

## LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**February 6, 2017**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017 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 attended:

**Board of Commissioners:** Bruce L. Foltz, President; Stephen M. Klotz, Vice President; Earl E. Swavely, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez and Robert W. Mohollen.

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

President Foltz stated that the meeting will be recorded.

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

### COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

**Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road**, wanted to know who would maintain the open space acquired by the Township from Spring Valley Farms project and would the public be able to use it. Mr. Wagner stated it would be open to the public to a certain degree. Mr. Wagner stated that certain portions would have to be maintained. He stated that there is limited area for development and it would be more of a wooded passive area with trails.

### REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONS

**Police Report:** Chief Foltz, presented the Police Report for January.

#### Statistics:

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>1,041</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated (high number due to numerous counts charged against subjects in a drug case)</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>8</b>

All statistics and information are included in the Chief's report.

**Departmental Activity:**

- Department took delivery of an Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR), which was provided by Montgomery County Department of Public Safety as part of a ALPR grant the County acquired through US Department of Homeland Security. The unit is mounted on one of the marked patrol cars and is valued at approximately \$22,000
- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, we assisted Limerick Township with a barricaded gunman in a car on Masters Drive, just over the Township border. This incident involved a SWAT call-out to resolve the matter. (17) Hours of department overtime was expended on this incident.
- The Department took delivery New 2017 Dodge Charger and is being up fitted now. The decommissioned 2010 Dodge Charger was signed over to Montgomery County Emergency Vehicle Driving Center.
- It should be noted that incident from Ringing Rocks Park involving repeated complaints of loud music came to a hearing this past month before MDJ Ed Kropp. Charges against the defendant were dismissed due a loophole under the disorderly conduct statute. Both MDJ Kropp and the defense attorney recommended matters of this type are best dealt with through a properly adopted noise ordinance. As a result the Chief is convinced that in the interest of our residents we need to develop and adopt such ordinance and is asking the Board's approval to continue researching this proposed ordinance development with our solicitor and manager.

Commissioner Klotz made the motion for Chief Foltz and Solicitor Garner to move forward with the research and the process of writing an Ordinance for their review and the review of MDJ Kropp. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

**Emergency Management:** Eric Linsenbigler, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator gave the Emergency Management report.

- There was one Emergency Operations Center Activation on January 6, 2017 for which the lighting trailer was dispatched for approximately 2 ½ hours.
- During the period of January 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> the Township watch desk was opened and monitored several unrests in connection with the inauguration.
- Ray Lopez attended the 422 incident management meeting.
- Emergency Management and staff monitored winter storms and their potential impact to the township.
- Ray Lopez attended the monthly Emergency Management training and Eric Linsenbigler attended the Duties and Responsibilities and Initial Damage Reporting class. Both of these trainings were held on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Marshal:** Fire Marshal Babel noted the following statistics for the month of January:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
<b>Sanatoga (Station 58)</b>	33	34 Hours 33 Minutes	96 Hours 6 Minutes	81 Hours 30 Minutes	297 Hours 15 Minutes
<b>Ringling Hill (Station 59)</b>	37			21 Hours	173 Hours

(All hours are approximate)

The Fire Marshall also presented the 2016 Yearly report.

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
<b>Sanatoga (Station 58)</b>	342	415 Hours 24 Minutes	953 Hours 48 Minutes	1,559 Hours 30 Minutes	1,355 Hours 0 Minutes
<b>Ringling Hill (Station 59)</b>	307	Computer was still not up and running 100% to tabulate these numbers.			

The total damage from structure fires in the township were \$157,000 and \$125,000 due to frozen sprinkler pipes in an attic.

**Highway – Public Works Department:** President Foltz read the Public Works Report for the month of January 2017. The Report will be posted in the lobby.

Commissioner Klotz wanted an update in regards to the completion of the pole barn. Commissioner Foltz stated the building is completely done but needs heat. There is running water and the portable toilet has been removed. Final quotes are expected for the heating system this week.

**C.O.G.:** President Foltz had no report as the January meeting was cancelled.

**Engineer:** Chad Camburn, P.E. of Bursich Engineering, presented the written Engineers' report updating the Board on various projects and activities going on in the Township. He highlighted the following projects:

- **Sanatoga Green** – A meeting was held with the applicant's design team and his office on January 16 to discuss the creek hydraulic and hydrologic study. A Floodplain Calculation Study was received on January 16, and review comments were issued on

January 31. The applicant received a recommendation for 17 waivers by the Planning Commission at its January 17 meeting. Revised land development plans and reports were received on January 23 and are currently under review. There is a meeting with their engineer scheduled for Tuesday and a meeting on Thursday with their traffic engineer to review the impacts to the traffic.

- **Spring Valley Farms** – The latest review letters were issued on January 6, 2017, and Bursich is currently awaiting revised plans and a financial security cost estimate from the applicant. Permits/approvals from the PaDEP for stream crossing, PaDOT for highway occupancy, LPTA for sewage connection and conveyance, and Pottstown Borough Authority for water supply are pending.

Commissioner Foltz asked for clarification in regards to realigning the roads through the open space at Bleim and Pleasantview. He stated he thought that Montgomery County gave the go ahead to cut the road through that section if the State approved it. Mr. Camburn clarified that was correct but would not happen as part of this development.

- **MS4** – The PaDEP recently implemented new regulations under the NPDES General Permit for Small MS4s (PAG-13). A memorandum was issued to the Township summarizing the changes and new requirements, which will begin with the 2018 PAG-13 renewal. A meeting will be scheduled with Township staff to review the new requirements and the efforts necessary to obtain a renewal and remain in compliance with the permit.

**Treasurer:** Jen Marsteller reported that there was not a lot going on for January and that the 2017 tax bills were mailed.

**Solicitor:** Mr. Garner stated that the Commissioners should have a copy of the written report and that most of those items are on the agenda and will be reviewed as they come up. He explained however, that the new collective bargaining agreement with the police contains a drop option for officers, and that he was tasked to write an ordinance to correspond with that agreement. The draft has been completed and is being circulated. He hopes it will be available for consideration at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Garner asked the Commissioners if there were any questions in regards to his written report. The Commissioners had no questions for Mr. Garner.

**Mr. Wagner** presented the following reports:

**Parks and Recreation:** The Board is working to submit a DCNR CP2 Grant for the stormwater. Bursich has submitted their proposal for the Montco2040 for 48 stabilized parking spaces. Their work is covered under the Pottstown Health & Wellness mini-grant. Mr. Wagner stated there will be no meeting in February.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Planning Commission:** The last meeting took place on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The main topic was the Regional Traffic Study. The Tri-County Trail Master Site Plan was also discussed.

**Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority:** The next meeting is Monday, February 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. They will discuss the Borough's proposal, presented for the first time at the regional meeting February 2<sup>nd</sup>, to replace the existing drier with a new drier belt at an estimated cost of \$3.4 million. This would require over \$615,000 from LPTA in 2017 and an additional \$284,000 in 2018. Mr. Wagner is hopeful they can push this off until 2018.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Commissioner Lopez made the motion to advertise Ordinance 333 requiring all individuals or entities utilizing credit cards or debit cards for payment of delinquent real estate taxes and municipal fees to pay the charges or fees associated with the transaction. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)
- Commissioner Klotz made the motion to advertise Equipment Rental Bid for consideration at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0).
- Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve and authorize the execution of the two stipulations to settle the tax appeals for Pottstown Village Holding, LP 2162-2190 E. High Street properties. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0).
- Commissioner Lopez made the motion to execute the notice to proceed with Johnson Controls, Inc. to convert 91 streetlights to LED at a cost of \$33,229. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0).
- Commissioner Klotz made the motion to authorize the Township Manager to sign the PECO Streetlight Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$3,175.81. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0).

#### **REVIEW OF WARRANT #857 FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2017.**

Township Manager stated it would be ready by the end of the week for review.

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

None

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Mohollen** had no comments.

**Commissioner Lopez** had no comments.

**Commissioner Swavely** had no comments.

**Commissioner Klotz** wanted to recognize the number of trainings that our police officers attend. He thanked Chief Foltz for his efforts in orchestrating these trainings to ensure our officers are prepared and are at the top of their game and also thanked the officers for their time in attending the trainings. Commissioner Klotz questioned Chief Foltz about the cost of Narcan and wanted to know if it was affecting the department in any way. The Chief explained that they were switching to a less expensive form of the medication which does require additional steps on the part of the officer, but that the County was currently paying for the drug so it was not impacting our costs. Commissioner Klotz then thanked Fire Marshal Babel for his work in preparing his annual report and thanked the volunteers for all of their time and dedication. He wanted Mr. Babel to pass along his thanks to all of the members in both companies.

**Commissioner Foltz** is looking forward to the street light installation project and stated it will be a great improvement to the township.

**Ed Wagner** explained that the new street lights will have less blue light emissions than the mercury vapor lights we currently have and should be safer. He stated that the fire companies should be getting their new radios at some point this summer. In addition, the County will be issuing a radio to the manager or a police committee member at no charge.

**Solicitor Garner** had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti  
Township Secretary