LOWER POTTSGROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 5, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 5, 2012 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 were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, Vice-President; Michael McGroarty; James D. Kaiser and Stephen M. Klotz.

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

Jonathan H. Spadt, President was absent from the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
The Solicitor announced that an executive session was held tonight at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel contractual negotiations.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:
Tom Troutman, 2469 E. High Street, said he read in the Sanatoga Post that the Township was considering rental housing registration. Mr. Troutman owns rental units and is not in favor of paying fees for inspections and/or registrations. Commissioner Foltz said inspections would be for safety purposes. Units would be checked for smoke detectors, handrails, GFIs, etc. Mr. Troutman explained that some tenants don't pay their rent, destroy property, etc. and he would like to see a list of deadbeat tenants developed as a resource for landlords. Commissioner Foltz said the Board would consider the feasibility of a rental housing registration program before it takes any action.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2012 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0 in favor. Commissioner McGroarty recused himself from the vote because he was not present at the meeting.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2012 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0 in favor. Commissioner Kaiser recused himself from the vote because he was not present at the meeting.

REPORTS:
Police
Lt. Foltz highlighted the following from his February 2012 report—

1. **Calls for Service/Departmental Activities:**

a. Ofc. Dan Kienle and Ofc. Chris DiPiano have been assigned positions as Uniformed Criminal Investigators on their respective platoons. They will assist the Detective.
b. On February 6, 2012, Sgt. Walters conducted a pedestrian stop of 4 suspicious suspects on Country Drive. Subsequent investigation revealed the subjects were involved in thefts from unlocked motor vehicles and charges have been filed.

2. **Training:**
   a. Sgt. Greenwood, Ofc. Kemp and Ofc. Smith completed online training on "DUI Crackdowns and Prevention."
   b. Ofc. Weidenhammer earned his Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mountain State University. Lt. Foltz commended Ofc. Weidenhammer on his accomplishment and noted that he used personal funds and funds from his G.I. Bill to pay for his education.
   c. Det. Campbell has completed all coursework for his Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration from Saint Joseph's University. Det. Campbell will graduate in the Spring with high honors.

3. **Traffic Enforcement:**
   a. Teen-driver Safety Enforcement Mobilization Project was initiated at Pottsgrove High School.

4. **Criminal Investigations/Arrests:**
   a. Det. Campbell is investigating a series of copper thefts from various PECO substations.
   b. Det. Campbell is actively investigating allegations of a child sexual assault that occurred several years ago but was recently disclosed.
   c. Charges were filed in an ongoing burglary investigation involving 4 separate homes in Walnut Ridge Estates.
   d. Township officers and detectives assisted Philadelphia Homicide Fugitive Task Force and U.S. Marshals to locate and apprehend 2 homicide suspects. Investigation continues.

5. **Fleet:**
   a. 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe and 2012 Dodge Charger were ordered on January 7, 2012.

6. **Overtime:**
   a. Increase in overtime this month due to a CMERT call-out for a barricaded gunman in Pottstown.
   b. Pottsgrove School District requested additional uniformed security at a School Board meeting.

Resolution No. 926—Lt. Foltz presented Resolution No. 926 to the Board for approval. This resolution concerns changes made to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations relating to "Eligibility for Promotion." The Civil Service Commission approved these revisions by Resolution No. 2012-02 on February 8, 2012.

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 926, Amending the Rules

And Regulations of The Civil Service Commission of Lower Pottsgrove Township. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:
Lt. Foltz highlighted the following from his Emergency Management Report:

1. There were no EOC activations in February.
2. Acting Chief of Police/EMC Foltz and Deputy EMC Wilcox met with members of both fire companies to review the 422 Corridor M1A Construction Project Incident Management Plan.
3. Deputy EMC Wilcox is reviewing and updating the Township EOP and NARM.

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

Commissioner Klotz asked if the officers who were assigned as Uniformed Criminal Investigators may become detectives. Lt. Foltz said that this assignment is independent of moving into a detective spot but it will give the officers experience. Commissioner Klotz asked if any other officers showed interest in the Uniformed Criminal Investigator position. Lt. Foltz stated that other officers submitted resumes but the officers who were selected were the two best candidates.

Bill Wolfgang, Pruss Hill Road, asked if the Township gets reimbursed for the overtime accrued when officers assist other municipalities. Lt. Foltz explained that CMERT is composed of ten municipalities that assist one another when needed. The Township does not get reimbursed but would get assistance from the other municipalities if an incident were to occur in Lower Pottsgrove Township.

Fire Marshal
Mr. Babel reported the following statistics:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
	Feb. 2012	**Feb. 2012**	**Feb. 2012**	**Feb. 2012**	**Feb. 2012**
Sanatoga (Station 58)	38	20.5	173	284.5	Not provided
Ringing Hill (Station 59)	38	23	236	84	204

(Hours are approximate)

Mr. Babel reported that he will be attending a class on Thursday at West End Fire Company.

Commissioner Foltz asked about Sanatoga Fire Company's new truck. Mr. Babel said a new traffic unit was put into service during the first week of February. The new truck was customized with apparatus to assist fire police with traffic control at an emergency scene.

Highway—Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read the Public Works Report for the month of February 2012. The report will be posted on the bulletin board.

C.O.G.—Commissioner Foltz attended the first COG meeting of the year, where members introduced themselves and became acquainted with one another.

Engineering—Mr. Exley updated the Board on the FEMA floodplain ordinance requirements. The Township needs to send letters to residents who are affected by the changes and adopt a revised floodplain ordinance that meets the requirements of FEMA.

Treasurer—Ms. Marsteller delivered the Tax Collector's Monthly Report to Taxing Districts for the month of February 2012.

Solicitor—No report.

Parks and Recreation—Ms. Elliott reported the following:

1. **Playground:** Township staff met with the contractor at Gerald Richards Park to review the layout and equipment for the playground.
2. **DCNR Grant:** Ms. Elliott will submit a grant application to DCNR in April for development of Pleasant View Park. She is scheduling a meeting with a DCNR representative.
3. **Events:** The Park Board is working on upcoming events and bands for the Summer Concert Series.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission—Ms. Elliott reported the following:

1. **Regional Parks and Recreation:** A study will be conducted to determine if regionalizing park and recreation activities is appropriate. DCNR will fund the study and Ms. Elliott will represent the Township on that committee.
2. **Fiscal Impact Study:** There will be a working meeting on the Fiscal Impact Study on April 3, 2012. All are invited to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

Stormwater Coalition Correspondence—Jim Phillips, Stormwater Coalition Representative for Lower Pottsgrove Township, updated the Board on recent Stormwater Coalition activities. He reported that one area of concern to the Coalition was whether a municipality would be responsible for all stormwater generated within its boundaries, i.e. "Urbanized Area," or only stormwater carried by conveyances that a municipality owned and operated. The Coalition was very pleased to be told by EPA and DEP representatives that a municipality would only be responsible for stormwater carried by conveyances.

Township Engineer Scott Exley reported on the technical aspects of General Permit PAG-13. He said that a letter of intent and the Township's action plan to identify issues and how we are going to address them is due on September 12, 2012.

Mr. Phillips further explained General Permit PAG-13, which is the 13th revision to the original PAG (Plant & Animal Genomes). There was further discussion by the Board, Mr. Hawthorne, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Exley on stormwater issues.

Bill Wolfgang asked how many miles of pipe are in the Township. Mr. Hawthorne replied there are 46 miles of sewer lines. Mr. Exley said sewer is a different situation than stormwater.

Mr. Exley would like to provide bi-weekly updates to the Township on stormwater and will work with Mr. Hawthorne and Ms. Elliott to keep the Board informed.

The following information was included in the Commissioners' packets:

1. Letter from Michael E. Furey to Dan Dougherty, Dewey Homes and Barry Bressler, Esquire.
2. Memo from Keith Place. Re: Green Lawn Fertilizing Door Hangers.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:
None.

OLD BUSINESS:
Engagement of Michael J. Torchia, Esq.—Solicitor Holloway reported that at the last meeting, the Board voted to hire Mr. Torchia to investigate a Township personnel matter. Mr. Holloway requested that the Board confirm Mr. Torchia's engagement and authorize the Board's Vice President to execute the engagement letter.

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to confirm the engagement of Michael J. Torchia, Esq. of the law firm of Semanoff, Ormsby, Greenberg & Torchia, LLC for investigation of a personnel matter and authorized Bruce L. Foltz, Vice President of the Board of Commissioners to execute the engagement letter on behalf of the Board. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Joe Zlomek of the Sanatoga Post asked the Solicitor for the estimated cost to retain Mr. Torchia. Solicitor Holloway advised that to conduct up to five interviews and prepare a report, Mr. Torchia's fixed fee is $7,500.

Generator—Commissioner Foltz stated that there are funds in the budget for a generator. Commissioner Foltz felt it would be money well spent to hire an electrical engineer to determine the size, the load, fuel supply, etc. Mr. Exley said Bursich has an electrical engineer that Bill Dingman's group uses who could assist the Township. There was discussion about what areas of the Muncipal Building would need to run on the generator. The Board supported Commissioner Foltz's proposal and authorized Mr. Hawthorne to set up a meeting with Commissioner Foltz, Acting Chief Foltz and Keith Place to discuss what was needed for the generator. Mr. Hawthorne will then report back to the Board with a quote for the services of the electrical engineer.

NEW BUSINESS:
None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 305—Mr. Hawthorne presented this ordinance, which authorizes the installation of dual stop signs on Pruss Hill Road, East and West as you enter the one lane Pruss Hill Road Bridge.

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 305, amending the Township of Lower Pottsgrove Code of Ordinances, As Amended, to Establish Two (2) Dual Stop Signs on Pruss Hill Road in Lower Pottsgrove Township. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Commissioner Klotz commented that there is a faded yellow line in the middle of the road on the Bridge. Since the Bridge is now one lane, Commissioner Klotz felt the yellow line should be removed from the roadway. Mr. Hawthorne will check with the traffic engineer.

Mr. Wolfgang commented about the location of the weight limit signs on Pruss Hill Road. Mr. Hawthorne said the signs are installed according to PennDOT rules and regulations.

Mr. Zlomek said busses have been going over the bridge. Lt. Foltz said that was supposed to have stopped last month.

Resolution No. 930—Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to accept the highest bid in the amount of $1,500.00 for the 1997 Ford 250 HD XL 4x4 Truck with plow included, Item No. 12215 on Municibid, submitted by Scott Ziegler. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Commissioner Klotz said he didn't see a price in the resolution. Solicitor Holloway said he drafted the resolution before the auction was completed. He followed the same format that we used for past auctions.

Mr. Phillips asked if the Township disclosed what was wrong with the vehicle. Mr. Hawthorne said we did.

Warrant—Warrant No. 798 for the month of February 2012 was distributed via email for the Commissioner review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Klotz commented that the Township does not have a football field. He felt that with the success of the Pottsgrove High School football program, we need to find a place for the football players to practice. He suggested using a small area at Gerald Richards Park for this purpose. Commissioner Kaiser said the area has drainage issues and if kids in cleats are playing on it, it will be torn up. He also said why limit it to football, lacrosse could also use fields and noted there is an overall need for more fields.

There was discussion among the Commissioners on the availability of fields and the high cost to provide facilities to meet the needs of Township residents and residents of the other Pottsgroves who utilize the Township facilities because they do not have adequate facilities in their own townships. Commissioner McGroarty asked if field availability was something that Regional Planning was looking into. Ms. Elliott said it will be part of the discussion when they meet to discuss regional recreation. Ms. Elliott suggested having the football organization call Jen

Corley about field availability as they have been able to accommodate an adult football league in the past.

Commissioner Kaiser would like the Township's Parks and Recreation Board to discuss the possibility of having the sports organizations and other municipalities help generate additional income to help pay for the existing and proposed fields since other municipalities do not provide as wide an offering of fields for sports organizations to use.

Commissioner Kaiser had no further comments.

Commissioner McGroarty thanked Jim Phillips for staying on as the Township's representative on the Stormwater Coalition. He said it is a complicated issue and thanked Jim for his continued support and guidance.

Commissioner Foltz also thanked Mr. Phillips for his involvement with stormwater.

Commissioner Foltz said two generators have been donated to the Township, one from Pottsgrove School District and the other from Occidental Chemical. He requested that the Road Crew get the generators out so an engineer can take a look at them, and then list them for sale on Municibid. The Board supported Commissioner Foltz's request.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS:
Mr. Hawthorne made the Board aware of fees that the Township will have to pay to Montgomery County for information that was formerly provided free of charge.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele M. Cappelletti

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Secretary