-Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to grant (2) Stormwater Waivers for the construction of a home at 1135 Crestwood Drive. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Advertise Oil and Chip Bid-Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to advertise Oil & Chip for consideration at the March 2, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Item added to the Agenda Fire Police Compensation—Commissioner Lopez brought up a concern about the number of fire police are dwindling down, which he feels there needs to be something done so that there is more of an incentive to become a fire police person.

Chief Foltz stated that the police depend on fire police for traffic control but what the township is getting more inundated with special event request. The fire police are coming out to help with special events and they are not receiving any compensation for the event coordinator. The township needs fire police at these events to supplement the number of police officer that are needed. Chief Foltz stated that the feels there should be some type of compensation for the fire police to assist with these events. Solicitor Garner stated Mr. Wagner and I will look into and try and find some suggestions or answers to address the concern at the same time not risking any exposure to the township.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Resolution 1215-20—Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve resolution 1215-20 to Amend and Adopt Policies to be included in the Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department Policies & Directives Manual. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 against and Commissioner Foltz abstaining for reason of conflict of interest.

Warrant #893-Warrant No. 893 for the month of January 2020 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty thanked Randy Galitto from Alloy 5 for his presentation and also to him and his staff for trying to make the new building as efficient as possible.

Commissioner McGroarty thanked all individuals and associates who contributed to the body worn camera program.

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen thanked the residents who donated to the body worn camera program for the police department.

Commissioner Mohollen also thank the fire fighters and Lew Babel for his report on 2019 and thankful that no fire fighters got hurt over the past year.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked Chief Foltz and Manager Wagner for the safe zone in the parking lot, which he feels is a great idea.

Commissioner Lopez—Commissioner Lopez followed up on the discussing on grants exploration that Mr. Wagner and I went to a meeting with Representative Joe Cirresi on the January 14, 2020 which is where they learned about the USDA Loan.

Commissioner Lopez stated that Fire Marshal Lew Babel and I went to a fire round table at Representative Joe Cirresi's office on January 23, 2020 to give him information to help out with grants for the fire companies and emergency management.

Commissioner Swavely – had no comments.

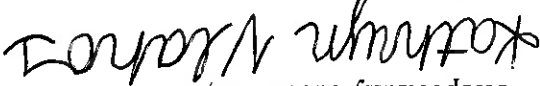
Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz stated that he went to the Pottstown Water Authority Meeting to see what it would take to get the public water line extended to the new proposed building.

Mr. Wagner— had no comments.

Solicitor Garner – had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos

Township Secretary