

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 1, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 1, 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 Foltz, President, Stephen M. Klotz, Vice President; Earl E. Swavelly, 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.

Commissioner Foltz stated that the meeting will be recorded.

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, first asked the Treasurer how many tax paying residents are in the township. Ms. Marsteller replied that there are about 4,400 hundred properties and about 8,000 per capita residents.

Mr. Doyle next asked the Chief how he determines what cars go out on a given day. Chief explained that two officers are assigned to each car and are rotated by platoon and squad.

Mr. Doyle then asked Mr. Wagner about the status of the "ditch" on Kepler Road. Mr. Wagner replied that the sewer line was evaluated and the problem with the road is not related to sewer but rather a PennDOT issue. John Fogel is working with PennDOT.

Mr. Doyle asked if he would be able to acquire copies of the Commissioners packets in the event he would miss a meeting. Mr. Garner replied that he could fill out a Right to Know Request asking for the information. The RTK officer would review the request, and the packet, to determine what in the packet is considered a public record. He would be permitted to have copies of the information that is public.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONS

Police Report: Prior to presenting the report, Chief Foltz recognized Sgt. Scott Weidenhammer and his wife Vicki for all they did to ensure the department received its re-accreditation. The Chief explained that the department reached Accreditation Status in 2014 and must meet 133 standards required every three years. Sgt. Weidenhammer is the Accreditation Manager and without his involvement and coordination we would not be able to achieve that status. Sgt. Weidenhammer coordinates all the documentation and records, etc. necessary to prove the Department is doing what needs to be done (in addition to his regular duties) to maintain the

Accreditation status. The Chief explained there are roughly only 100 out of 1100 agencies within the state that have Accreditation Status. In conjunction with all *he* does during this process, Scott's wife, Nikki, prepares breakfast and lunch for the Assessment Team while they are in the office reviewing the documents. The fact that they don't have to take long breaks for meals helps to expedite the process and helps to make things run smoothly. Again, Nikki volunteers her time and resources towards this process and the commitment the Weidenhammer family makes as a whole to the Accreditation Process is invaluable. The Chief presented Sgt. Weidenhammer with a Commendation and Vicki with a Citizen's Award and both received the new Township Challenge Coin as recognition for their work in these efforts.

Commissioner Klotz expressed his appreciation to both Scott & Vicki for how much work they put into assisting the Department in maintaining our Accreditation status. Commissioner Swavely stated that we are certainly not the biggest department in the state to be accredited, but the fact that we are, and were re-confirmed shows the professionalism of our Department.

Sgt. William James addressed the Board and the residents present to thank the Board and the Chief for the opportunity to attend the FBI Academy. He stated it was prestigious honor, greatly appreciated and probably one of the biggest highlights of his officer career.

Statistics:

CALLS FOR SERVICE	1017
ASSISTS:	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	171
Violations Indicated ***with new ALPR in service there has been an increase in traffic enforcement subsequent to the technology***	
DUI Arrests	2
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	86
Violations Indicated (high number due to numerous counts charged against subjects in a drug case)	
Adults Arrested	26
Juveniles Handled	6

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

Departmental Activity

- On April 21st a DUI checkpoint was conducted on Armand Hammer Blvd.
 - 361 contacts with motorists
 - 2 DUI arrests (one for alcohol and on drug related)
 - 4 separate drug arrests
 - 1 weapons offense
 - 1 wanted person apprehended
 - 10 traffic citations written
- On April 14, officer responded to a suspicious persons call in Rolling Hills. Investigation found (4) male subjects seated in a vehicle using marijuana and one was

armed with a firearm – subject was a person not to possess and was charged with the weapons offenses.

- Over Easter weekend officers investigated a series of vandalisms in both Rolling Hills and Walnut Ridge developments in which subjects were throwing rocks and other items at cars and residences. These actors have not been identified, but on the same weekend they turned their attention to throwing items and shouting threats at officers on unrelated calls inside the Rolling Hills development causing minor damage to a patrol car and nearly striking an officer in the head with a thrown battery. We have adjusted our response procedures as a result of this activity.
- On April 27th officer responded to a report of an armed subject who displayed a knife and threatened another motorist in the area of E High Street & Pleasantview Road as result of a road rage incident. Actor was located and identified. Subject was prosecuted for Terroristic Threats and related offenses.
- TSO Diesinger completed a traffic study of both Welsh Drive and Hause Ave in response to a traffic complaint about speeding and stop sign violations. The complainant had expressed interest in having speed bumps installed. Results of the study do not reflect a need for any actions by the township other than periodic traffic enforcement activities. Average speed was 27 mph in posted 25 mph zone over a one month data collection period.

Commissioner Mohollen commented again about the recurring police presence in the school zone at Lower Pottsgrove Elementary. He feels it is a great help in keeping speeds down in the school area.

Commissioner Swavely recognized some of the other benefits to doing a DUI checkpoint. As proven by the Chief's report, in addition to removing intoxicated individuals from the roads, there could be additional arrests made for other altercations which ultimately increase the safety of our residents.

Emergency Management: Ray Lopez, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the Emergency Management report.

- On April 4th, Ray Lopez and Ed Wagner met with a Montgomery County representative to review our Radiological Emergency Response Plan
- The RERP is being reviewed in preparation for the Limerick Exercise being held on November 14th
- We have been notified that Lower Pottsgrove Township will be evaluated by FEMA and PEMA during this exercise
- The Emergency Management Team will continue to prepare for the exercise and we plan to conduct a tabletop drill in the coming months closer to the actual exercise

Fire Marshal: Fire Marshal Babel noted the following statistics for the month of April:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	25	21 Hours 2 Minutes	116 Hours 0 Minutes	133 Hours 0 Minutes	N/A
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(All hours are approximate)

Highway – Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read the Public Works Report for the month of April 2017 and announced it would be posted in the lobby.

C.O.G.: There was no report as there was no meeting

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: Multiple design plans and reports were submitted throughout March and April. The documents are currently under review. Meetings were held on April 12 and April 19 with our office, Township staff, and Sanatoga Green representatives. The latest reviews went out on Friday, April 28th. A second traffic impact meeting was held on April 6 with representatives of PennDOT, Lower Pottsgrove Township, Limerick Township, and applicants of the Sanatoga Green, Sanatoga Marketplace, and the potential Torretta property developments.
- Spring Valley Farms Amended Plan: Review comments were last issued on March 22. We are currently awaiting revised plans. Permits/approvals from the PaDEP for stream crossing, PaDOT for highway occupancy, and Pottstown Borough Authority for water supply are pending.
- Gerald Richards Park Improvements – Phase 1: We are currently preparing plans and a bid package for trail, parking lot, and stormwater improvements at the park. The engineering design and construction will be funded through grants that have been awarded to the Township.
- Rupert Road Bridge Reconstruction: Comments were received from the County for additional changes to the Final Plans and the easement/right-of-way exhibits. We are currently making the changes requested by the County.
- MS4 Permit: We met with the Township Manager and Public Works Director on April 18 to discuss the PaDEP’s requirements under the current PAG-13 permit and the new changes in the upcoming 2018 permit renewal. We will continue to hold periodic meetings to coordinate efforts in order to remain in compliance and plan for future changes.

Treasurer: Ms. Marsteller reported that historically April is a slow month as the discount period is over. The total collected was \$28,542.00 with the majority being real estate.

Solicitor: Mr. Garner highlighted the following items from his report:

We had our first appeal to the Construction Code Board of Appeals. As a result, it has been determined that some of the Township Ordinances may be in need of change to be in tune with the UCC and Mr. Wagner, the Code Officer and Mr. Garner will be meeting to put together a list of recommendations for review.

In addition, we will be recommending changes to the Solicitation/Peddling Ordinance since the ordinance was originally enacted many years ago. Once the draft is completed it will be provided to the Board for review and comment.

In regards to Sanatoga Green, they do continue to modify their plans somewhat. They currently show some minor realignment to some road configurations; as a result their steep slope disturbance is being changed a little bit. The resulting change is actually a decrease in the amount of steep slope disturbed in this submission. I was asked to review the Conditional Use Approval and the plans that were part of that record. Given the fact that they are reducing the steep slope it is Mr. Garner's opinion that the applicant does not need to go through the conditional use process again as they already have received approval from this Board.

Parks and Recreation: Mr. Wagner reported that the annual Fish Rodeo will be this Saturday, May 6th at 9:00 a.m. at the Sunnybrook Ballroom property; hopefully the event will hold out due to weather and a decision will be made later in the week. We also are still seeking applications to fill the vacancy on the Board.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority: The next meeting is Monday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. at which time the Board will discuss the revised Corrective Action Plan which needs to be submitted to DEP. This is an update from the 2007 submission.

Pottstown Metropolitan Planning Commission: Mr. Wagner stated the Commission met last Wednesday, April 26th. Members of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission talked about the scope of work for the regional transportation study they will be working on in the near future. In addition Mr. Wagner attended the Regional Recreation Meeting with Katie Smith. They talked about the Pottsgrove trail which is a connection between Upper Pottsgrove and Lower Pottsgrove from the entrance of Turnberry Farms on North Charlotte Street through Brookside Family Restaurant and possibly onto Pottsgrove High School.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Nester, Pottsgrove School District Business Manager presented the revised Enrollment Projection Report performed by *FutureThink* in December of 2016. This report was conducted as a result of the proposed development going on in the community. The report contains ten-

year enrollment projections which were developed for the Pottsgrove School District by analyzing the following data: Live birth data; Historical enrollment; Community demographics and Housing information. These projections are meant to serve as a planning tool for the future and represent the most likely direction of the District based upon Residential Developments currently in the Planning stages in the Pottsgrove District (two in Lower Pottsgrove and one in Upper Pottsgrove). He feels the biggest concerns are Lower Pottsgrove Elementary and Pottsgrove Middle School. Lower Pottsgrove is scheduled to increase by 58 students, but the building is already near capacity and would involve additional classroom space and subsequently added work. The Middle School is projected to increase their student population by 109. It is still unclear if additional classrooms would be needed and the District is looking at that internally.

Commissioner Klotz had several questions for Mr. Nester which he answered to the Commissioners' satisfaction.

President Foltz stated that the Spring Valley Farms Development may now be leaning toward rancher-type single homes marketed towards older clientele, and he feels this may help to reduce the projected student enrollment. Mr. Nester agreed and thanked Commissioner members for the time this evening.

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to sell the 2000 BEFCO Pull-Behind Finish Mower for a reduced bid in the amount of \$3,700.00. **Commissioner Mohollen** seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to authorize President Foltz to sign a letter to amend the terms of the current CBU Agreement/Retiree Healthcare. **Commissioner Swavely** seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to advertise Oil & Chip Bid for consideration at the June meeting. **Commissioner Swavely** seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

None

REVIEW OF WARRANT #860 FOR THE MONTH OF April 2017.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mohollen had no comment.

Commissioner Lopez thanked Chief Foltz for his continued direction to the Department and for making the Department a “shining star” in the County. He discussed the “challenge coins” that the Township will be using to “reward” individuals within the Township who deserve recognition or gratitude. He said he felt the street lights look good and feel they will help to reduce crime in the area and will assist in keeping our residents safe.

Commissioner Swavely announced that the second school crossing flasher has been installed by Coventry Christian School and should be operational within the month.

Commissioner Klotz had no comment

Commissioner Foltz read a thank you note from Gerald Richards for the sympathy arrangement sent to him for his wife’s passing.

Ed Wagner had no comments.

Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti
Township Secretary