

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 27, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at The Sunnybrook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook 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, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen and Michael McGroarty were all present.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager and Charles Garner, Solicitor and Kathryn Vlahos, Secretary were also present.

Commissioner Earl Swavelly was absent.

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

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Thomas Troutman of 2469 East High Street— Mr. Troutman asked the township if they would write a letter of support to the Berks Alliance who is currently trying to restore passenger rail service from Philadelphia to Reading.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Infrastructure Committee Update— Commissioner Lopez stated that there were two meetings held in the month of August. At the last meeting, the discussion was on changes to the sally port, locker ventilation, reviewed the meeting hall, trust design, and the carport design. the next meeting on September 2nd we will be discussion financing and review potential construction management companies. The Infrastructure Committee anticipates the project to go out for bid by the end of the year.

Commissioner McGroarty asked if there had been any further discussion on the building size.

Commissioner Lopez stated that the size had been discussed a number of times and it is not yet been determined the final size of the building today.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA— letter of support to Berks Alliance to restore passenger rail service from Philadelphia to Reading. Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to send a letter of support for passenger rail service to the Reading. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion.

Commissioner Foltz opened for public comment on the motion to send a letter of support to Berks Alliance to restore passenger rail trail to Reading. Being no public comments Commissioner Foltz closed for public comments and the motion was approved 4-0 in favor.

Discussion on Trash Contract Bid from J.P. Mascaro & Sons for the fiscal years 2021-

2025—

Pat Mascaro introduced himself as the President of J.P. Mascaro & Sons as well as his Director of Sales Sam Augustine. Mr. Mascaro stated that they are here tonight to review the recent trash bid they submitted as well as answer any questions the board may have with the current contract or the new bid that was submitted for Lower Pottsgrove Township. Mr. Mascaro stated over the last 19 years the price increase averaged around 2.5% a year, which the new bid is accounted for in this percentage. The bid does not take in account Covid-19, which Covid-19 has generated an increase of 24% more trash during the pandemic. There is no additional cost to the township during the pandemic since there is a fixed contract with JP Mascaro & Sons. Mr. Mascaro explained that the price of the bid was due to JP Mascaro & Sons situation in the industry and the townships location to their infrastructure. There is a 60-year life landfill that is 25 minutes from Lower Pottsgrove Township, one of the top recycling facilities in the country that is 25-30 minutes from the township and there are three terminals that are 25 minutes from the township that house 75 trucks. Mr. Mascaro stated that J.P. Mascaro appreciates the township's business and he hopes that it is reflected by the work that is done in our community. Mr. Mascaro asked the board if they had any questions for him.

Commissioner McGroarty stated that he does not have any questions, but he has a couple of comments. He stated that at a personal level and as a resident he is satisfied with the service that J.P. Mascaro has provided. He stated that he still has to do what is right for the residents of the township. He reviewed the current bid which has a 59% increase over one year and then read the letter provided by Mr. Mascaro explaining the average increase was 2.5% per year. Commissioner McGroarty commented that when you look at the period from 2012 to 2025 this equates to a 79% increase or 14% change per year. All of this he will consider when it comes time to make a vote on the proposed bid.

Commissioner Foltz stated that he is satisfied with the service J.P. Mascaro has provided to the township. The decision comes down to pricing for the residents and service which the board will discuss everything at a later date.

Commissioner Mohollen stated that he agrees with the other commissioners that the service has been fine over the last 21 years that he has lived here. He also agreed that the final decision comes down to what is the best financial option for the residents.

Gerald Richards Park Phase I— A motion was made by Commissioner Mohollen to award the Gerald Richards Phase I Park Project to James R. Kenny of Collegeville for \$181,927.50. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

1630 Orlando Rd & 351 Kennedy Ct Sewer Agreement— A motion was made by Commissioner McGroarty to execute Sanitary Sewer and Access Easement Agreement for 1630 Orlando Road and 351 Kennedy Court. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Discussion on Board of Commissioners Dress Code for Meetings— Commissioner Foltz stated that the dress code for our meetings are coat and tie. Recently due to Covid-19 as well as the summer heat the board decided to wear polo shirts with the township seal on them. Commissioner Foltz asked his fellow board members for their opinion for the remainder of the meetings to either go back to a tie and coat or if they should stick with the polo shirts. After some discussion the board all agreed that the current dress code of the polo shirts would be their preference for the meeting attire.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked Commissioner Foltz for bringing this to the board for discussion and allowing for the change.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Resolution 1221-20— Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve Resolution 1221-20 1350 North Charlotte Street Sewage Planning Module. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Warrant #899- Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #899 for the month of July 2020. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty thanked Commissioner Lopez and the emergency operations team for keeping everyone informed about the storm that took place in early August. He also thanked the police, fire department helping the community and the road crew for cleaning up from the storm quickly and effectively.

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen echoed Commissioner McGroarty's comments.

Commissioner Lopez – Commissioner Lopez had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz – Commissioner Foltz stated that the road crew worked hard during the storm and after the storm as well.

Mr. Wagner – Mr. Wagner wanted to share that there is a letter in the Commissioners' packet from a resident thanking the township for helping them clean up a property along Snell Road.

Solicitor Garner – Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos

Township Secretary