

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**June 4, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 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; Matthew Hovey, Solicitor; Michael A. Foltz; Chief of Police, William James; Police Lieutenant and Kathryn Vlahos; Secretary were also present though live video feed.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded and viewed through live video feed through Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic, he asked 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 May 21, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** None.

**REPORTS:**

**Police**

Lieutenant James presented the Police Report for the month of May 2020.

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>817</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	

- Chief Foltz announced that this would be his last meeting that he will be in attendance due to him retiring on June 12, 2020. He wanted to thank the board and the previous boards for their support, respect and for everything that they have done for him over the years. Chief Foltz also thanked the prior Chiefs that he worked under for their support and helping him get to where he is. For 32 years he served the township but he stated that the township also served him and it means a lot to him and he will miss everyone.

## **Emergency Management**

Commissioner Lopez updated the board that tomorrow, Montgomery County will be entering the recovery stage of the Coronavirus pandemic. As we move to the yellow phase, Governor Wolf's recent order allows the "stay at home order" to expire in all counties tonight at midnight. The purpose of this phase is to begin to power up the economy while keeping a close eye on the public health data to ensure the spread of disease remains contained to the greatest extent possible. Just as a reminder, yellow means caution, and everyone needs to take precautions to keep themselves and their communities healthy during this transition from the red phase.

Emergency Management will provide support and assist with guidance, offering prudent suggestions for our staff members and our community to operate safely as we proceed in the recovery stage. The residents of our community have done a tremendous job flattening the curve and have prevented the rapid increase of virus cases in our Township.

Yesterday, Governor Wolf renewed the 90-day disaster declaration he originally signed on March 6 following the announcement of the first two presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. The declaration was set to expire today. The emergency disaster declaration provides for the increased support of state agencies involved in the continued response to the virus and recovery for the state during reopening. Lower Pottsgrove Township also maintains its' local declaration of emergency through resolution passed by our Board of Commissioners on April 6, 2020 which also remains in effect.

The Commissioners have been provided with a daily update of the Emergency Management Team efforts during our time in the red phase and lately we listed several issues we're dealing with on a daily basis. If acceptable to the Commissioners, future updates will contain only significant information that is essential and may not be sent out on a daily basis.

## **Fire Marshal**

Commissioner Foltz stated that he spoke with Mr. Babel and he thanked Commissioners, Township Staff and Police Department for all work they have done over the pandemic. He also stated that he is very thankful for the new Fire Marshal vehicle.

## **Highway Public Works Department**

Mr. Wagner presented the May 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:

- Mr. Camburn stated that the big project that he is working on is Sanatoga Green Phase 1 is moving forward and for the most part they have addressed all of the technical comments from Bursich. Sanitary Sewer is still a hurdle and they are currently working

**Correspondence and Information**

**Letter for Sanatoga & Ringing Hill Fire Companies**— Commissioner Mohollen stated that Commissioner McGroarty and himself are willing to sit down with the fire companies at any time to go over their budgets, needs and what the township can do for them.

Commissioner Lopez commented that Governor Wolf announced 50 million dollars in grants to fire and EMS companies that were negatively affected by Covid-19. He will send everything out to everyone once he receives it.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Chief Foltz Retirement Agreement** - Commissioner Swavely made a motion to approve and execute the Retirement Agreement for Chief Michael Foltz. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and was approved 4 in favor, 0 against and Commissioner Foltz abstaining for reason of conflict of interest.

**Lieutenant William James as Acting Police Chief** — Commissioner Lopez made a motion to appoint Lieutenant William James as Acting Police Chief effective June 13, 2020. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Jennifer Griffith Right to Know Officer for Police Department** — Commissioner Lopez made a motion to appoint Jennifer Griffith as the Right to know Officer for the Police Department. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Safe City Solutions**— Commissioner Lopez made a motion to hire Safe City Solutions to conduct a Police Operations, Management, Staffing Review and Evaluation of the Lower Pottsgrove Police Department at a figure not to exceed \$12,000. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Jacobs/Wright Sewer and Operation Agreement**— Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to authorize President Foltz to execute a Sewer and Operations Agreement for Jacobs/Wright. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:** None.

**Warrant #897-** Warrant No. 897 for May 2020 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner McGroarty** – Commissioner McGroarty stated that he wished that we could be in person to speak but his hope is that sometime they can meet and he can express his comments in person to Chief Foltz. Commissioner McGroarty thanked Chief Foltz for his dedicated service to the township for the past 32 years. He believes that he built the police department to be one of the most respected in the area. He will be missed by this board, those you command and most importantly the community. On a personally note he always admired his understated, calm, yet commanding presence. It was an awesome way to get things done and he respects him for that. His attention to detail has always been superb and always had sound reasonings for your actions and request. Chief Foltz always treated him with respect and friendship and that is something that he will never forget. Commissioner McGroarty stated that he will miss Chief Foltz tremendously and wish him the best with his retirement and new endeavors.

**Commissioner Mohollen** – Commissioner Mohollen stated that the cleanup from the storm yesterday was remarkable how quickly we were able to get to the township, which was a group effort. Commissioner Mohollen thanked all involved including the fire department.

Commissioner Mohollen congratulated the Pottsgrove High School Graduates.

Commissioner Mohollen stated that with the recent events that have gone on, he thanked the residents for the respect of the township.

Commissioner Mohollen stated that losing Chief Foltz is truly sad occurrence to this township all the great years that he has given to the township. Personally, Commissioner Mohollen is happy for Chief that he found something that makes him happy and looks forward to seeing him around to thank him in person.

Commissioner Mohollen welcomed Lieutenant James, who has been with the department for a while also and wish him the best in moving this department forward.

**Commissioner Swavely** – Commissioner Swavely reiterated what the other Commissioners stated as well that he cannot thank Chief Foltz enough for his dedication and service for so many years. It has been an honor to work along aside him for so many years and more so in the office. The Commissioners are truly going to miss him and thanked him again for what he has done for all of us.

Commissioner Swavely also wanted to give kudos to the road crew and staff for the cleanup from the last storm.

**Commissioner Lopez**— Commissioner Lopez echoed all of the other commissioner's comments to Chief Foltz. He is certainly going to be missed and there will be a void, which does not take anything away from Lieutenant James which he is sure that he is going to do a good job. Commissioner Lopez stated that he is not sure if everyone understands everything that Chief Foltz accomplished as an employee who worked here for 32 years. Chief Foltz has his master's degree which he was the top of his class, FBI Academy, he got his trilogy with the FBI, attended 37 schools with all top grades. He thanked the Chief with all the thanks that he could give him in service and dedication to Lower Pottsgrove Township and as a friend he hopes to see him soon.

Commissioner Lopez welcome Lieutenant James and looks forward to working with him.

**Commissioner Foltz**—Commissioner Foltz thanked the road crew and the township manager for cleaning up during the storm.

Commissioner Foltz stated as the President of the Board he wishes Chief Foltz well and he is going to miss him at the meetings.

**Mr. Wagner**— Mr. Wagner thanked Commissioner Lopez for all of his work with Emergency Management with Covid-19 and the storm the other night.

Mr. Wagner stated that he enjoyed working with Chief Foltz and they had their agreements and disagreements which they were always able to come to reasonable solution and he is going to miss him dearly. It's going to be a big void losing the Chief, he always got everything done that he asked and never had to worry. Mr. Wagner stated that he knows Chief Foltz professionally, as a friend, and a neighbor and he is going to miss him. He stated that the door is always open for Chief Foltz at Lower Pottsgrove Township.

**Solicitor Hovey** – Solicitor Hovey stated that Chief Foltz has always been a model of professionalism and he appreciates the support and the respect that he has always shown him. He thanked Chief Foltz for his service and stated that he will be missed.

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, June 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos  
Township Secretary

VOTING CONFLICT MEMORANDUM

In accordance with the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act, I am filing this memorandum to publicly announce and disclose my abstention from voting on the matter listed below, and the reason for abstention

Name of Official: Bruce L FOLTZ

Position Held: COMMISSIONER

Date of Public Meeting: 6-4 20

Matter Voted Upon:

CHIEFS RETIREMENT

Reason for Abstention/Nature of Conflict of Interest:

FATHER OF CHIEF MICHAEL FOLTZ

I direct that this memorandum be filed, as a public record, with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting in which the vote is taken.

6-4 20

Date

Bruce L Foltz

Signature