

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2020

PRIOR TO THE MEETING SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS:

Pursuant to the First-Class Township Code, His Hone District Justice Edward C. Kropp, Sr., District 38-1-12, administered the Oath of Office to the Township's most recently elected officials from the November 2019 election.

**Bruce L. Foltz
Robert Mohollen
Michael McGroarty**

The following were in attendance:

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 6, 2020 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz President, Earl E. Swavely, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen and Michael McGroarty.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Charles Garner, Solicitor; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal, Jen Marsteller, Tax Collector and Kathryn Vlahos, Secretary were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REORGANIZATION:

Mr. Wagner asked for nominations for the position of President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lopez made a motion to nominate Bruce L. Foltz as President. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Wagner turned the meeting over to the Board President Foltz, who asked for nominations for the position of Vice President of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to nominate Earl E. Swavely as Vice President. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Commissioner Foltz read the following nominations for board officers, board committees, conference groups, staff positions and professional advisors:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Board President | Bruce L. Foltz |
| Board Vice-President | Earl E. Lopez |
| Vacancy Board | Garry R. Schmoltze |
| Solicitor | Charles D. Garner, Jr. and the firm of Wolf Baldwin & Associates |
| Engineer | Bursich Associates |
| Secretary | Kathryn Vlahos |
| Township Treasurer | Jennifer Marsteller |
| Deputy Township Treasurer | Jeanne Lockey |
| Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer | Joseph Groff |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Fire Marshal | Lewis E. Babel, Jr. |
| Deputy Fire Marshal | Joseph Groff |
| Assistant Fire Marshal | Richard Lengel |
| Emergency Management Coordinator | Raymond Lopez |
| Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator | Michael Foltz |
| Asst. Emergency Management Coordinator | Eric Linsenbigler |
| | Kathryn Vlahos |
| | William James |
| C.A.O. for Pension Funds | Edward Wagner |

COMMITTEES

The following committees are hereby re-affirmed:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Finance/Budget | Robert Mohollen Michael McGroarty |
| Police Committee | Earl Swavely Raymond Lopez |

CONFERENCE GROUPS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Joint Pottsgrove Recreation Board | Michael McGroarty (elected official) Gerilyn Keohane (citizen rep) |
| Regional Planning | Raymond Lopez Tom Troutman |
| Economic Development | Raymond Lopez |
| Building | Bruce Foltz Raymond Lopez |
| Fire | Earl Swavely |
| Trash | Robert Mohollen |
| County of Governments (C.O.G.) | Bruce L. Foltz |
| Highway | Bruce L. Foltz |

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1204-20 and accept all nominations as read by Commissioner Foltz. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

LIEUTENANT SWEATING-IN CEREMONY:

Chief Foltz explained went through a competitive process to reline the chain of command structure in the police department. There were four candidates consisted of three (3) sergeants and one (1) detective who went through a rigidus process since August to come to a final conclusion. All candidates did extremely well, but in the end, there could only be one candidate promoted. Chief Foltz stated that he is honored to say that he held the position prior to taking office of Chief of Police in 2012, where he had a strong working relationship with the former Chief Shade and he looks forward to sharing that bond with Sergeant William James who is being promoted as Lieutenant.

Sergeant William James was sworn-in as Lieutenant by the Honorable Edward C. Kropp, Sr., Magisterial District 38-1-12.

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 December 19, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

State Representative Joe Ciresi— Mr. Ciresi stated that he stopped by the meeting to welcome all of the new members that were sworn in. He looks forward to working with them and if LPT needs anything to please reach out to him. It is a great honor to be able to serve the community, and thanked all for their service to the township.

REPORTS:**Police**

Chief Foltz presented the Police Report for the month of December 2019 and the annual report from 2019.

| | |
|--|------------|
| CALLS FOR SERVICE | 954 |
| ASSISTS: | |
| Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD | 9 |
| Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD | 1 |
| TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: | |
| Violations Indicated | 31 |
| DUI Arrests | 5 |
| CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS: | |
| Violations Indicated | 33 |
| Adults Arrested | 8 |
| Juveniles Handled | 7 |

- There was an order placed for ten body cameras as part of the body worn camera program.
- The police department received several traffic complaints in December that resulted in traffic studies. One was on Mulberry Street to restrict parking on the road way. The study resulted in warranting for a no parking on that street but with the events that will be held at the school there was a compromise that was made. The second complaint was between Rowland Street and Sunnybrook Road, with speeding in that area. A study was conducted and there is no change warranted for that road way. The road will be monitored in the future.
- The Detectives are investigating a shooting that took place in Rolling Hill Development on December 11, 2019. A person of interest has been identified but there is not a lot of corporation with the victims and witnesses.
- Two Chevrolet Tahoe's have been ordered from Moyers Chevrolet with this year's budget and should be in sometimes early this year.

Summary of 2019 activities

- Annual calls for service in 2019 was 12,138.
- 694 Traffic Citation were issued in 2019.
- 210 adults were arrested in 2019.
- 75 juveniles were handled in 2019.

- 760 criminal violations were changed in 2019.
- Expended 1,417 hours of overtime, over 38% of the overtime cost was reimbursed to the township through private contract details or state funding enforcement activities.
- The UCR Report is not accessible due to the state changing over to NIBRS, National Incidence Based Recording System.

Chief Foltz explained that Officer Tantorno was brought on January 7, 2019 and will meet his one-year probation status on January 7, 2020. Chief Foltz stated that his performance has been outstanding, which is why he would like the board to approve Officer Tantorno as a full time Lower Pottsgrove Police Officer. **SEE NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Foltz also stated that Officer Christopher Vasek is also doing very well and is looking to report on him next month for his full-time position offer.

Emergency Management

- There were no EOC activations for the month of December.

Summary of 2019 activities

- There were three activations for 2019, all were weather related.
- Successful Limerick Power Plant Drill with positive response from the PEMA representative that was present during the drill.
- Roughly 20 trainings that EOC team members attended.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel highlighted the following statistics from the December 2019 Fire Marshal report:

| Station | Total Calls | Total Hrs. of Service | Total Personnel Hrs. | Total Personnel Training Hrs. | Total Fundraising Hrs. |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sanatoga (Station 58) | 19 | 22 hrs. 55min | 49 hrs. 0min | 244 hrs. 30min | |
| Ringling Hill (Station 59) | 17 | | | | |

(Hours are approximate)

Highway Public Works Department

Commissioner Foltz presented the December report.

C.O.G

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report.

Engineering

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:

- **Sanatoga Green-** On December 16, 2019 the PADEP issued a review letter for the revised Sewage Facilities Planning Module package. The applicant is currently working

to address the comments. A Grading Permit for the overall site was issued on December 19, 2019. The permit is for rough grading purposes, primarily for installation of rock construction entrances, establishing a laydown area and job trailer, and initial clearing.

- **Spring Valley Farms Subdivision - Phase 3**-No change from previous report - Site work, sanitary sewer, and road improvement work is ongoing. They are awaiting confirmation from PennDOT that the improvements to Bleim Road and Pleasantview Road are satisfactory prior to the start of Phase 3 building construction.

Solicitor

Solicitor Garner provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during the month of December and there was nothing to comment on at this time. Mr. Garner thanked the board for the reappointment as solicitor for 2020.

Treasure Report

Jennifer Marsteller stated that currently the total collected for taxes has been 98.58% of the real estate taxes 2019 and in 2018 she collected 98.43%.

Park and Recreation

Mr. Wagner reported that the township has received a revised NPDES permit from the Conservation District and is hopeful that bids for Gerald Richards can go out in the 30-45 days.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission

Regional Planning Meeting will take place on January 22, 2020.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday January 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. where they will be discussing the bids to replace 1,400 linear feet of sewer main along portions of North Valley Road from Buchert Road to Valley Court. The board is working on another sewer replacement in the Woodland Drive Development.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: Commissioner Foltz read a letter from a resident who is concerned about the current trash collection compared to Pottstown Borough. Commissioner Foltz stated that one of reasons the trash contract is not the same as Pottstown Borough is due to cost. Mr. Wagner stated that he will talk with the resident and let him know why the contract is the way it is.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treichler Enterprises Zoning Hearing Application— Jeff Karver stated that he is an attorney from Boyertown representing Treichler Enterprises in their zoning hearing application. Mr. Karver discussed with the board the new application that they will be turning in to the township, will now consist of subdivision the existing parcel at 2050 N. Charlotte Street into two parcels. Having two separate parcels will take away the concern of the two use groups on one parcel as with the original application. After the board listened to the new plan for the application for the property located at 2050 North Charlotte Street, Commissioner Lopez made a motion to

withdraw the opposition towards their pending zoning application. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item added to the Agenda Offer of full time Police Officer to Michael Tantorno—

Commissioner Swavely made a motion to retain Officer Tantorno as a full time Officer at Lower Pottsgrove Police Department. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion.

Commissioner Foltz opened for public comment on the motion of Officer Tantorno becoming a full time Officer at Lower Pottsgrove Police Department. Being no public comments Commissioner Foltz closed for public comments and the motion was approved 5-0 in favor.

Award On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Bid— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to award the On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Bids to Penn Petroleum Inc. of Boyertown. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Advertise Equipment Bid— Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to advertise Equipment Rental Bid for consideration at the February 20th 2020 meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Weidenhammer Reimbursement—Commissioner Swavely made a motion to approve Sergeant Scott Weidenhammer' s request for reimbursement for tuition and books for St. Joseph University for the amount of \$5,572.00. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Burnick Reimbursement—Commissioner Swavely made a motion to approve Officer Scott Burnick request for reimbursement for tuition and books for St. Joseph University for the amount of \$5,617.00. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Meitzler Payout—Commissioner Lopez made a motion to payout Officer Meitzler for Holiday, Personal and Vacation Time for 2019 in the amount of \$14,416.00. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

2397 Villa Drive Agreement— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to execute the Low-Pressure Line Connection Agreement for 2397 Villa Drive. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Resolution #1205-20— Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to reappoint Anthony Cherico to the Lower Pottsgrove Planning Commission. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1206-20— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to reappoint Frank Cebular to the Lower Pottsgrove Planning Commission. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1207-20— Commissioner Swavely made a motion to reappoint James Vlahos to the Lower Pottsgrove Sewer Authority. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1208-20— Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to appoint Patricia Mazeski to the Lower Pottsgrove Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1209-20— Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to reappoint Michael Boccella to the Lower Pottsgrove Zoning Hearing Board. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1210-20— Commissioner Swavely made a motion to appoint Todd Daniels as an alternative member to the Lower Pottsgrove Zoning Hearing Board. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1211-20— Commissioner Lopez made a motion to reappoint Michael Font to the Lower Pottsgrove Building Code Appeals Board. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1212-20— Commissioner Lopez made a motion to reappoint Joseph Chrisman to the Lower Pottsgrove Building Code Appeals Board. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #1213-20— Commissioner Swavely made a motion to appoint Michael Levering to the Lower Pottsgrove Building Code Appeals Board. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution #453-R— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve amendment for establishing certain fees, deposits and escrows payable to the Township. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Ordinance No. 346— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Ordinance 346 amending Chapter 228, Section 27 Vehicles Weight Limits Established on Certain Streets and Bridges. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant #892- Warrant No. 892 for December 2019 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty congratulated Lieutenant William James with his promotion in the Lower Pottsgrove Police Department who will be a valuable asset to the community. Commissioner McGroarty also congratulated all board members who were appointed or reappointed tonight.

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen echoed Commissioner McGroarty's comments and congratulated William James on his promotion.

Commissioner Mohollen asked Mr. Wagner if he could provide the board with a list of bridges in the township that the township is responsible for. This will allow for the budget committee plan for future expenditures that might arise in the future.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez echoed all comments and congratulated all the volunteers who stepped up to the plate to fill vacancies on boards. Congratulated Lieutenant William James and also thanked the other three candidates who were in the running for Lieutenant. Commissioner Lopez thanked Chief Foltz for his dedication in promoting the lieutenant position.

Commissioner Swavely – Commissioner Swavely thanked the Chief for pursuing the vacancy in that Lieutenant spot and keeping the command staff up so that the daily needs are met. Thanked the Civil Service Commission for their dedication and hard work in the process of the promotion.

Commissioner Foltz— Commissioner Foltz thanked fellow Commissioner for having the trust and faith in him to be reelected for president of the board.

Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner updated the board of the preliminary estimates for the intersection of High Street and Pleasantview Road regarding the left arrow does not meet warrants and PennDOT would like to meet with the township to talk about some timing issues in the future.

Solicitor Garner – had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Vlahos

Kathryn Vlahos
Township Secretary