

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 8, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday September 8, 2020 at The Sunny Brook 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, Early E. Swavely, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen and Michael McGroarty were all present.

Edward C. Wagner; Manager, William James; Acting Chief of Police, Chad Camburn; Township Engineer and Kathryn Vlahos; Secretary were also present.

Matthew Hovey, Solicitor was also present though live video feed.

Solicitor Hovey stated that in accordance with the Sunshine Act prior to tonight's meeting the Board met in Executive Session to discuss a matter of real estate, no action or decision was made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS:**

**Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road**— Mr. Doyle stated that he read in the paper about New Hanover Township would like to get a new township building and he wanted to know how Lower Pottsgrove Townships new building was coming along.

Commissioner Foltz stated that they still are in the process of planning the new township building and the plans are coming along well.

Mr. Doyle asked if the company that was using the township's lot on High Street to park their vehicles and equipment on gave the township anything in return for allowing them to use it.

Mr. Wagner replied that laid stone down, filled some holes and did some regrading.

**REPORTS:**

**Police**

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

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>866</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	

<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS: Violations Indicated</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>2</b>

- Acting Chief James stated the calls for service are on an uptake again in the month of August due to the department being more proactive out on the street and also due to the traffic details they have been on.
- Acting Chief James informed the board that the body worn camera grant expires December 31, 2020. He spoke with Watch Guard and they sent the township the wrong cameras and that they are going to correct the issue and send the township the correct cameras.
- Acting Chief James explained that the new uniforms for the officers should be delivered soon.

Commissioner Foltz asked Acting Chief James to ask his staff and officers to turn in their surveys for the new building if they would like to. He welcomes all feedback positive and negative.

### Emergency Management

Commissioner Lopez updated the board on the most recent training that the Emergency Management team had for Covid-19. Governor Wolf signed his second renewal for COVID-19 disaster declaration for the state response and recovery. Commissioner Lopez read aloud Montgomery County's latest statics dated Friday September 4, 2020 there were 52 new cases, 2 cases that are in long term care facilities, 0 cases for county correctional facilities, total positive cases for Montgomery County is 11,037 cases, total deaths for Montgomery County 828 cases. Lower Pottsgrove had a total of 84 positive cases of COVID-19, 0 deaths, average age was 42 years old and the maximum age was 88 years old. Testing is still free, if you have insurance, they may charge your insurance company. If a person does not have insurance there is no charge for the test, an appointment must be made in order to receive a test.

Commissioner Lopez reminded the board of some Emergency Management events that took place in August. There were some storms that took place in August that required Emergency Management, Police Department, Fire Department and Road Crews involvement. August 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a tropical storm that came though the township that took out power for some residents. August 8<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, August 25<sup>th</sup>, and August 28<sup>th</sup> there were warnings sent out for flooding and storms and some major storms took place on these dates. August was a busy month for Emergency Management preparing for the storms, during the storms and cleaning up after the storm. There was a charging area at Ringing Hill Fire Company that was open from dusk to dawn after the August 3<sup>rd</sup> tropical storm, this allowed for residents to obtain clean water, charge devices and use the restroom if needed.

Emergency Management had the following trainings over the 2020 summer months. In June attended response to suspicious behavior and bombing prevention. July protective measures awareness that was presented by the center for domestic awareness. In August there was a lesson learned type of program for COVID-19 what worked and what did not work well. There was a long list of items that were reviewed and Commissioner Lopez stated that he felt that it went well

and was very helpful. In September the training scheduled is introduction to terrorist attacks cycle.

Commissioner Lopez thanked Commissioner Foltz and Manger Edward Wagner for conducting the weekly COVID-19 meetings with him. He also thanked Michael Foltz, Wil James and Eric Linsenbiger who also took part in the weekly Emergency Management meetings.

Commissioner Lopez thanked Wil James for a smooth transition from the retirement of Michael Foltz.

The last thing that Commissioner Lopez wanted to discuss was that Exelon sent out a brochure that is available. If someone did not receive the brochure you can obtain one online at [exeloncorp.com/limerick](http://exeloncorp.com/limerick).

### **Fire Marshal**

Mr. Wagner highlighted the following statistics from Lew Babel's the August 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>	31	73 hrs. 45 mins	183 hrs. 25 mins	76 hrs. 0 mins	
<b>Ringling Hill (Station 59)</b>	30	61 hrs. 30 mins	135 hrs. 29 mins	11 hrs.	

(Hours are approximate)

### **Highway Public Works Department**

Commissioner Foltz presented the August report.

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

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report and that there are no meetings scheduled for right now.

### **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:

- Gerald Richards Park Improvements—working on scheduling a pre-construction meeting that should take place in the next week.
- 663 Storage Center—This project has been on hold for some time. Mr. Camburn met with the engineer on September 2, 2020 and he gave him updated documents, plans and reports. The formal submission should be submitted soon to the township. The NPDES permit was received for the project on August 10, 2020.
- 4060 Prospect Hill Lane-- Burisch received a grading and storm water application for 4060 Prospect Hill Lane that is currently under review.
- Rita's Water Ice Sewer Connection—Additional information was forwarded to PaDEP on August 28, 2020. Once approved by PaDEP they can move forward with the agreements.

**Solicitor**

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

**Park and Recreation**

Mr. Wagner informed the board that the Community Day Committee have cancelled Community Day for 2020 due to not have many vendors able to commit.

Mr. Wagner stated that the preconstruction meeting for Gerald Richards Phase I should take place next week.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission**

Mr. Wagner stated that the meeting that was scheduled for August 26, 2020 was cancelled, the next meeting will take place on September 23, 2020.

**Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Mr. Wagner informed the board that the Authority meeting will take place on Monday September 14, 2020 and the topic of discussion will be the sewer main replacement at Woodland Drive.

The monthly meeting with the Borough of Pottstown will be Thursday September 10, 2020 via Zoom. The Griffin Dryer will be the topic of discussion. The dryer has had some problems, it is supposed to give 90% drying capability and it is only producing 60-65%. The belt keeps breaking which is supposed to last 2 years and it is only lasting 6 months and to replace the belt it is between \$35,000 - 40,000. This issue could lead to potential litigation.

**Correspondence and Information****2020-06 2850 N. Schaffer Road Zoning Hearing Application requesting special exception. —**

Mr. Wagner explained that they are looking for a special exception for a pole barn that is already partially built. The structure is 1,500 square feet and the maximum allowed for an accessory structure is 600 square feet.

The board decided to leave the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**2020-07 86 Pebble Beach Lane Zoning Hearing Application requesting special exception. —**

Mr. Wagner explained that they are looking for special exception to allow for the existing finished basement into a temporary in-law quarter.

The board decided to leave the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Proposed municipal Trash Contract for 2021-2025—** Mr. Wagner explained that currently the residents are paying \$147.50 for trash pickup which is 61.5% of the total bill of \$239.64. If the township would keep the same trend for the current bid received from JP Mascaro of the residents paying 61.5% of the total bill the following would be bill for each year for the residents. For 2021 the residents could pay \$149.77, 2022 residents could pay \$238.67, 2023 the residents could be \$241.25, 2024 the residents could pay \$243.54, and the final year 2025 the residents could pay

\$247.82. Currently the general fund pays \$282,409.10, in 2022 it would cost \$457,000 which could require a potential millage increase to the residents. JP Mascaro needs to be notified by October 1, 2020 if the board would like to accept the bid.

After some discussion the board decided for the Trash Committee to hold a meeting to discuss the different options and what the feel would be the best option for the township. The committee will make a recommendation at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Sanatoga Green Proposed Lane Development Plan**— Mr. Wagner wanted to give the board a heads up that Solicitor Garner is currently working on eight different agreements on the township end for Sanatoga Green, eleven different easements, two agreements with the sewer authority. Most of the agreements have been reviewed by himself, Mr. Camburn and Solicitor Garner. Fees that will be submitted will be escrow for Phase I engineering and legal, \$395,907.50, bond litigation of \$25,000, Traffic Impact Fee in-lieu of \$69,540, Park and Recreation Contribution \$100,000, Sewer Escrow \$110,543.73, EDU Fees \$326,583.00.

Mr. Camburn stated that they have been working on this project for years now and they are finally down to crunch time. All of that work would not mean anything if all of these documents are not finalized.

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Snow Plow Request for Quotes 2020-2021** - Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to authorize request for snow plowing quotes for 2020-21 Winter Season. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Reimbursement for Weidenhammer**— Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the request for reimbursement for tuition and books St. Joseph University for \$2,934.85. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:** None.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Mohollen** – Commissioner Mohollen commented that it is really incredible how much goes into emergency management behind the scenes and he thanked Commissioner Lopez for his hard work with it.

Commissioner Mohollen also stated that as a township he is very proud of how we have got through the COVID-19 Pandemic so far. There was no down time for the township operations from the administrative and police side and that was something to be proud of.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked Mr. Camburn for all of his hard work with the Sanatoga Green Development.

**Commissioner Swavely** – Commissioner Swavely echoed all of Commissioner Mohollen' s comments.

**Commission Lopez**— Commissioner Lopez thanked all of the township staff including the police department, highway department for being one of the most active townships when dealing with Covid-19.

**Commissioner McGroarty** – Commissioner McGroarty echoed all of the other Commissioners comments.

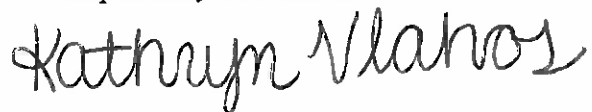
**Commissioner Foltz**—Commissioner Foltz thanked the Acting Chief for his role in the township and stepping up.

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

**Solicitor Hovey** – Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos  
Township Secretary