

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**April 6, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 6, 2020 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen and Michael McGroarty.

Bruce L. Foltz and Earl E. Swavely were present through live video feed.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Charles Garner, Solicitor and Kathryn Vlahos, Secretary were also in attendance.

Michael A. Foltz was also present through live video feed.

Commissioner Lopez stated the meeting will be recorded and also streamed live on Facebook due to COVID 19 pandemic, 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 McGroarty made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None.

REPORTS:**Emergency Management**

Commissioner Lopez stated that there will be a briefing on Emergency management later in the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:**2020-02 Zoning Hearing Application requesting a special exception from Section 250-231—**

Mr. Wagner stated that the zoning application 2020-02 for Moove In Storage at 2148 East High Street, for a special exception for relief that was received in March of 2019 which stated that they needed to obtain building permits within 6 months. They did not receive a building permit in that time, so they are requesting special exception to extend building permits for 12 months. The original hearing was scheduled for early April 2020 which now is pushed back to mid-May due to Covid-19. The plans are the same they are just looking for the time extension since they have to go through land development process

OLD BUSINESS: None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Management Coordinator Briefing on Township's response to Covid-19

Commissioner Lopez stated has been sending out updates to the Commissioners of the current situation with the Covid-19 in Lower Pottsgrove Township as well as Montgomery County. After the last township meeting on March 2, 2020 Emergency Management team pulled together to create a proactive approach and worked on developing a plan for the township. Since that time, the Emergency Management team has exchanged ideas and shared directives and orders received from the Federal, State and County agencies to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents and township employees. The team has been in the contact with the township daily in reference to schedules, public access and coordination with building inspections. Organized and participated in virtual meetings with the Emergency Management team and other agencies that provide support. They worked with the IT Consultant to develop an email address and a portal for the community to communicate with the Emergency Management team directly during Covid-19. Chief Foltz added information to Crime Watch Website to notify the community on how to contact Emergency Management. The website is kept up to date and has Covid-19 information under the News section. On the behalf of the Emergency Management Team Commissioner Lopez would like to thank the residents of Lower Pottsgrove Township who are doing their part to flatten the curve by following the guidelines from the Center for Disease and Control along with Federal, State and County guidelines. Additional Commissioner Lopez would like to thank everyone for their assistance, support and encouragement during this event.

Commissioner Foltz added that every Friday morning Commissioner Lopez, Manager Edward Wagner and himself have a meeting to discuss the schedule for the staff as well as safety measures to keep the staff distant from each other.

Policy Directive on the Covid-19 Emergency- Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to adopt the Policy Directive on the Covid-19 Emergency. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Police Department Directive for Covid-19 Exposure Protocol— Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to adopt Police Department Directive for Covid-19 Exposure Protocol. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and the motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 against and Commissioner Foltz abstaining for reason of conflict of interest.

Purchase of Dallas Data Software Program— Commissioner Foltz made the motion to approve the purchase of Dallas Data Software Program to process trash bills for \$4,272. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and the motion was approved 4 in favor, 0 against and Commissioner Lopez abstaining for reason of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Resolution 1216-20— Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Resolution 1216-20 extension of the 2% Discount Tax Period 30 Days or April 30, 2020. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution 1217-20— Commissioner Foltz made a motion to approve Resolution 1217-20 Declaration of Disaster Emergency Covid-19. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant #894- Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #894 for the month of February. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasure's Report- Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2020. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant #895- Warrant No. 895 for the month of March 2020 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty thanked Mr. Wagner and the staff for keeping the building open and finding creative ways to serve the public while keeping both the staff and the residents as safe as possible. Commissioner McGroarty also thanked the first responders for continuing to keep everyone safe even with the situation as it is. Commissioner McGroarty thanked Commissioner Lopez and the rest of the Emergency Management Staff for all of the work that they have done over the last month. He also, thanked the community and those with essential businesses whose employees are out every day putting themselves at risk so that everyone can get the essential services that are needed.

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen echoed all comments from Commissioner McGroarty. Thanked all that are out working the front lines and stated that it is really appreciated.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez thanked the residents for their behavior which is what is flattening the line which is what is keeping our numbers low in reference to the number of individuals that have been positive with Covid-19.

Commissioner Lopez stated that he had a video conference with Congresswoman Madeleine Dean on the Cares Act which is what is going to give the township reimbursement for any cost that had become unexpected to the township. The Cares Act defines a local municipality as having a population of greater than 500,000 residents. Congresswoman Dean explained that it would be up to Governor Wolf to decide how he is going to disperse the share that the State gets down to the Municipalities.

Commissioner Swavely – had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz thanked the board for coming in and making the meeting possible.

Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner informed the board that in their packet is the inspection report from Traffic Planning and Design that he received late in the afternoon. The fee would be \$2,500 to inspect the bridges on Pruss Hill Road. Mr. Wagner would like to act on the inspections due to a Montco 2040 grant that is coming up that is contingent upon the inspection of the small bridge.

Item added to the agenda Proposal for Bridge Study—

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to accept the proposal from Traffic Planning and Design to conduct the study on the bridges on Pruss Hill Road for the price of \$2,500. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lopez opened for public comment on the motion to accept the proposal from Traffic Planning and Design to conduct the study on the bridges on Pruss Hill Road for the price of \$2,500. Being no public comments Commissioner Lopez closed for public comments and the motion was approved 5-0 in favor.

Solicitor Garner – had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos
Township Secretary