

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 4, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 through live video feed. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

**Board of Commissioners:** Bruce L. Foltz, Early E. Swavely, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen and Michael McGroarty were all present through live video feed.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Matthew Hovey, Solicitor; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer; and Kathryn Vlahos, Secretary were also present through live video feed.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded and viewed through live video feed through Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic, any speakers to give their name and address for public comments. The township is following social distancing guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease and Control to limit exposure.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** None.

**REPORTS:**

**Police**

Chief Foltz presented the Police Report for the month of April 2020.

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>1</b>

- Overtime was cut down to 50% which is a false assurance that had to do with Covid-19 pandemic.
- There were no traffic details in the month of April.
- There were minimal court proceedings in the month of April.

- There were no contracted Police in the month of April, which usually this time of year calls for Proms and 5k runs.
- Chief Foltz would like to bring to the Commissioners attention that last month during the accreditation process there was a small deficiency in their evidence room where they need to keep firearms, drugs and cash separately secured. Detective Kinley brought in his own tools and constructed that in the evidence room which cleaned it up and made it more of a secured space. Chief Foltz would like to publicly commend him for that.
- Detective Sergeant Campbell has been reassigned to patrol, the police department is currently down three officers who are out on extended medical leave and there is another one who will probably go out once surgery is allowed during Covid-19 pandemic.
- The 2019 Chevy Tahoe was placed out in service and the second one should be going out later in the week.
- The report does not have a School Resource Officer report due to the school being closed.
- Attached to the report is a Crime Watch report, with what they are doing for the township with the software program that has been really helpful.

### **Emergency Management**

Commissioner Lopez reported the during the current COVID-19 crisis that is deeply impacting this country and this region, the Lower Pottsgrove Township continues to fulfill the obligation of providing service to our citizens, businesses and to individuals passing through the township. Although the manner in which we conduct our operations has been adjusted to meet Federal, State and Health Department Guidance, let me assure you that we continue to provide vital municipal services and remain deeply concerned for the health, safety and welfare of all our citizens and staff, which are of the utmost importance to the Emergency Management Team, our Township Officials and Administration, now more than ever.

The Emergency Management Team meets routinely to discuss situational awareness and our level of emergency preparedness. Additionally, we communicate key information at the spur of the moment when emergency and critical incidents occur. An example of spur of the moment action is - at the instant we receive information that severe weather is headed in our direction. That sets the team in motion. This occurred several times during the month of April. Those efforts take place day-in and day-out behind the scenes, providing suggestions and support to the municipality with or without COVID-19 being a crisis.

The Emergency Management Team continues to, exchange ideas and share directives and orders received from County, State and Federal agencies. Collaborate with the President of the Board of Commissioners and the Township Manager routinely regarding staff work schedules, public access to the Township Building and the coordination of building inspections. Organize and participate in virtual meetings with Emergency Management Team Members and support agencies that provide assistance. Provide a portal for the community to communicate with the Emergency Management Team directly regarding COVID-19. Continue to operate in close coordination with the Montgomery County Dept of Public Safety, Dept of Emergency Management, Office of Public Health, and numerous other County, State, and Federal agencies.

The Emergency Management Team, I would like to thank the residents of Lower Pottsgrove Township for following the guidance of the Center for Disease Control, along with Federal, State and County guidelines reducing the spread of the Coronavirus here in Lower Pottsgrove Township.

### **Fire Marshal**

Mr. Wagner highlighted the following statistics from the April 2020 Fire Marshal report:

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>Total Hrs. of Service</b>	<b>Total Personnel Hrs.</b>	<b>Total Personnel Training Hrs.</b>	<b>Total Fundraising Hrs.</b>
<b>Sanatoga (Station 58)</b>	25	30 hrs.		13 hrs.	
<b>Ringling Hill (Station 59)</b>	27	49 hrs.		13 Training Classes	

(Hours are approximate)

### **Highway Public Works Department**

Mr. Wagner presented the April 2020 report.

### **C.O.G**

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report.

### **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 Phase I plans were received which a review letter will be finalized soon.
- DEP gave Sanatoga Green a review letter on their Sewage Facility Planning Module, specifically between the agreement between the developer and Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority. At this time the Authority staff is working to come up with an agreement or some plans to comfortable with what DEP is requiring according the Sewage Facility Planning Module.
- Spring Valley Farms will be doing some curbing work in the next week or two. Mr. Camburn and Mr. Wagner have been working with the developer, PennDOT and the electric company to get the utility pole worked out at the intersection. The Covid-19 pandemic has put a delay on that and once it is over, they can meet again to discuss the utility pole.
- 1751 Karen issued a grading and storm water application to build a single house at the corner of Karen Drive and Prusshill Road. They have met all of the technical requirements, pending the waiver request later in the meeting they will be able to move forward with the project.

### **Solicitor**

Solicitor Hovey provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during the month of April 2020 and there was nothing to comment on at this time.

**Park and Recreation**

Mr. Wagner reported that the board was disappointed that they had to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt and the Fish Rodeo due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission**

Mr. Wagner stated that there was nothing to report at this time.

**Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday May 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. though a Zoom virtual meeting they will be discussing a backup that took place at 900 block of Kepler Road. The township tried to flush and cut the blockage but ultimately, we had to dig up the road and replace a small section of sewer main. Mr. Wagner thanked the Police Department and Public Works department for their assistance. Friday there will be a walk though of North Valley which the project is finishing up.

**CORRESPONSE AND INFORMATION:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sidewalk wavier for 1751 Karen Dive-** Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the sidewalk wavier for the construct of a home at 1751 Karen Drive. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Advertise Ordinance 348 Amending Chapter 348, Section 27 Vehicles Weight Limits Established on Certain Streets and Bridges** — Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to advertise Ordinance 348 Amending Chapter 348, Section 27 Vehicles Weight Limits Established on Certain Streets and Bridges. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Advertise Ordinance 349 Chapter 185 Sewers, Article X** — Commissioner Lopez made to Advertise Ordinance 349 amending Chapter 185 Sewers, Article X Procedures upon Transfers of Property. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Agreement with Ryan Lehman**— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to enter into agreement with Ryan Lehman to mow the fields at Bleim and Pleasantview Roads. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Mr. Wagner**— Mr. Wagner had no comments.

**Solicitor Hovey** – had no comments.

There being no further business, the public live video feed meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.  
The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos  
Township Secretary