

LOWER POTTS GROVE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 17, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled work session meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following attended:

Board of Commissioners: Jonathan H. Spadt, President; James C. Phillips, and Michael McGroarty.

Rodney P. Hawthorne, Township Manager; R. Kurtz Holloway, Township Solicitor; and Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager.

Commissioners Bruce L. Foltz and James Kaiser were absent from the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Spadt convened a public hearing at 7:04 P.M. for the purposes of hearing comment on the transfer of liquor license to Sunnybrook Ballroom.

PUBLIC HEARING – TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE

Solicitor Holloway explained that Chummy's Restaurant at the Sunnybrook Ballroom has been able to acquire a liquor license from a concern outside the Township, but within Montgomery County. According to State law, the applicant is required to gain approval from the municipality. Solicitor Holloway stated that the public hearing was advertised in the Pottstown Mercury.

Mr. J. Wilmer Hallman of the Sunnybrook Foundation explained that the Sunnybrook Ballroom had always has a full-fledged restaurant liquor license, but when the owner of the Ballroom passed away, the license was allowed to expire. When the Foundation took over the facility, it was able to acquire an event license, which is less expensive and much easier to obtain. In order to promote the Ballroom more fully, Mr. Hallman said a full restaurant liquor license is necessary. He said it will not change the physical layout of the site, except the legality of being able to have liquor without having to have an event.

Mr. Phillips asked who owns Chummy's Restaurant. Mr. Hallman said it is owned by Sunnybrook Management Partners, which is run by the same people who run the Sunnybrook Foundation. Mr. Mark Pollock explained that the restaurant is a for-profit enterprise and Sunnybrook Management Partners is the entity that runs it. Sunnybrook Management Partners will lease the restaurant space from the Sunnybrook Foundation.

There being no other questions, the hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

There were no comments from visitors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Spadt asked for a point of clarification before approving the minutes. He asked that the second sentence of the third paragraph from the bottom of page 1233 be amended to read, "Commissioner Spadt said there are two sides to this story; the Township has also been told it's taken advantage of *on various other occasions*."

With the proposed amendment, Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2011 Board of Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 3—0.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Resolution #891 – Restaurant Liquor License for Chummy's Restaurant at the Sunnybrook Ballroom – Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Resolution #891 approving the transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R18469 into Lower Pottsgrove Township from East Norriton Township for Chummy's Restaurant at the Sunnybrook Ballroom. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3—0 in favor.

Ordinance #301 – Authorizing the Guaranty of the Payments and Obligation with Respect to the LPTA Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Bonds – Ms. Rachel Killeen of Public Financial Management, Inc. discussed the *Final Financing Report for Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority*, dated February 17, 2011, which was distributed to the Commissioners at the meeting.

Ms. Killeen explained that the LPTA was granted a AA bond rating (stable), which is very good. Standard & Poor's granted this rating based on the Township's demonstration of consistent growth with stable financial operations.

The bond sale was Monday, February 14, 2011. It was a competitive bidding process on the internet. Page 4 of the report shows a chronology of the bids. There were 32 bids from 5 different banks. UBS was the winner with a rate of 3.999841.

The report shows the repayment schedule for the repayment of \$9,930,000 from March 2011 through October 2030. This borrowing will be to prepay the 2005 Bonds, a portion of the 2005 Emmaus Loan, and to finance several authority projects. Ms Killeen concluded by stating that the bonds can be restructured as necessary in the future.

Ms. Megan Santana explained the details of Ordinance #301, stating that it is similar to other ordinances that the Board has approved in the past guaranteeing the LPTA's debt.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve Ordinance #301 to authorize the guarantee repayment of the LPTA's debt with respect to this bond issue. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3—0 in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION

PennDOT Letter Regarding the Reduction of the Speed Limit on High Street – Mr. Hawthorne stated that a resident had requested the Board consider reducing the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph on High Street between Pleasantview Road and the Sunnybrook Bridge. Mr. Hawthorne stated that PennDOT agreed to this speed reduction and the new signs have been posted.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to Advertise Bid Specs for Carpet & Paint Municipal Building – Mr. Hawthorne advised the Board that the money was budgeted for new paint and carpet for the building, both the police and administration floors. Mr. Place has prepared a bid and the Township Solicitor's office has reviewed it. Mr. Hawthorne said a separate bid will be completed to paint the pillars at the front of the building and purchase new blinds for the meeting room. *replace and mc*

Mr. Joe Zlomek asked if Mr. Hawthorne knew what the cost of this work would be and if there were any structural improvements that would fall under this budget year.

Mr. Hawthorne reported that he was not sure how much the paint and carpet would be – as that would be determined when the bids were received. He did say that he anticipated the costs to be between \$48,000 and \$60,000. He said that there is no intention to do any structural improvements this year.

Mr. Spadt said there has been a request to update the ~~class~~^{glass mc} in front of the reception area. It may be considered, depending on how the budget looks.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to advertise the Bid Specifications for the Paint and Carpeting of the Municipal Building. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3—0 in favor.

Approval of Treasurers Report – Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve the January 2011 Treasurer's Report, as prepared and submitted by Jennifer Marsteller, Tax Collector/Treasurer. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3—0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Municipal Waste Survey – Ms. Elliott said that she and several members of the staff discussed the Township's municipal waste collection program, following a meeting in which residents asked if the municipal waste contract, which expires at the end of 2011, could be improved. They concluded that it would be difficult to determine, based on the small sample of residents attending public meetings and calling the Township, how satisfied or unsatisfied residents are with the current contract. They suggested mailing a survey out with the March trash bill – a draft was included in the

Board's packet for review. She said this would ensure that the survey was received by all trash customers and would be inexpensive for the Township to distribute and the residents to return. The survey is designed to gauge the temperature, so to speak, of residents with regard to certain trash features and costs. She added, that staff is working on a reasonable way to include with the survey an education piece to help residents understand how the Township's contract works.

Ms. Elliott also said they discussed a public meeting; however, the survey would probably be the most effective way to reach all customers. The Board agreed.

Mr. Zlomek asked if the Township has considered using survey monkey. Ms. Elliott said they had discussed it, but thought it wouldn't be a good idea because they do not have the email addresses of all the trash customers; however, if it provided residents an alternative to mailing in a paper copy, she would look into it.

Mr. Hawthorne asked that the survey explain that additional features will cost more, whether it is in what is billed by the Township, or an increase in taxes. Ms. Elliott said it was the intent to include this as part of the education part of the survey, especially since there are a lot of questions in the survey. Mr. Spadt asked that she consider adding it to the introduction paragraph.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to authorize staff to prepare and send out a municipal waste survey. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3—0 in favor.

Warrant #785 for January 2011 – Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Warrant #785 for the month of January 2011. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3—0 in favor.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McGroarty said he saw the letter from Bridget Strunk and said it was nice to hear from people who are happy with things. Usually we only hear from people when they have a problem.

Commissioner Spadt asked Mr. Hawthorne for an update with regard to the drug issue that was brought up at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Hawthorne reported that he and Chief Shade met with Brad Landis, Superintendent of Pottsgrove School District; Chris Schaeffer, principal of Pottsgrove High School; and Wil James, School Resource Officer and they had a good discussion with regard to the issue. They are planning to schedule a meeting with just the Umsteads to get more detail as to what type of response they would like to see. They are also planning on having a drug counselor and a member of the drug task force at the meeting to see what kinds of drugs are actually at the school. It may ultimately lead to other meetings.

Principal Schaeffer and Wil James will walk the neighborhood and pass out flyers to neighbors to help the indentify ways they can get involved.

Commissioner Spadt said this is a good start, but he would like to see some meetings at the public level.

Ms. Elliott sated that Friday, February 18, 2011, is the last day to comment on the Pleasantveiw and Gerald Richards Park master plan concepts. We have received some very good comments so far. The February 23rd meeting has been canceled, and next meeting is March 23, 6:30 p.m., at the Sunnybrook Ballroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyson Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alyson Elliott
Assistant Manager