

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 4, 2018**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, September 4, 2018 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. 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, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez, Bob Mohollen and Michael McGroarty.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Matthew Hovey, Solicitor; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal and Sharon Colletti, Secretary.

President Foltz announced the meeting would be recorded and asked speakers to please state their name, address and nature of business for the record.

Solicitor Hovey stated that prior to tonight's meeting the board held an executive session to discuss a matter of real estate and a matter of personnel.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the regularly scheduled August 6, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:**

**Rennie Settanni of Ryan Homes**, spoke in regards to the Sanatoga Green project. He stated that they are the equitable purchaser of the 147 townhome lots in the community and have been in discussions with the underlying owner and township staff in regards to the townhomes to be built there. The bulk of the discussion pertained to the percentage of stone materials on the façade of the townhomes and he was looking for feedback from the Commissions on the provided elevation which illustrates the required stone. The Commissioners have requested further clarification from the zoning officer to review Section 250/158.18. (B).1 of the Gateway Mixed Use District pertain the percentage of brick and stone of exterior building walls before any decisions or approvals.

**Ted Drauschak, Castle Drawbridge** approached the Board in regards to the DEP sewer module required for their project. He is requesting the Board sign-off on the planning module so that they can begin their approval process with DEP while they wait for the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to grant the water franchise area to PA American Water. Per the email from Kelly Sweeney of DEP, this is an acceptable option for them to have a will serve letter in e module while they wait for official approval from the PUC

Chad Camburn spoke on the Applicant's behalf and stated that in his opinion, once he receives and reviews the final documents for completeness, the Board can approve the appropriate Resolution required for the Applicant's submission to DEP.

Solicitor Hovey stated that there are no legal objections or anything pressing that any action needs to be taken tonight. He would normally defer back to the Engineer for his recommendation, and a Resolution could be adopted subject to Engineer approval.

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to authorize the President to execute the requested Resolution 1171-18 subject to the approval of the engineer pending review of the final documents. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion; vote was 3-2 in favor.

**Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road** had various comments including the topics of how to handle the spotted lanternfly problem, getting grants to purchase respirators for our fire companies, how we advertise the sale of used vehicles and how the cell tower project is moving.

#### REPORTS:

Chief Foltz presented the Police Report for the month

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>1,003</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>4</b>

On September 27, 2018 at 7PM an "Autism Awareness seminar" is being held at Gatsby's at Sunnybrook for the public. The presentation is being given by Dr. Charles Barbera, Chair of Emergency Medicine at Reading Hospital and Amy Snyder, RN

A traffic study conducted at Hause Avenue resulting from various complaints for speeding indicated a possible need for the posting of no parking signs on the street. The results will be forthcoming once the study has been finalized.

Commissioner Swavely asked about the status of the Department creating an eligibility list for potential officers to hire in future. Chief Foltz stated that they had conducted interviews of nine candidates who are eligible and are competing with other municipalities for officers to hire. Commissioner Swavely made the motion to authorize the Civil Service Commission to move forward to continue on establishing a current police eligibility list. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

### Emergency Management

- There were no EOC activations during the month of August, however, throughout the month of August there were numerous severe weather watches and alerts. The watches and alerts also extended to flash flooding and local area flooding for our area. Lower Pottsgrove Township did experience an event of flash flooding on August 22<sup>nd</sup> which caused roads to be closed and minor damage to some areas in Lower Pottsgrove Township. We also experienced numerous occasions of extreme heat and high humidity causing concerns for the elderly, the very young and individuals who work outside.
- On August 9<sup>th</sup>, Ray Lopez attended the EMC Training conducted at the Montgomery County EOC on Hurricane Awareness. And on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Ray Lopez attended the EMC Training on Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture.

### Fire Marshal

Lew Babel highlighted the following statistics from his June report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	25	20 hrs 45 min	41 hrs 25 min	56 hrs 5 min	
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	29				

(Hours are approximate)

The township fire departments, Sanatoga and Ringling Hill, held a large fire drill on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> involving both units of the Genesis HealthCare complex which is required by state code. This year all residents were evacuated as part of the drill and all 61 residents plus staff were evacuated in 28 minutes.

Mr. Babel invited everyone to attend the annual chicken barbeque which is being held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-6:00 or until sold out.

**Highway—Public Works Department:** President Foltz presented the August report and stated it will be posted on the bulletin board.

**C.O.G.** — The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2018 at North Coventry Township.

**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:** Latest review letters were issued on August 16<sup>th</sup> for Phase 1 consisting of the townhome portion. The applicant is requesting Final Approval for Phase 1 only at this time, while they are concurrently working through the requirements for Phases 2 and 3. The applicant attended the August Planning Commission meeting and requested a recommendation for final approval. The Planning Commission voted not to recommend final approval at this time.
- **Spring Valley Farms Subdivision - Phase 2:** Revised plans and a construction cost estimate for site and sewer improvements are currently under review to finalize the plans and agreements for recording.
- **Gerald Richards Park Improvements – Phases 1 & 2:** We received an Administrative Complete letter from the Montgomery County Conservation District on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are currently awaiting approval of the E&S design and the NPDES permit. Looking for an early spring 2019 construction schedule.
- **Rupert Road Bridge:** Additional clearing was done and relocation of the Verizon utility pole and wires. Comcast still needs to move their wires for the bridge demolition equipment. Once Comcast lines are removed, demolition can begin. The precast bridge segments are expected to begin arriving onsite by the end of September.
- **Sanatoga Marketplace (site next to Turkey Hill):** A conference call was held with the developer, Township Manager and Bursich staff on August 21 to discuss the status of sewage planning in the township and requirements for sewage approvals through the PADEP.
- **663 Storage Center:** The project include the construction of storage units at 663 N. Charlotte Street. A staff meeting was held on August 22 to discuss the project and plan requirements. The applicant will modify the draft plans based on our discussion and will submit a formal application for review.

**Treasurer**—Mr. Wagner stated the August Treasurers Report would be forthcoming

**Solicitor**—Solicitor Hovey provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during the month of August and asked if there were any questions.

**Parks and Recreation** Mr. Wagner reported that we received correspondence from Pottstown Health and Wellness stating that we have closed out round one of our \$25,000 grant. We received the remainder of the 10%. He gave an update on the Pottstown Health and Wellness presentation from July stating that they have met with all eight municipalities and are looking for the Board to take some sort of action sometime early October.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission** Mr. Wagner stated that the August meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority** the next meeting will be on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and will be reviewing the Infiltration & Inflow reports generated by our contractor, Sewer Specialties, based on the high flows experienced due to the heavy rains.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:**

Mr. Wagner presented the details for the zoning hearing to be held on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> which requests a dimensional variance from the side and rear yard setback at 591 N. Pleasantview Road. The Board offered no comments in regard to the application.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to advertise the Master Traffic Ordinance 339. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Commissioner Lopez updated the Board in regards to the activities of the Infrastructure Committee. He stated the committee has met several times recently to establish what building size we may need. The committee met with the Township's Information Technology Coordinator to determine what size server room(s) we should have and discussed some of the wiring scenarios we saw at some of the other municipalities and want to ensure we get things laid out the way we need to in order to incorporate these ideas. The committee has started to discuss subcontractor needs and are waiting for the Architect to get back to us regarding the size and layout of the building.

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to hire Geyer Auction Companies to auction items from the three properties along High Street. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0) Mr. Wagner stated that we received correspondence from Solicitor Garner stating there was no conflict with hiring Mark Aikens, Owner of Geyer Auction Companies for this project as Barbara Aikens is our Township Auditor.

Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to authorize the request for snow plowing quotes for the 2018-2019 winter season. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Mr. Wagner stated that the newly designed Township website would be going live this week and that Sharon and Katie had spent a lot of time including several days of training in preparation for its launch. Sharon Colletti gave a presentation to the Board outlining the design and features of the new website and encouraged everyone to check it out and to sign up for alerts and notifications that are available. The website address will remain the same.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

None

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to accept Warrant #875 for the month of July. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Mr. Wagner stated that Warrant #876 for the month of August would be available next week for review.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner McGroarty** thanked Katie and Sharon for all of the work put into the website. He stated it is much more user friendly and that he was able to find what he was looking for relatively quickly and in a variety of ways. He then thanked Chad for the service he provides to the Board and hopes he knows how much he personally trusts his opinion. He thanked Chief Foltz and is looking forward to hearing about the Autism Awareness Seminar.

**Commissioner Mohollen** stated he was away during some of the heavy weather events, but heard great things about how township staff addressed the issues and commended them on their efforts. He initiated a discussion with Chief in regards to different medical conditions, such as diabetes, that could have symptoms which mirror those of a drug overdose and asked if the officers undergo trainings on those kinds of scenarios.

**Commissioner Lopez** thanked all who participated in the website upgrade and stated it was well overdue. He reiterated the Sanatoga Fire Company event on Saturday and encouraged everyone to attend if they could. He thanked Chief Foltz and Ed Wagner for all their help as the eyes and ears in the township to keep him informed when there are road closures, etc. resulting from weather events in the township. He also thanked the Chief for planning the upcoming Autism Awareness Seminar and feels it is a great event.

**Commissioner Swavely** wanted to commend the Fire Marshal on the successful fire drill at the Sanatoga Court facility and recognized all the fire and police personnel who made the drill such a success.

**President Foltz** wanted to thank Commissioner Lopez for keeping and organizing the records and notes from visits the Infrastructure Committee made to other township facilities so we have a clear picture of what we liked and didn't like and what we wanted to incorporate into our new building. It helps to keep the Commissioners informed. He thanked Sharon for the time put into the new website.

**Mr. Wagner** announced that we picked up our new F550 truck and encouraged the Commissioners to make a visit to the pole barn to take a look at the new up-to-date technology and features that are included.

**Solicitor Hovey** announced that immediately following the meeting the Board will adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a matter of personnel and would not be returning afterwards and there will be no action.

President Foltz announced that the next meeting would be held on September 20th.  
There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti  
Township Secretary