

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****October 19, 2017**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on October 19, 2017 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

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

Charles Garner, Solicitor, Edward C. Wagner, Manager and Sharon Colletti, Secretary were also present.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded.

Solicitor Garner announced that prior to the meeting the Board met in Executive Session beginning at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real estate; no action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2017 MEETING**

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to approve the October 2, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

Michelle Monzo of Montgomery County Emergency Services Crisis Intervention School, presented officers Scott Bond and Ryan Smith along with Chief Foltz, commendation awards for their actions during a stand-off in Limerick in January of this year.

Board Members from Predators Youth Baseball Organization made a presentation regarding the possibility of entering into a long-term lease for land located in Pleasantview Park which would be utilized for the construction of new baseball fields. Eric Miller, Tyler Tyson, Doug Fleck, Dave Heffner and Brian Cogliano were in attendance and presented the Board the following statistics and information.

The Predators Organization was founded in 2015 and currently has 96 children and 25 adult volunteers participating. It was stated that 30% of the children are from Lower Pottsgrove Township; 15% are from Pottstown; 19% are Daniel Boone; 10% Boyertown; 8% Exeter; 8% Coventry/Owen J and 3% Phoenixville/Kimberton. 52% of volunteers are Lower Pottsgrove Residents; 8% are Pottstown; 8% are Exeter; 12% Boyertown/Daniel Boone; 8% Coventry/Owen J.

President Foltz asked about the term of the lease. Mr. Cogliano stated that they had not fully considered the term, but was under the impression that in the state of Pennsylvania a long term lease under a 30-year term was not subject to transfer tax.

President Foltz asked Mr. Wagner if this open space could be used for this type of application. Mr. Wagner stated that he has reached out to Mike Stokes from Montgomery County Open Space for confirmation, but has not gotten an answer as Mike has been on vacation.

President Foltz inquired as to the proposed timeline for the project. Mr. Cogliano stated that they would like to start as soon as possible (within a year or so) with one or two fields with a functional snack bar and equipment shed using cash they have on hand. In the meantime, they would raise additional funds while working with the Rep from the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources to stay in line for grants and would partner with Michael Lane from the Pottstown Regional Recreation office to make a concerted effort to apply for, and get, as many grants as possible. The ultimate goal would be to have four to five fields.

Dave Heffner stated that the organization has approached both local banks as well as Pottstown Health and Wellness who have expressed a grave interest in supporting this project as a general improvement to the overall Pottstown area. Mr. Cogliano added that they had secured some commitments from local contractor relationships who are willing to donate some of their services in regards to construction work.

President Foltz asked who would maintain the fields. Mr. Cogliano stated that they would. Commissioner Mohollen asked how the Predators Organization worked with the Pottsgrove Baseball (PGLL). It was stated that the Predators are independent of the Little League Organization, however, most of the 52% if the Predators volunteers are also coaches or volunteers for PGLL.

Commissioner Mohollen asked where the Predators currently play. It was explained that they play primarily at West Pottsgrove Township Building and when possible the old field behind Lower Pottsgrove Elementary but will play wherever they have been able to find local fields. Commissioner Mohollen asked if PGLL would be using these new fields also, or would they strictly be for the Predators Organization. Mr. Cogliano stated that they had not ruled that out and ultimately would be something they would work out with PGLL to make it work.

“The quality of all of the Township Fields, is poor compared to other townships and what we want to put together here is something that is nice with fields to accommodate various age groups in one central location. It is the intent to grow the park as the organization grows and revenues increase.” Mr. Heffner brought up the economic benefit that tournaments can bring to the community and having a nicer facility can certainly help the draw for crowds in addition to the overall improvement of the community. Eric Miller stated that they are hosting on average six tournaments per year and drawing teams from upstate New York, Maryland and New Jersey.

President Foltz asked if they were considering lights for the fields. Mr. Cogliano stated they were going to evaluate the economics and viability of having lights as it definitely adds to the value of the fields, especially during the fall season when daylight hours get shorter.

Solicitor Garner asked what control the organization would have over the fields, i.e., would it be an exclusive lease, would they be open to the neighborhood kids, would they be gated, etc. and how do you envision your use of the fields in regard to the others who would use the fields? Although it was not affirmative at this time, the initial belief is that it not be privatized by the organization, but by the same token if we are the primary contributor, maintainer, etc. there would be a level of prioritization where the organization would take precedence. Mr. Miller stated that they started with one team in 2015 and are now up to 11 teams this year and run from age 8 to 15 year olds. Their season starts in March and wraps up in October.

Mr. Wagner asked what the total enrollment is for PGLL and no one had the answer. They assumed approximately 100 +/- but said they would get the numbers and explained that the age range was 6 yr. olds to 12 yr. olds.

Commissioner Klotz has concerns with leasing the whole open space property for baseball and is this fair to all of the residents. In addition, it would no longer remain open space and that was the intent when purchasing the land. His bigger concern is that this cannot be an exclusive field and feels that PGLL has 30% rights to those facilities and would not consider an agreement that does not permit other organizations to use the facilities as being user-friendly. Commissioner Klotz would also like to see a football field incorporated into the plan as well.

Mr. Cogliano clarified that they are not looking to take the entire 18 acres, but only a portion for their use and would be working in conjunction with other entities to develop other areas on the property. Mr. Cogliano asked if it PGLL would be expected to make monetary contributions to the fields as well. Commissioner Klotz felt that as Lower Pottsgrove residents, they already have through their tax dollars which were used to acquire the land.

Commissioner Klotz has not ruled out the project but wants to see plans and the terms of the lease before further discussions can move forward. Mr. Cogliano welcomed the feedback and wanted to see if the project is viable before putting money into plans, etc.

President Foltz reiterated that we still need confirmation from County as to whether the project is even permitted under the open space rules before anyone can move forward.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS:**

None

**INFORMATION:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to accept the snow plow proposals for 2017-18 winter season. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0)

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

**RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:**

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to adopt Resolution 1145-17 authorizing the transfer of State Aid to the Police and Non-Uniform Pension Accounts. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (5-0)

**Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to approve Warrant #865 for the month of September 2017. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (5-0)**

**Commissioner Klotz motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2017. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (5-0)**

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Mohollen** congratulated Chief Foltz, Officers Bond and Smith along the rest of the police department

**Commissioner Lopez** congratulations to police department and stated that Lower Pottsgrove Community Day would be held this coming Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Swavely** congratulations to police staff for a job well done

**Commissioner Klotz** recognized Chief Foltz for the exceptional team he has built and thanked him and his team for their hard work.

**Commissioner Foltz** announced that Bleim Road would be closed beginning Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Mr. Wagner** had no comment

**Solicitor Garner** had no comment.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 9, 2017** at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sharon Colletti  
Township Secretary