

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 5, 2018

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 5, 2018 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert 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, Earl E. Swavely, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez, Bob 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 and Sharon Colletti, Secretary.

Solicitor Garner stated that prior to tonight's meeting at 6:00 p.m. the board held an executive session to discuss a matter of personnel, real estate and litigation. As a result of the discussion, it is recommended to the Board to add a motion under "new business" to consider the conditional hire of a new police officer.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the regularly scheduled October 1, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Jamie Ottaviano Attorney for Yerger, Daylor, Allebach, Scheffey & Picardi and John Gilliland of Investment Real Estate made a presentation in regard to a proposed storage facility at the property located at 2148 E. High Street. He presented renderings to the Commissioners showing what the facility would look like and offered to take anyone interested on a tour of one of their existing facilities. Mr. Gilliland asked for the Board's consideration of this project. President Foltz thanked Mr. Gilliland for the presentation and will get back to him on a possible tour of one of his facilities.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Tony Doyle, Kepler Road had a couple questions regarding the presentation from Mr. Gilliland. Mr. Doyle asked if all aspects of the Administration would be moving into the new building when it is finalized – specifically in regard to the Tax Collector. President Foltz stated this has not been determined yet. Mr. Doyle asked the Chief if the idea of drones in the Township having would be a possibility in the township. Mr. Doyle then

asked when the Comcast Agreement expires and is hopeful we can get trees along the wires taken care of.

Representatives from NVR, Ryan Homes, stated they were here in the event there were any questions in regards to the zoning hearing application being reviewed tonight.

Glenn Garis, Garis Real Estate Solution spoke in regard to him and his wife purchasing the property at 1559 North Pleasantview Road (aka the Saylor Farm) and refurbishing it into event center to be utilized for hosting a variety of events such as weddings, reunions, holiday parties, etc. Chuck Colletti, Deer Ridge Drive expressed concerns regarding potential noise pollution coming from the property.

REPORTS:

Chief Foltz presented the Police Report for the month

CALLS FOR SERVICE	1156
ASSISTS:	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	8
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	3
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	
Violations Indicated	39
DUI Arrests	3
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	
Violations Indicated	
Adults Arrested	19
Juveniles Handled	21

- Chief Foltz is recommending that the Board give approval for conditional offers of employment to (2) police officer candidates to fill vacancies in the department that will be coming between this month and June 2019. The Civil Service Commission has certified an eligibility list and we are competing with various other agencies in selecting common candidates.
 - Commissioner Swavely made the motion to make a conditional offer of employment to Aaron Diefenderfer to fill one of the pending vacancies. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)
- Lower Pottsgrove Police received a donation of \$1500.00 from Lester & Mary Mountz who reside in Berks County. The donors are both retired teachers and wished to help support a body-worn camera program which is being rolled out for our School Resource Officer. The program will roll-out in coming months with the purchase of the camera, finalization of policy and training for the SRO on the camera. Chief Foltz asked the Board to please reach out with some sort of acknowledgement to the Mountz’s as well.
- The Department has purchased (8) ArchAngel II Control Systems for the marked patrol cars. They will be installed in each patrol car by the end of the month. They will go hand-in-hand with the distracted driving policy (Resolution 1173-18) as they will disable the Mobile Data Computers when the cars are in motion

- Chief is asking the Board to give approval to Resolution #1173-18, Proposed Police policy on Using handheld devices while driving
- The 2nd annual “Coffee with the Chief” event is being held at Gatsby’s on December 1st, 2018 from 8:30 -10:30 a.m.
- Chief Foltz would like to thank all the staff that helped make our recent Community Day event a success. A special Thank you to John Fogel, Jane Smale and Sgt. William James.
- Police have increased traffic enforcement efforts along Buchert Road and Kauffman Road due to citizen complaints about speeding, stop sign violations and careless/reckless driving.
- Penn DOT has erected a new 3-way stop at Buchert Rd & Kauffman Rd.
- Radar speed sign was placed on Bliem Road to help alert motorists to their speed and mitigate complaints about speeding on this stretch of roadway. There is a considerable disregard for the posted 35 mph speed limit with frequent alerts being received for cars in excess of 55 mph and some as high as 68mph. Periodic enforcement has been done and additional resources will be devoted to this area with strict enforcement of the speed limit.
- Police have been conducting private contracted traffic calming services for J.D. Eckman as they complete work along 422 in area of Armand Hammer Blvd.
- LPPD will be welcoming an intern during the month of December and January. Katrina Nielsen, age 21, of Lords Valley, PA, is currently a junior studying Criminal Justice at Albright College.
- Limerick Generating Station donated \$60k to MSWAT-W for upgrading our ballistic vest

Emergency Management

- There were no EOC activations in October, however, the Emergency Management Team did brace themselves for severe weather on several occasions in October. October became a month scattered with severe weather impacts to our area as the hurricane season punched the southern and eastern coast of our nation. During these strikes of heavy rain and flash flooding, our Critical Incident Management Trailer demonstrates its usefulness by providing a mobile warehouse of traffic cones and “Road Closure” signage and barricades to cordon off streets and roads unfit for vehicle traffic.
- On October 10th, R. Lopez attended the Route 422 Construction Management Meeting.
- On October 17th Chief Foltz and R. Lopez attended Emergency Management Training at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy.
- On October 24th Twp. Manager Ed Wagner and R. Lopez attended the Briefing conducted at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy that reviewed the Montgomery County Fire Service Study which was recently completed by a third-party consultant.
- The Emergency Management Team spent significant time preparing for the Pottsgrove Pioneer Athletic Conference Playoff Game held on October 26, 2018.
- Commissioner Lopez announced that the 422 Construction Management meeting was the last meeting for us and the turnover to the township was discussed. Some

road damage both before and after the construction zone at Armand Hammer needs to be repaired and J.D. Eckman committed to having the repairs complete prior to the winter weather. In the next week or so, all signage will be removed and cleaned up.

Fire Marshal

Lew Babel highlighted the following statistics from his October report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	27	25 hrs 45 min	62 hrs 25 min	77 hrs 50 min	
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	21				

(Hours are approximate)

Highway—Public Works Department: President Foltz presented the October report.

C.O.G. — the next meeting will be held on April 9, 2019 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building. It was decided meetings will now be twice per year and no dues will be required for 2019.

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:

- **Spring Valley Farms Subdivision - Phase 2:** A pre-construction meeting was held on October 12 and the contractor has begun installing E&S controls. The Grading Permit Plan is under review and should be ready soon so they can begin earthwork.
- **Chesmont Storage Expansion:** Township staff met with the property owner and engineer on October 10 to discuss their intentions with the property and improvements that can be made to the aesthetics. Landscaping and lighting plans were reviewed; the owner agreed to replace the chain link fence with one similar to wrought-iron style along the street and remove the Tree of Heaven trees within the property to help with the Spotted Lantern Fly infestation.
- **Rupert Road Bridge:** Both bridge footers are complete and the bridge was installed on Friday before the storm. Wing walls will then be installed and the excavated areas around the bridge will be backfilled.

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

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

Parks and Recreation Mr. Wagner stated the 4th Annual Community Day was a big success and a great effort from all the departments, police and fire companies. In addition, on the 26th of November, the Montgomery County Planning Commission will be at the Park and Rec meeting to begin working on the revised open space plan.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission Mr. Wagner stated the last meeting was October 24th. The County Planner spoke in regards to Bike Montco which ties into our Open Space Plan.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority the next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13th due to the Veterans Day Holiday. The Authority recently advertised bids for work on some aging sewer mains along Sunnyside Avenue. Part of this work will be covered under the Community Block Grant received in 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

Mr. Wagner presented the details for the zoning hearings to be held on Tuesday, November 20th:

- 2018-10 Zoning Hearing Application NVR Homes requesting variances on dimensional setbacks (side/rear yards) for 27 Lots in the Spring Valley Farms Development.
Commissioner Lopez made the motion requesting the Township Manager attend the zoning hearing and oppose this request. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)
- 2018-11 Zoning Hearing Application 755 Ridgeview Lane requesting variances on dimensional setbacks (front/rear yards) and the size limit for accessory buildings
- 2018-12 Zoning Hearing Application Castle Sanatoga, LLC requesting variances to the architectural guidelines in the Gateway Mixed-Use (GMU) District

OLD BUSINESS:

None

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner McGroarty regrettably made the motion to accept the resignation of Patricia Bleakley as a Township Representative to the Pottsgrove Recreation Board, personally thanked her for her service and requested the Board write a letter of appreciation and have a plaque made in appreciation for her years of service. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

The Infrastructure Committee has been working diligently to review any and all the obstacles that we foresee coming with the campus at High and South Pleasantview. In an effort to be as cautious as possible, and to ensure we are not missing anything moving forward, we feel it best to get another set of eyes on the project for the building plan and where the building might be set on the property. Commissioner Lopez made the motion

to hire Alloy 5 Architects to conduct a pre-design/schematic at a cost of \$6,800.00. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0).

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to request proposals for On-Road and Off Road Diesel Fuel. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0).

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to adopt Resolution 1173-18 incorporating the Texting/Handheld Cell Phone Policy into the Police Department Policies & Directive Manual. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to adopt Resolution 1174-18 authorizing the Township's participation in the Pottstown Regional Recreational Coordinator program for five years starting September 2019. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to approve Warrant #877 for the month of September 2018. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion; all in favor

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to accept the Treasurers report for the month of September 2018. Commissioner McGroarty seconded; all in favor (5-0)

Mr. Wagner stated that Warrant #878 for the month of October would be available later in the week for review.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty extended his compliments to the Emergency Management Team and Road Crew staff for their efficient efforts in keeping up with the storm and storm related damage Friday night, November 2nd.

Commissioner Mohollen agreed with Mike and commended all of the teams for their efforts during the storm. He felt Community Day was a big success and well received and thanked all the staff who contributed their time.

Commissioner Lopez thanked the police department and the road crew for their help in keeping him updated with what was happening on the streets Friday night as it makes reporting the situation much easier. He said the staff did an excellent job with Community Day and that it was a great event. He reminded everyone that this coming Sunday, November 11th is Veterans Day and asked that everyone to take a moment to honor those who have served for our country.

Commissioner Swavely thanked the police and emergency management crews along with public works in their clean-up efforts on Friday night.

President Foltz had no comment.

Mr. Wagner thanked Commissioner Lopez for his diligence in manning the watch desk Friday night during the storm.

Solicitor Garner had no comment.

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Colletti
Township Secretary