

## LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 3, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 3, 2020 at The Sunny Brook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook Road, Pottstown Pennsylvania. 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.

Edward C. Wagner; Manger was present though live video feed.

William James; Acting Chief of Police, Charles Garner, Solicitor; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer; Jennifer Marsteller, Tax Collector and Kathryn Vlahos; Secretary were also present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 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

Acting Chief James presented the Police Report for the month of July 2020.

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>879</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>1</b>

- Acting Chief James stated the calls for service are continuing to rise as Pennsylvania moves into the green phase of reopening.
- The Police Department is very busy and has been actively enforcing traffic safety and details. They are working with Pottstown Police Department for DUI Enforcement and the first one was held on Friday July 31, 2020.

### Emergency Management

Commissioner Lopez stated that the Emergency Management team has been very busy this year with Covid-19, storm watching and a gas leak. On the County level they have in the past 7 days have gone from 322 to 362 cases in Montgomery County. The incidents per 100 residents has gone from 38.9% to 44.2%, which means that Montgomery County is still on the rise. Testing has been increasing and there will be no testing tomorrow due to the weather. The average daily Covid-19 hospitalization rate have decreased by one tenth. It was at 54.7 per one hundred thousand people, has reduced to 54.6. The number of patients that are on ventilators had dropped significantly from 10.9 to 7.4. The percentage of emergency department visits due to Covid-19 has gone from five tenths of a percent to four tenths of a percent. Lower Pottsgrove Township had a history of 66 Covid-19 patients and no deaths. The average age of a Covid-19 Patient in Lower Pottsgrove Township is 43 and the oldest patient is 88. Montgomery County has instituted a new program to try to help the economy which is called Restart Montco which is conducted by Montgomery County Planning Commission. Commissioner Lopez stated that if anyone has any municipal strategies or ideas that will help Restart Montco he would be happy to hear them and then present them to the County. There was a virtual meeting that was held today about the storm that is on its way, the county is preparing for massive amounts of rain which is expected to be 4 to 6 inches of rain and possibility winds of 40 MPH that could gust up to 75 MPH. The Red Cross has been notified and they are on virtual stand by. The EOC will open tomorrow at 7 AM to monitor the storm.

### Fire Marshal

Mr. Wagner highlighted the following statistics from Lew Babel's the July 2020 Fire Marshal report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	36	88 hrs. 45min	125 hrs. 0 min	41 Hrs. 45 mins	
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	36	24 hrs. 52 min	54 hrs. 42 mins	10 hrs.	

(Hours are approximate)

### Highway Public Works Department

Commissioner Foltz presented the July report.

### C.O.G

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report.

### Treasures Report

Jennifer Marsteller stated that the board has her report for the month of July. The collection for township taxes has slowed down. Compared to last year the total taxes collected is down, as of July 31, 2019 95.68% of total taxes were collected, as of July 3, 2020 only 92% of the total taxes have been collected.

**Engineer**

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 they submitted an application for a 2020 Transportation Grant which is for the Pruss Hill Bridge Project. The grant is for 80% payment from the county and the other 20% would be from township funds. The county anticipates to award the grants in the Fall of 2020 which the project would have to be completed within 24 months.
- Sanatoga Green Phase I plans are currently being reviewed they received their NPDES permit on July 17<sup>th</sup> and they still need their sewage facility permit through DEP as well as approval from the water company, review letters will go out soon.
- The proposed house and storm water permit for 1475 Sunnybrook Road was submitted on July 13 and that is under review.

**Solicitor**

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

**Park and Recreation**

Mr. Wagner explained that later on the agenda is the Gerald Richards Phase I and he will review that then. The Park and Recreation Board is also working on Community Day that is scheduled for October 17 at Ringing Hill Fire Company.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission**

Mr. Wagner stated that he has no update for the month of July.

**Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Mr. Wagner stated the Authority will meet on Monday August 10, 2020 to review the North Valley Sewer Project to finish that up and pay the contractor Joao & Bradley. There will also be an update on the Woodland Drive Project which is approximate 850 linear feet of sewer main that is being replaced. 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan for the Waste Water Sewer Treatment Facility was just received from Pottstown Borough.

**Correspondence and Information**

**2020-05 2298 East High Street Zoning Hearing Application requesting variance.** — Zoning Hearing Application that is requesting a variance from Section 250-198B to permit internal illumination sign at 2298 East High Street. Mr. Wagner explained the hearing is scheduled for August 18, 2020 and that the property is in the Sanatoga Village District and has been since 1996 all signs have to be externally lit.

Commissioner McGroarty made the suggestion that the board allows the Zoning Hearing Board to make the decision. No action was required at that time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Gerald Richards Park Improvement Project Phase I**— Mr. Camburn stated that Phase I of the project is the turf reinforced parking lot. The project was advertised on July 24<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>. The pre bid meeting was held on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the bids will be opened on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The pre bid meeting was not mandatory this time around, which hopefully will allow for more contractors to bid on the project. The cost from the first bid was \$170,000 which the grant total is only for \$80,000. As part of Sanatoga Green Project they are required to pay \$100,000 fee in lieu of which could be used towards the cost difference. The contract is tentatively scheduled to be awarded at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting if all goes well.

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract** - Commissioner Lopez made a motion to authorize staff to obtain proposals for the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:**

**Warrant #899-** Warrant No. 899 for the month of July 2020 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner McGroarty** – Commissioner McGroarty thanked Commissioner Lopez for his and Emergency Management team for all of their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner McGroarty also thanked Mr. Camburn, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Fogel for their hard work on trying to repair the Pruss Hill Bridge.

**Commissioner Mohollen** – Commissioner Mohollen welcomed Solicitor Garner back and that he was glad to see him at the meeting.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked the Fire Departments for their dedication and helping out during a large fire that was in another township.

**Commissioner Swavely** – Commissioner Swavely had no comments.

**Commissioner Lopez**—Commissioner Lopez had no comments.

**Commissioner Foltz**—Commissioner Foltz thanked Sunnybrook Ballroom for allowing them to use their facility during the pandemic to allow for social distancing.

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

**Solicitor Garner** – Solicitor Garner stated that it was good to be back and thanked the board for their comments.

There being no further business, the public and live video feed meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Vlahos".

Kathryn Vlahos  
Township Secretary