

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 7, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 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, Earl E. Swavely, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen, and Michael McGroarty were all present.

Edward C. Wagner; Manager, Nick Perilli; Township Engineer, William James; Acting Chief of Police and Charles Garner; Solicitor and Kathryn Vlahos; Secretary were also present.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded, 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 August 2, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION:

Fred Eber, Ebert Engineering- Fred Ebert from Ebert Engineering introduced himself to the board and stated that he was at the meeting tonight to start a dialogue on the Sanitary Sewer Lateral Inspection Program. Currently, the Sewer Authority is looking into improving the existing Sewer Lateral Ordinance and they wanted to get input from the Commissioners. What they are proposing is to video from the house to the sewer main. The property owner is only responsible for the private portion of the lateral which is from the house to the right of way or the edge to the easement. Mr. Ebert stated that they are looking into this is because the largest cost that the Authority has is the treatment cost to Pottstown. If the township stops paying for I&I it will allow the township to maintain the sewer rental rates at a lower and more reasonable rate over time. There is a corrective action plan and a connection management plan with PA DEP, but they are limited to the number of connections that the township can make. The property owner has to go through a full sewage planning module. This is the most effective tool that the township can do to eliminate I&I because 50% of the entire sanitary sewer system consist of private laterals. The distance of those laterals almost equals the townships main entirely. This will also protect new property owners. This ordinance will be different from the current one which is just an above-ground inspection by the township staff. The new ordinance will televise the line and will be able to see if there are any breaks in the line, 4" to 6" connection & tree roots in the line. There are four times that this ordinance would be required which would be property transfer, private developments would have to televise every ten years, the main replacement where the township notices a leaky lateral, and the last would be in the authority identifies it during their normal televising. Mr. Ebert informed the board that the video inspection ranges from \$150 to \$350. The permit fee would be \$100 and then they would have the engineering review the inspections so that the staff is not tied up reviewing all of the footage. The repairs on a broken cleanout are about \$500 to \$1,500. The licensed plumber would video the line and completes the application then submits it to the township. The township put the video on an FTP

site and the firm would pull off the video and review it. Mr. Ebert stated that if it is his firm doing the review, they are required to review the footage within three days. DEP appreciates the township being proactive in having this ordinance rather than them having to require the townships to implement it. Commissioner Lopez asked who would be responsible for breakage in the street. Mr. Ebert stated that the township is responsible for the repair, the township owns the sanitary sewer main in the street and the laterals to the right of way of the road or the edge of the easement. Commissioner McGroarty asked Mr. Wagner what the Authority's position was on the new ordinance. Mr. Wanger stated that they made a presentation at the June meeting and they like the idea but back in 2010 the idea was bounced around but never took effect. The Authority asked Mr. Wagner to ask for the Commissioners input on implementing this ordinance. The board thanked Mr. Ebert for his time and presentation.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None.

REPORTS:

Police

Acting Chief James presented the Police Report for August 2021.

CALLS FOR SERVICE	1,103
ASSISTS:	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	4
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	4
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	55
Violations Indicated	
DUI Arrests	6
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	44
Violations Indicated	
Adults Arrested	20
Juveniles Handled	2

Acting Chief James stated that some highlights of his report were the following.

- The department received correspondence from Fox Chase Cancer Center regarding the \$2,100 that was raised for No-Shave November. They were very appreciative and hopefully, the department can do it again this year.
- Officer McKechnie completed a Gracie Survival Tactics Instructure Training and this will allow him to become the department's temporary Mist Instructor for the use of force section. Officer Tantorno will finish his training soon.
- The Detectives are investigating a child sex abuse case involving outside agencies.
- The Detectives have assisted Haverford Police Department with a shooting investigation.

Emergency Management

- Commissioner Lopez stated that there were no EOC activations during August.
- During August, EOC continued to experience severe weather due to tropical storms influencing our weather patterns. On August 8th the township experienced heavy rains and on the following day, the township received multiple warnings regarding possible tornado events based on weather radar predictions.

- The EOC has been updating their Emergency Plans and is about 80 percent completed and approved by Montgomery County. A tabletop training exercise has been scheduled for the staff later this month, in anticipation of the Limerick Exercise.
- Commissioner Lopez met with Officer Matt Musselman regarding the use of our new variable message sign and discuss our policy surrounding our lending of equipment to our neighboring municipalities.
- EOC continues to prep for this year's Limerick Generating Station exercise scheduled for November 16, 2021.
- Some cards were sent out in the main from the Limerick Generating Station which is for people who would need assistance if there was an evacuation.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Wagner read the following statistics from the August 2021 Fire Marshal report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)				
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	27	87 hrs. 22 min	23 hrs. 24 min	8 hrs. 45 min

(Hours are approximate)

- On August 18th the State-required Fire Drill was completed at the Sanatoga Court on Evergreen Road.

Highway Public Works Department

Commissioner Foltz presented the August report.

C.O.G

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report.

Engineering

Nick Perilli from McCarthy Engineering read his report for August.

Solicitor

Solicitor Garner provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during August.

Park and Recreation

Mr. Wagner reported that four contractors bid on the Gerald Richards Project and the bids are currently being reviewed by the Solicitor. DCNR and Montgomery County Housing & Urban Development reviewed the bids and seemed satisfied.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Wagner, there was a meeting on August 25th and reviewed the Royal Farms applicant and issued a letter of some concerns which he forwarded to the applicant.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. where the topic of discussion will be lateral ordinance and the cure and place liner project from manhole to manhole.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

2021-09 Zoning Hearing Application for Andrew Magee 961 Crimson Lane

- Special Exception pursuant to Section 250-21D(4) excess accessory building of 600SF

2021-10 Zoning Hearing Application for Redner's Market 1258 N Charlotte Street

- Special Exception pursuant to Section 250-137 (250-87.N.(2) Gasoline filling station uses
- Section 250-22-139.A requesting relief to minimum lot size in the SC District
- Section 250-139.E requesting relief for parking, loading, or service areas shall be physically separated from a public street by a sidewalk, planting area, and curb by a minimum of 15 feet wide
- Section 250-208.A requesting relief for lots nonconforming as to area and width
- Section 250-231 requesting the extension of time to obtain building permits

OLD BUSINESS: None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 1250-21- Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Resolution 1250-21 Rick Romig (Romig Estates) 1434 Bleim Road, Preliminary/Final, a proposal to subdivide one of the existing single-family residences from the large agricultural tract within the R-1 Residential District and Preservation Subdivision District Overlay. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract—Commissioner Lopez made a motion to authorize staff to obtain proposals for the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Snow Plow Contract—Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to authorize a request for snow plowing quotes for the 2021-2022 Winter Season. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Reimbursement for Weidenhammer—Commissioner Swavely made a motion to approve Sgt. Scott Weidenhammer request reimbursement for tuition and books from St. Joseph University \$2,959.25. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Resolution 1249-21—Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution 1249-21 authorizing the donation/disposition of recovered property by the Police Department to Sanatoga Thrift Shop located at 2200 E High Street. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant #911 Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #911 for July 2021. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report- Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2021. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant #912- Warrant No. 912 for August 2021 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty thanked everyone that participated in everything leading up to, during, and after the storm. This includes Mr. Wagner and his staff, Commissioner Lopez and Emergency Management, the Fire Companies, Fire Police, the Police Department, and the Lower Pottsgrove Road crew.

Commissioner Swavely—Commissioner Swavely just wanted to reiterate what Commissioner McGroarty stated.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez appreciates everyone who helped him out during the storm for Emergency Management.

Commissioner Mohollen—Commissioner Mohollen thanked everyone for their effort last week during the storm.

Commissioner Mohollen stated that he was at the Sanatoga Court Fire Drill and it was impressive watching all of the fire companies work together to get everyone out and in their safe space within four and a half minutes.

Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz stated that his heart goes out to anyone that had damage from the flood.

Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner had no comments.

Solicitor Garner – Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos
Township Secretary