

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 6, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 6, 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 were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Jonathan H. Spadt, President; Bruce L. Foltz, Vice-President; James C. Phillips, Michael McGroarty and James D. Kaiser.

R. Kurtz Holloway, Solicitor; Rodney P. Hawthorne, Manager; Alyson E. Elliott, Assistant Manager; Jennifer V. Marsteller, Treasurer; Michael Shade, Chief of Police; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal; Scott Exley and Chad Camburn, Township Engineers and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

William Wolfgang asked if anyone from the Township visits local businesses to see how they're doing. He felt this was a way to encourage and get business into the Township and it would be good PR (public relations).

Mr. Hawthorne said that some we have visited; others we have not. Staff does talk to business owners when they come into the office for information, such as during the land development process. When staff goes over the process with the business owners, there is an exchange of ideas.

Commissioner Spadt felt that Mr. Wolfgang's idea was a good one and requested that the Board think about ways to reach out to business owners.

Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, was concerned about overgrown tree branches/limbs on communication and power lines. He felt there should be a meeting between Comcast, PennDOT and PECO regarding this problem. Mr. Doyle said that PECO does a good job but all three entities should get together and coordinate maintenance of these lines.

Commissioner Spadt asked Mr. Hawthorne who was responsible for the maintenance. Mr. Hawthorne said PECO has a crew and PennDOT does for Montgomery County but Verizon and Comcast do not. Mr. Doyle again suggested that Comcast, PennDOT and PECO meet and work something out.

Mr. Doyle said that it looked like the ballpark on S. Park Road was cut recently but it appears that the common area was cut at a different time. He asked if a baseball organization has taken over maintenance of the ball field. Mr. Hawthorne said one team, The Warriors, recently started playing there but the Township still maintains the field. Mr. Doyle asked about other teams playing there, such as the Pottsgrove High School team. Mr. Hawthorne explained that no other teams play on this field but they all know it's available. Mr. Doyle asked if the soccer field has been used and Commissioner Kaiser responded that his son has played there and it is one of the better fields.

Mr. Doyle asked about the list of roads to be paved this year, specifically S. Park Road. He said the condition of this road is bad and the more the Park is used, the worse it will become. He felt it should be paved very soon. Commissioner Spadt said S. Park Road is on the list for this year.

Mr. Doyle said that according to John Fogel, the Soccer Association contributes a lot towards the maintenance of the fields. He felt the common area should also be maintained and asked if John is capable of maintaining an acre per year or if some other arrangement could be worked out. Mr. Doyle felt the front of the Township Building should be maintained as well. Commissioner Foltz said John's report states that he started on this project. Mr. Hawthorne said the front of the building has been done.

Mr. Doyle noticed on the website that \$75,000 was allotted for the Sprogels Run Nature Trail project. He said the low bid for this project was \$130,000, which is a lot more than \$75,000. He asked if the Township was going to regroup and revise the specifications because what was designed was not going to get done for \$75,000. Mr. Exley said that the bidders could not do the type of bridge that was initially specified for that price. He said he will check with the designer for more detail. Ms. Elliott said a number of items came in exorbitantly high. These items were removed to get a better cost when the project is rebid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2011 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0 in favor.

REPORTS:

Police

Chief Shade highlighted the following from his May 2011 report—

1. Calls for Service/Departmental Activities:

a. Accreditation—Chief Shade referred to an email and memorandum that he sent to the Board of Commissioners regarding the PA Accreditation Certification process. He advised that there is a \$250 one-time buy in fee to the state and requested approval to proceed with the Accreditation process.

Commissioner Foltz made a motion to authorize Chief Shade to begin the PA Accreditation Certification process and approved the payment of a one-time fee of \$250.00 to become enrolled in the program. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

b. County Radio System: Chief Shade attended an informational meeting held by the Montgomery County Commissioners to discuss the options available for the upcoming change in the county radio system. The Department's current digital radios are not up to standard, so a new system would be necessary. This would cost the Township a significant amount of money.

Commissioner Spadt asked for the anticipated time frame to fund this project. Chief said if the County receives at least 80% acceptance from the municipalities to participate in the purchasing/upgrade option, the Montgomery County

Commissioners would move forward mid-to-late 2012, so we would have to plan for the 2012 budget.

All statistics and information are included in Chief Shade's written report. Chief Shade asked the Commissioners to contact him if they had any questions or comments.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Report, prepared by Lt. Michael A. Foltz, Emergency Management Coordinator, was attached to Chief Shade's police report.

All statistics and information are included in Lt. Foltz's written report. Chief Shade asked the Commissioners to contact Lt. Foltz if they had any questions or comments.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel reported the following statistics for May 2011:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
	May 2011	May 2011	May 2011	May 2011	May 2011
Sanatoga (Station 58)	27	34	470	171	Not provided
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	25	49.5	168	95	612

(Hours are approximate)

Mr. Babel reported that Sanatoga Fire Company had a chicken barbeque but he did not have the figures yet.

Mr. Babel is covering this week for Chief Lengel, Pottstown's Fire Marshal. Commissioner Foltz commented that Mr. Babel's vehicle will be in Pottstown as well as Lower Pottsgrove this week.

Highway—Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read the Public Works Report for the month of May 2011. The report will be posted on the bulletin board.

C.O.G.—Commissioner Phillips reported that the next C.O.G. meeting will be held on September 13, 2011. There will be an MS4 Storm Water meeting on June 16, 2011 that Commissioner Phillips and Mr. Hawthorne plan to attend.

Engineering—Mr. Exley reported that the Pottstown Area Traffic Group met on May 24, 2011 at PennDOT's District Office in Valley Forge. The following projects were among those discussed:

- Keim Street Bridge Project—Traffic Planning and Design is negotiating with PennDOT on the final design, scope and cost of this project.

- US 422/Route 100 Bridge—Ready to be let for construction in October of this year.

Mr. Exley wanted the Board to be aware of these projects, as they will most likely affect some roads in the Township.

Treasurer—Ms. Marsteller presented the Tax Collector's Monthly Report to Taxing Districts for the months of April and May 2011.

Ms. Marsteller reported that percentage collected in April 2011 (87.86%) was almost identical to what was collected in April 2010 (87.82%).

Solicitor—No report. The Solicitor also announced that there would be no executive session following tonight's meeting.

Parks and Recreation—Ms. Elliott reported that the Parks and Recreation Board met in May.

1. **Summer Concerts**—The concert schedule was finalized and it will be posted on the website this week. The concert season starts on Sunday, June 26, 2011. An exit survey will be distributed after each concert and the Board approved prizes for incentives.
2. **Fishing Derby**—Scheduled for June 18, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. Solicitor Holloway's law firm, Wells, Hoffman, Holloway & Stauffer, LLP is again sponsoring this event. Ms. Elliott thanked Solicitor Holloway for his support.
3. **Meetings**—The Parks and Recreation Board decided to cancel its June and August Meetings. The Board will meet in July.

Commissioner Spadt thanked Solicitor Holloway and noted that all concerts are paid for by sponsors, not the taxpayers.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission—Ms. Elliott reported that the Regional Planning Commission met in May.

1. **Regional Recreation Coordinator**—There was further discussion about a regional recreation coordinator but there was not enough information for the municipalities to decide whether or not they would proceed with the project.
2. **DCNR**—Representatives of The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will be at one of the summer meeting. The Regional Planning Commission extended an invitation to elected officials of each municipality.
3. **Market Analysis/Fiscal Impact Study**—Lower Pottsgrove Township and the seven other municipal members of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC), has launched a regional market assessment and fiscal impact study for the Region. A link to the survey is posted on the Township website. The survey will be available through the month of June.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

Pottstown Borough Authority (PBA) Incentives for Connections to Public Water—Mr. Hawthorne will be presenting a formal incentive proposal from the Pottstown Borough Authority (PBA) Solicitor to the Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority (LPTA). To encourage “infill” properties in Lower Pottsgrove Township to connect to the public water system, the sum of \$1,800.00 would cover all charges associated with the connection, a savings of approximately \$400.00. Mr. Hawthorne will recommend that the LPTA approve this proposal and he will keep the Board updated on the matter.

Mr. Wolfgang asked if a homeowner would be forced to hook up to public water if he had a well. Commissioner Spadt said he would oppose requiring people with wells to hook up to the public water system. Mr. Hawthorne advised that the option will be offered but the homeowners will not have to connect, they have the right to choose.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Settlement Agreements between Police Union and Lower Pottsgrove Township—Mr. Hawthorne requested that the Board approve two settlement agreements between the Police Union and the Township. Chief Shade recommended approval of both agreements.

Commissioner Kaiser made a motion to approve the settlement agreement between Officer Robert Diesinger and Lower Pottsgrove Township. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Commissioner Kaiser made a motion to approve the settlement agreement between Officer David Slothower and Officer James McCue and Lower Pottsgrove Township. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

PennDOT/Lower Pottsgrove Township Traffic Signal Agreement—Mr. Hawthorne requested approval of a Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement between PennDot and Lower Pottsgrove Township.

Mr. Wolfgang asked what it will cost the Township to maintain the traffic signals. Mr. Hawthorne said maintenance costs are very minimal. The main cost is the installation (approximately \$100,000.00) which is covered by the state. Mr. Doyle asked if the state dictates the types of bulbs used in the signals. Mr. Exley said the requirements are specified. Mr. Hawthorne thought the new LED bulbs would be used.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve, by Resolution No. 900, the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement between PennDOT and Lower Pottsgrove Township for traffic signals at the following locations: the intersection of SR 4036 (Armand Hammer Boulevard) and Industrial Highway/SR 0422 Ramp C and the intersection of SR 4036 (Armand Hammer Boulevard) and Industrial Highway/SR 0422 Ramps E and F. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution No. 900—See NEW BUSINESS: PennDOT/Lower Pottsgrove Township Traffic Signal Agreement.

Warrant—Warrant No. 789 for May 2011 will be distributed via email for the Commissioner review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

None.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele M. Cappelletti
Secretary