

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 24, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 24, 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 Swavely 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 September 8, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION:

Jamie Schlesinger, Director PFM Financial Advisors LLC Malvern Office— Mr. Schlesinger introduced himself to the board and stated that he works for PFM Financial Advisors and they would like to provide the township with financial planning services for the township with regards to the new township building. Mr. Schlesinger reviewed the presentation that he prepared for the board, first topic discussed was interest rates and how they are at a historic low. Mr. Schlesinger next discussed the legal side of borrowing money and the method of sale.

Commissioner McGroarty asked Mr. Schlesinger what the current market rate that he used when finding his amortization schedules.

Mr. Schlesinger stated that he used bond issued assumptions, which is fixed rates from day one. An average rate on a 20-year term would be around the 220 range, 25-year term would be 230 range and a 30-year term would be 240 range.

Mr. Schlesinger explained to the board that if the board would like to move forward with the services there is an engagement letter that they can review.

Commissioner McGroarty asked for clarification from Mr. Schlesinger that in the letter that was provided it references a flat fee, he wanted to know if it was to be assumed that the line item that is listed on each one that says financial advisor is that the flat fee?

Mr. Schlesinger stated that it was the fee and there would be no other fees for financial advisor. Commissioner Foltz stated if there were no more questions from the board, the board will take it under advisement and thanked Mr. Schlesinger for his time and his presentation.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Award a 5 Year Contract to J.P. Mascaro for 2021-2025—Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to award a 5-year Trash Contract to J.P. Mascaro & Sons for 2021-25. Commissioner McGorty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Sam Augustine from J.P Mascaro—Thanked the board for the award of the bid and stated that J.P Mascaro looks forward to continuing to serve the township in the years to come.

Sanatoga Interchange Westbound Ramp Project—Mr. Wagner stated that he received a memo from Traffic Planning and Design is in the process of getting approval from PENNDOT around mid-October. Construction bid documents will go out to Penn Bid sometime in October or November, once they review the bids they will award the contract in December and start construction in March or April which will take about nine months to complete. The project should be completed by October 2021.

South Park and South Pleasantview Road Bridge Projects—Mr. Wagner received a press release that South Park Lane is narrowed down to one lane with a traffic light on September 22nd. They will be doing overnight demolition on Monday September 28, 2020 between 12:00 AM to 5:00 AM. Both sections of Route 422 will be closed during this time which would create additional traffic on High Street.

The closure of South Pleasantview Road bridge is slated for October 12, 2020, which the estimated finish date of July 2021.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION—Michele Christman on the 2019 Township Audit Report

Mrs. Christman reported that Barbara Akins completed the 2019 audit for the township. The general fund added \$597,000 to the fund balance. The total unreserved fund balance is \$3.5 million, \$1.4 million will be reserved for emergencies. \$296,227 is projected to be taken out to balance this year's budget.

Mrs. Christman reviewed revenue highlights and the Act 511, which is EIT, LST and real estate transfer which was \$429,000 over budget. Building permits was \$249,595 and budget was \$100,000. Expensive highlights for general government was 93% of the budget and police was 97% of budget.

Mrs. Christman also review other important information, which was pension liabilities, Act 205 valuation on 1/1/2019 Non-Uniform pension total liability \$4,037,572, 87.19% funded and unfunded liability of \$517,134. Uniform pension total liability \$7,429,960 which is 85.5% funded and unfunded liability \$1,300,134.00. In addition to pension, Other post-employment benefits for police retiree healthcare GASB 75, had an unfunded liability of \$1,583,719.

Mrs. Christman stated that the township guarantees authority debt of \$6,941,000.00 from the LPTA.

Mrs. Christman explained to the board that for 2020 the township added \$597,590 to the unreserved fund balance.

2021 MMO Non-Uniform Pension Plan—Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve the 2021 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) Non-Uniform Pension Plan \$180,854. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

2021 MMO Police Pension Plan—Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve the 2021 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) Police Pension Plan \$340,976. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Award the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract to Telco—Commissioner Lopez made the motion to award the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract to Telco of Reading, PA in the amount of \$3,620. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Warrant #900 Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #900 for the month of August 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 August 2020. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen thanked Jamie Schlesinger for the presentation he gave tonight.

Commissioner Mohollen also thanked Michele Christman for her presentation and for all of her great work she has done over the years.

Commissioner Lopez—Commissioner Lopez thanked Michele Christman for the wonderful job she did presenting financial landscape of the township.

Commissioner Lopez also thanked the trash committee for reviewing all of the documents and researching the price increase and why they took place and he appreciates their hard work.

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty thanked Mr. Wagner for bringing Jamie Schlesinger out tonight and giving him explanation for the large borrowing the township may want to consider.

Commissioner McGroarty also thanked Michele Christman for her continued hard work, especially with the audit review.

Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz thanked Michele Christman for doing a great job at the township and stated that the board appreciates it.

Commissioner Foltz also thanked Katie Vlahos for her work with the township.

Commissioner Foltz thanked the trash committee for their hard work when it came to the trash contract and the financial side of it.

Mr. Wagner—Mr. Wagner Gerald Richards Phase I Park Project is well under way; they are doing a great job so far. John Fogel is doing a great job working with the contractor and with the various submittals.

Mr. Wagner stated that the project at Woodland Drive is wrapping up and it should be completed soon. Mr. Wagner thanked Brookside Country Club for giving a lay down area for the construction equipment.

Mr. Wagner spoke with Miller Brothers who are connecting individual gas customer to the new gas main along North Pleasantview Road. They stated that they will be off of North Pleasantview Road in a month as long as the weather holds up.

Solicitor Garner – Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Vlahos
Township Secretary