

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**March 2, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 2, 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: Earl E. Swavely, 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 Bruce L. Foltz was absent.

Commissioner Swavely 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 February 3, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION:

Randy Galiotto of Alloy 5 Presentation on the Municipal Campus Building— Mr. Galiotto made a presentation updating the board on the proposed new municipal building. Mr. Galiotto stated that he is at the meeting to discuss the site and where they are currently with the site design. There are four parcels that are currently at the site and eventually they will all be consolidated into one parcel. The grading plan is completed which means they are able to understand where the building is going to sit on the site and the floor level elevations. There was some fill put on the site over the years but that will need to be excavated out. In most locations rock was found deeper than we were planning to evacuate which is always a good sign Mr. Galiotto stated. There will be six monitoring tubes which consist of small probes that will go into the ground 10 feet, where they will sit for two to three months to monitor the ground levels at the site. Mr. Galiotto is pleased with the pace of the project and these extra steps will help alleviate any problems prior to construction and hopefully keep cost down.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Holly L. Geiser-Chang from the Pottstown Library— Ms. Geiser-Chang explained that she is the new executive director of the Pottstown Regional Library. Ms. Geiser-Chang thanked the Commissioners and the township residents for their support over the years. Ms. Geiser-Chang then distributed a pamphlet to Commissioners explaining what the library has to offer. Ms. Geiser-Chang asked the board to email or call her if they have any comments, questions or if

they would like to tour the library. Commissioners Foltz thanked her from coming out this evening and explaining the services the library provides to visitors.

REPORTS:

Police

Chief Foltz presented the Police Report for the month of February 2020

CALLS FOR SERVICE	1,010
ASSISTS:	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	27
Violations Indicated	
DUI Arrests	
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	71
Violations Indicated	
Adults Arrested	23
Juveniles Handled	24

- Exelon Energy donated three patrol rifles to the department which will help support the departments active shooter program.
- All of the officers have been equipped with coronavirus kits, if they should encounter a subject that is showing symptoms. They have the proper equipment they need to not transfer the virus outside of that environment.
- The department underwent it's second reaccreditation process with Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. The department passed through and in the next few weeks will receive a letter. From that they determined that the current police spaces are causing a little strife as the accreditation process builds out. They were happy to hear that the township is looking to pursue the new building.
- Detectives have been working on a shooting in Rolling Hills that was back in December and they have identified the suspect. The case is moving forward and it just a matter of putting the case together for prosecution.
- There was a shooting in Walnut Ridge Estates in early February. The officers were called to Walnut Ridge for shots fired, they arrived and found a number of bullet casings. There were no victims, there were also no witnesses that are stepping forward which is concerning to the police department.
- The Detectives have been investigating a lot of fraudulent activity, along with US Postal inspections that deal with mail fraud and check washing.
- There is a new patrol car that is in service. On the 21st of February there was an officer that was on turning right onto Armand Hammer Blvd. and a motorist turned left and turned right into the officer. There were no injuries.
- The critical incident management trailer was relocated to the rear of Sanatoga Fire Company for the convenience of access and limit the amount of equipment that was stored at the public works yard. Unfortunately, someone vandalized the trailer. The officer went out to deploy the trailer and when they went to get the equipment out there was a big hole on the side of the trailer.

- The new Chevy Tahoe's are on the lot, they currently are in the process of getting them upfitted. The two Tahoe's that are going out of service one of them has a broken engine mount that is around \$2,000 to replace, which was slated to be decommissioned, right now the police department is not going to pay for the repair to that car. Hopefully the other decommissioned Tahoe will be up and ready for the Fire Marshal in the upcoming weeks.

Emergency Management

- There were no EOC activations for the month of February.
- There were two incidents that did require some limited intervention. Crews monitored a weather system on February 6, 2020 for strong winds, heavy rains and flooding. Also assisted with an accident on Route 422 involving hazardous material situation which was 75 gallon of diesel fuel down. There were no major problems with either event.
- Exelon hosted on February 22, 2020 a training day from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm for all first responders and was hosted at the Pottstown Middle School.

Fire Marshal

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

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	24	35 hrs. 0 min	73 hrs. 45min	123 hrs. 0 min	
Ringing Hill (Station 59)	26	26 hrs. 25 min	43 hrs. 34 min	41 hrs. 05 min	431 hrs. 45 min

(Hours are approximate)

Highway Public Works Department

Mr. Wagner read out loud the February report.

C.O.G

Commissioner Swavely stated that there was nothing to report on COG for February.

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:

- Sanatoga Green resubmitted their sewage facilities planning module to DEP. That is one of two outstanding outside agencies permits that they need to complete. At this point all three phases of the project have minor plan clean up and agreements that need to be finalized. Solicitor Garner is working on getting the developers agreements together. There is a draft of the document that is currently being reviewed.
- 663 Storage Center newest plans were reviewed and brought before the Planning Commissioner which at that meeting the Planning Commissioners did not take any action

on the plans, but they did recommend eight waivers. Those waivers will come before the Board at a future date.

- Spring Valley Farms there was a meeting on February 24, 2020 to discuss the utility pole that is at North Pleasantview Road and Bleim Road. At this point they are looking to move the pole, but they want to make sure that they don't move it where it would affect future improvement at that intersection. There is a proposed realignment of Bleim Road to better align with Prusshill Road. The full design has not been completed yet nor has any permits been completed yet. The approval of the Spring Valley Farms project did include a protentional future right of way.
- On February 12, 2020 met with Pottsgrove High School to close up their project that dates back to 2013 when they first submitted land development plans. They also issued as built plans that were reviewed, and comments were provided.
- Rita's Water Ice is submitting sewage facilities planning module for the connection at School Lane.

Solicitor

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

Park and Recreation

Mr. Wagner reported that Gerald Richards Park Phase I of the project went out to bid in late February. The Pre-Bid meeting will take place on Thursday March 5, 2020 which is a mandatory meeting. Bids are scheduled to be opened on March 24, 2020.

Ms. Kraynik sent out 150 letters for sponsorship for our Parks and Recreation for 2020.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission

Regional Planning Meeting meet on February 26, 2020 to discuss the draft agreement for the Pottsgrove Recreation Committee. Michael Lane made a presentation in the fall to consolidate the Pottstown Area Recreation Committee.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday March 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The bids were received for the sewer main replacement project for 850 linear feet on Woodland Drive. There were eight bidders which the Authority will review at that meeting. The Authority will apply for a Community Block Grant for another sewer main replacement project on Sunnyside Ave, between Kepler Road and County Drive.

CORRESPONSENCE AND INFORMATION:

Gerald & Ruthann Sitko 1141 Kepler Road Agricultural Security Area (ASA)

Application— Mr. Wagner informed the Board that Mr. and Mrs. Sitko submitted an Agricultural Security Area Application. In 1993 the township passed a resolution to consolidate with New Hanover Township, which they have an Agricultural Committee. The benefits are a clean and green tax reduction and municipalities are prohibited to enact local laws that would unreasonably restrict farm practice in the ASA. No formal action is required at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on the proposed Route 422 Westbound Ramp at the Sanatoga Interchange— Mr. Wagner stated the first item that was in question was the ramp that goes under the underpass. The original proposal was 13'4", it was revised to 14' 2". The second item was when entering the ramp, it would run parallel with the existing westbound exit ramp for the Sanatoga Interchange. This in turn would blind drivers exiting the westbound ramp and create an unsafe driving condition. It was determined that a glare shield would be installed, which is essentially a taller jersey barrier which will help prevent that from happening. The third item that was in question was the distance between the existing westbound ramp and the proposed new ramp. The concern was about how close they were together. It was determined that the space between them would be 625 feet which is greater than the minimum 612 feet based on the speed limit of 60MPH. The project should hopefully be awarded by the end of the year and construction should begin February or March of 2021 which would last between four and six months.

Update on the Special Event Application requests with regard to Fire Police Services— Mr. Wagner stated that there was a discussion at the last meeting in regard to the fire police services and how to compensate them for their time at special events. Mr. Wagner stated that he met with Solicitor Garner and they came up with a draft document consisted with the special event application. Chief Foltz as well as Commissioner Mohollen will discussing the proposed special event application at the quarterly fire meeting later this week

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Oil and Chip Bid Commissioner Lopez made a motion to award the Oil and Chip Bid to AMS of Center Valley for \$71,295. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

2020 Equipment Rental Bid- Commissioner Lopez made a motion to award the Equipment Rental Bid to Sacks & Sons of Zieglerville, PA for \$79,855. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Officer Kevin Black Reimbursement— Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approved Officer Kevin Black request for reimbursement for tuition and books for St. Joseph University for \$2,740.24. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE: None.

Warrant #893- Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve warrant #893 for the month of January. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasure's Report- Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2020. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Warrant #894- Warrant No. 894 for the month of February 2020 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – had no comments.

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen congratulated the police on their reaccreditation efforts. Mr. Mohollen asked if the incident trailer was going to be moved back into the fenced in area.

Chief Foltz replied that they are working on moving it back now and he spoke with the Manager and Road Master about putting the incident trailer back in the fenced in area.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked the police department for their efforts with his small business in the township. He received a notice from Officer Bond at 1:20 in the morning stating he came and checked all the doors at the building to make sure that they were locked. He feels that it is a tremendous service to the community, and as a small business owner known that these kinds of things are going on and he is very appreciative of that.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez would like to congratulate the police department as well on their reaccreditation process and it is great news that they are reaccredited.

Commissioner Lopez asked the township engineer for emergency management office could get the electronic files of the as built from the school district. There are times that there are events there and it would be good to have a layout of the buildings and he would really appreciate it.

Township Engineer Mr. Camburn replied that there may be some difficulty in obtaining those files since it is his understanding there are some legal action happening there and he will get Commissioner Lopez what he can.

Commissioner Swavely – Commissioner Swavely thanked Chief Foltz for letting him visit with Pennsylvania Chief of Police staff regarding the reaccreditation and they received quite a bit of complements from that staff and it is a very highly recognized organization. He commends Chief Foltz and Sargent Weidenhammer for all their hard work.

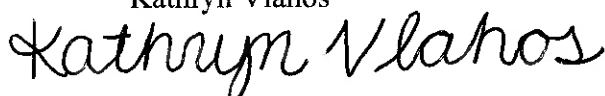
Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner stated there is a planned open house schedule on March 11th of the Reading Orthodontist new building on High Street and all commissioners are invited.

Solicitor Garner – had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Vlahos



Township Secretary