

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 5, 2018**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 5, 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, Stephen M. Klotz, Earl E. Swavelly, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez and Robert Mohollen.

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Jennifer V. Marsteller, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal; Charles Garner, Solicitor; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer and Sharon Colletti, Secretary.

Commissioner Klotz chaired the meeting and announced it would be recorded and asked speakers to please state their name, address and nature of business for the record.

Solicitor Garner stated that prior to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. the Board met in Executive Session to discuss a matter of Real Estate and litigation. No action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the regularly scheduled January 25, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavelly seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:**

**Tom Troutman 2469 High Street** thanked the Board for the opposition to the 40' x 60' pole barn in the Sanatoga Village District being proposed to the Zoning Hearing Board and is also in favor of the Township's acquisition of the properties on High Street and Brown Street.

**Tony Doyle 1725 Kepler Road** recognized John Fogel for always going above and beyond his "scope of work" on a daily basis. He took the opportunity to express his thanks to Commissioner Foltz for his many years of service.

Mr. Doyle questioned the decision to purchase the land for a new township campus in lieu of other possible alternatives such as adding on to our existing building or buying an existing building. Commissioner Klotz stated that we have done our due diligence in looking at all available options. Commissioner Lopez stated nothing is in stone yet and we are considering all possibilities and explained the five possible scenarios that have been evaluated. Mr. Doyle felt that the public was not being kept in the loop. Commissioner Klotz stated that matters pertaining to the acquisition of real estate did not

need to be made public, but moving forward information regarding the new campus would be discussed and would be public knowledge.

#### REPORTS:

Chief Foltz presented the Police Report for the month

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>938</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>10</b>

- Criminal Investigations:
  - LPPD was called to the scene of a structure fire on Foxtail Drive on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Fire Officials conducting an investigation into a residential home fire observed a marijuana grow operation inside the residence and notified police. Drug Task Force Officers obtained a search warrant and seized several marijuana plants, growing equipment and other paraphernalia along with several vials of liquid fentanyl.
  - Detectives are investigating the placement of a skimmer device that was placed on a debit card machine at Aldi Food Store. This is the fourth incident in which skimmers were found or attempted to be placed on local ATMs or point-of-sale card readers in the Township
  - Over the weekend police seized approximately 10 lbs. of marijuana from a home in the 1900 block of N Keim St
- Community Info:
  - On February 14<sup>th</sup> PD will unveil CrimeWatchPA network for police-community communications.
- Fleet:
  - The 2010 unmarked SRO car has been placed out of service permanently due to timing chain failure. The cost to repair it outweighs the benefit to keep it operational for the next several months as we are due to replace it with another vehicle. Car will be placed on Municibid
  - The 2015 Chev. Tahoe (Car #10) temporarily out of service after being involved in an on-duty accident at Sunnybrook which caused disabling front end damage. An insurance claim has been filed and it is at body shop.

**Emergency Management**

Eric Linsenbigler delivered highlights from the Emergency Management Reports:

- There was one EOC activation during the month of January which occurred due to a winter storm event. A Level 3 Watchdesk activation was put in place on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1100 until 1700 hours. No major problems were reported.
- On January 2nd, we received a copy of the LGS Observer Report from Montgomery County regarding our training exercise in November. The Report was positive and favorable.
- Emergency Preparedness, in cooperation with PEMA and Montgomery County emergency preparedness agencies, will be hosting a training day for Emergency Workers in the areas surrounding the Limerick Generating Station on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 0700 to 1700 at the Pottstown Middle School. Registration is required.

**Fire Marshal**

Mr. Babel highlighted the following statistics from his February report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	28	24 hrs 6 min	62 hrs 8 min	25 hrs 7 min	N/A
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	28	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

(Hours are approximate)

Mr. Babel also presented the overall statistics for 2017 and the comparison between the years 2016 and 2017. He also reiterated overall how safe our community continues to be.

**Highway—Public Works Department:** The January report will be posted on the bulletin board.

**C.O.G.**—No report.

**Engineering**—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:** The Phase 1 storm sewers, water lines and internal site curbing and base course paving are complete. The sanitary sewer in Deer Ridge Drive is complete and the temporary paving is complete. Final paving of Deer Ridge in the area of construction will be completed in the summer. Lot plans for construction of the first four houses have been approved.

- **Gerald Richards Park:** *Phase 1* includes trail, parking lot and stormwater improvements at the park. We have been informed that the NPDES permit application has been approved and the permit will be issued. Construction is anticipated to take place in early summer 2018 and will be funded by grants.

*Phase 2* includes the rehabilitation of two Little League fields, construction of a new practice field, and replacement of 1,200 lf of deteriorated trails to ADA standards, stormwater drainage improvements, and vegetated stormwater management facilities. The construction project will be funded with grants. Design and bid package preparation is underway.

**Treasurer**—Mrs. Marsteller stated that she had very little activity for January and shows liens vs what was still due. Total collections for 2017 vs. 2016 were basically identical.

**Solicitor**—Solicitor Garner provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during the month of January and stated he would be happy to discuss any topic(s) of concern.

**Parks and Recreation** Mr. Wagner stated on February 1, 2018 we received the NPDES permit for Phase I for Gerald Richards. The goal is to start the parking lot in late May and jump to the ball fields at the end of their season in June.

At the last meeting the discussion regarding the Predators Organization was tabled until current information was acquired. Mr. Wagner stated that the overall enrollment in the Predators Organization declined and only 14 children (16%) are from Lower Pottsgrove. As the Commissioners wanted to see at least 50% enrollment of Lower Pottsgrove residents, it was unanimously decided that a joint Agreement would not be entertained at this time.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission** Mr. Wagner stated that Tom Troutman attended the meeting on January 24, 2018. The main focus was a follow-up presentation by Karen Whittaker, a transportation planner for DVRPC, who spoke in regards to the Pottstown Regional Transportation Project as well as braining-storming on traffic concerns on areas they want to study within each Municipality.

#### **Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Mr. Wagner reported the next meeting of the Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018. They will discuss the application for a PA small water and sewer grant to help with improvements around N. Valley Road. The grant ranges anywhere between \$30K and \$500K with a 15% match.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:**

John Fogel, Director of Utilities, shared the plan for the upgrade of the Closed Loop Traffic Signal project. Signals at High & Sunnybrook, High & Pleasantview, Armand Hammer & Home Depot, and Armand Hammer & Medical Drive are all scheduled for a complete replacement including poles. High & Heritage will receive new signals and a

new controller. This work is being done at no cost to the Township and will have new preemption which allows emergency workers to change the lights.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to approve MOU with the Chief of Police. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. Commissioner Foltz abstained from the vote as he had no involvement in the discussions and/or decisions pertaining to the Chief's agreement. Motion granted with a vote of 4-0.

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to advertise the Equipment Rental Bid for consideration at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Foltz seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Commissioner Lopez made the motion authorizing the Township Manager to execute documents associated with the acquisition of 2238 & 2258 E. High Street and 2255 Brown Street. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

None

**Warrant #869**—Warrant #869 was in the packet for review

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Klotz** announced that he received a promotion from his employer and that he will resign from the board effective February 20, 2018. He called it a "dream job" toward which he's worked for some time. Commissioner Klotz thanked township staff members for help they had provided over the years. He praised his board colleagues for their advice, guidance and camaraderie, and acknowledged that although they occasionally disagreed on a topic they nonetheless reached decisions in the township's best interests. He encouraged the young people of the township to step up and get involved.

**Commissioner Foltz** presented Commissioner Klotz with a commemorative award and he publicly thanked him for his time and efforts during his 15 years of service to the Township. Commissioner Foltz praised Steve's willingness to assist the township in any capacity requested, and said he, Klotz, and the commissioners had worked well together as a team and that he would be greatly missed both personally and professionally.

**Commissioner Mohollen** called Commissioner Klotz a man of great passion; Commissioner Mohollen thanked Commissioner Klotz for getting him involved with the township

**Commissioner Lopez** thanked John Fogel for his exceptional work in keeping up with the roads during weather events. He stated he had the results of the 2017 Limerick Exelon Training exercise and if anyone wanted a copy he would make it available and again thanked everyone who participated in that drill.

Commissioner Lopez thanked Commissioner Klotz for his service; he commended him for his excellence, ethics, and his willingness to listen to all sides of the story.

**Commissioner Swavely** asked the Board if we could look into and get more information pertaining to the active volunteer fireman Tax Act 172. This allows Municipalities to provide credits towards income taxes or real estate property. He would like to hopefully move forward with providing this privilege to both of our fire companies.

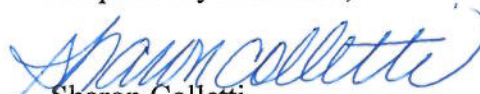
Commissioner Klotz made the motion for Commissioner Swavely to look into information and pursue Tax Act 172. Commissioner Foltz seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Commissioner Swavely thanked Commissioner Klotz for his support and for his ability to always lead people in the right direction. The Commissioner admired the way Steve interacts with the public and referred to him as a very important piece of the Township and he will be greatly missed!

**Mr. Wagner** had no comment.

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti  
Township Secretary