

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 4, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 4, 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; Lt. Michael A. Foltz, Acting Chief of Police; Jennifer Marsteller, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Chad Camburn, Township Engineer and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

Jonathan H. Spadt, President, and Lew Babel, Fire Marshal were absent from the meeting.

PRESENTATION:

Acting Chief of Police Michael A. Foltz presented Michele Cappelletti with a Citizen's Award for reporting suspicious activity to the Police, which resulted in the arrest of a suspect who is allegedly responsible for four separate residential burglaries in the Township. Acting Chief Foltz stated Ms. Cappelletti's action was an example of how the community has been working with the Police.

Acting Chief Foltz also presented a Unit Commendation Award to Det. Joe Campbell, Ofc. Dan Kienle, Ofc. Rob Diesinger and Ofc. Ryan Smith. These officers were responsible for the apprehension of the subject.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the recipients of the awards.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 24, 2012 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 3-0 in favor. Commissioner McGroarty abstained from the vote because he was not present at the May 24, 2012 meeting.

REPORTS:

Police

Acting Chief Foltz reported that there were 1,232 reported calls for service, which included 75 traffic violations and 106 criminal violations. He highlighted the following from his report:

1. Training:

- a. Ofc. Kemp attended "Field Training Officer" certification training.
- b. Ofc. Diesinger attended re-certification for car seat safety inspections.

- c. Officers McCue, Meitzler, Musselman and Kenney, all members of the Montgomery County Municipal Drug Task Force, attended DTF training provided by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

2. Traffic Enforcement:

- a. Received funding for the Buckle-Up PA traffic enforcement detail in the amount of \$1,000.

3. Criminal Investigations/Arrests:

- a. Det. Campbell investigated two sexual reports. One was a false report; he is actively investigating the other.
- b. There continues to be a problem with thefts from unlocked cars in residential neighborhoods.

4. Fleet:

- a. New 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe has been painted, lettered and is currently being upfitted for emergency lighting.
- b. New 2012 Dodge Charger police vehicle will be picked up on June 5.

Resolution No. 940—Acting Chief Foltz requested approval to sell the decommissioned 2004 Ford Expedition (4x4) XLT Special Service vehicle on Municibid. He recommended a reserve price of \$3,500.

Commissioner Kaiser made a motion to approve Resolution No. 940, authorizing the auction of a 2004 Ford Expedition (4x4) XLT Special Service police vehicle through Municibid, with a reserve price of \$3,500. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Commissioner Klotz asked how the reserve price works. Solicitor Holloway explained that the bidding for the vehicle must get to at least the reserve price. If it does not sell for at least \$3,500, it would be up to the Commissioners to decide what they want to do next. Acting Chief Foltz used the price of a comparable vehicle that recently sold on Municibid and the Kelley Blue Book value to come up with the reserve price.

5. Radio Upgrades:

- a. Acting Chief Foltz has been in contact with Montgomery County Commissioner Bruce Castor. Sgt. Greenwood also attended a committee meeting.
- b. 2017 is the target date for the radio system upgrade that will force the Police Department to upgrade its radios.
- c. Replacement cost for each radio, at today's prices, is approximately \$5,000. The estimated cost to replace the Department's 16 radios is \$80,000.
- d. This project is in its early stages; however, Acting Chief Foltz recommended that we start thinking about and planning for the radio upgrade now.

Commissioner Foltz said the radio upgrade was also discussed at C.O.G. and all the municipalities are in the same predicament. Due to the economy, there currently is no grant money available from the County but this could change in the future.

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

Emergency Management

1. **EOC Activations**—Acting Chief Foltz reported there were no EOC activations during May 2012.
2. **Training**—There was no formal training during the month of May 2012.
3. **Sign**—The Township Manager, EMC and Deputy EMC met with Lamar Signs to discuss utilizing the sign along Rt. 422 for public service announcements.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel was absent from the meeting. Commissioner Foltz reported the following statistics from the Fire Marshal's report:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
	June 2012	June 2012	June 2012	June 2012
Sanatoga (Station 58)	33	503	240	Not provided
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	42	231	56	233

(Hours are approximate)

Highway—Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read highlights from the May 2012 Public Works Report. Report will be posted on the bulletin board.

Commissioner Foltz pointed out that the Township saved money by having the road crew raise the backstop at the Sanatoga Park ball field. Mr. Hawthorne reported H&K donated the 60 ft. high lift and Reading Foundry donated PVC and fittings for this project. Joe Vecchio donated the netting. Without these donations, the project would have cost over \$7,000.

C.O.G.—Commissioner Foltz reported that the police/fire radio upgrade was discussed.

Commissioner Foltz also reported that Lower Pottsgrove Township, along with other C.O.G. municipalities, is having a problem with homeowners putting grass in the streets. This grass eventually ends up in the storm sewers, which can lead to major problems. It is costing the Township money to alleviate the problem, as the Township is paying its road crew to clean the grass from the streets and/or storm sewers.

Commissioner Foltz asked if the Township has any ordinances it can enforce, such as the MS4, to address this issue. Mr. Camburn said we could use the MS4 as a backdrop, but it does not specifically address grass in the streets. Ms. Elliott suggested using the strong education

requirements of the MS4 to make our residents aware of the dangers, impact and costs to clean out the storm sewers.

Commissioner Foltz asked if the Board wanted to pursue addressing this problem. After discussion, Commissioner Foltz suggested publishing something in the Mercury or the Sanatoga Post making residents aware of the problem. Commissioner Kaiser agreed with educating the residents. Commissioner McGroarty suggested reviewing ordinances from other municipalities to see how they are handling enforcement.

Joe Zlomek offered to carry a story in the Sanatoga Post as a public service. It was the consensus of the Board to accept Mr. Zlomek's offer and to email him information for the story.

Engineering

1. **MS4:** Mr. Camburn presented a status update on the MS4 permit. There will be a Pennsylvania Stormwater Coalition Meeting on May 24, 2012.
2. **Ciluffo (Bella Italia):** Mr. Camburn reported on numerous problems with this project. Most recently, the second excavator is leaving because of financial issues with the general contractor. Township Code Enforcement Officer Keith Place has been closely monitoring the project and has developed a timeline of events. He has issued a stop work order for the building. Mr. Camburn said work has continued on the building despite the stop work order.

Commissioner Klotz had serious concerns and asked how the Township can rectify the situation. He asked if we have escrow from Ciluffo. Solicitor Holloway advised the escrow is not for the building, it is just for public improvements. Mr. Hawthorne said the stop work order is out and the Township is following the process on other issues.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Kaiser requested that Mr. Place update the Commissioners via email. Commissioner Foltz said Keith has been on top of it and requested that he come to a Board meeting and report what is going on at the site.

On another note, Mr. Camburn reported the stormwater management facilities are in order and the water is being detained properly.

Treasurer—Ms. Marsteller presented the Tax Collector's Monthly Report to Taxing Districts for the month of May 2012 to the Commissioners for review.

Solicitor

Montgomery County Tax Claims Bureau: Solicitor Holloway and Mr. Hawthorne received an update on legislation regarding the payment of a 5% commission to the Montgomery County Tax Claims Bureau for the collection of delinquent taxes, even if the delinquent taxes are collected by a third party.

Solicitor Holloway advised that there is nothing going on in the Pennsylvania Senate but Pennsylvania House of Representatives Bill 1877 is currently pending in the Finance Committee. HB 1877 would allow municipalities to choose how their delinquent real estate taxes are collected. The Solicitor recommended that the Board notify Lower Pottsgrove's representative

in the House, Tom Quigley, if it wanted to see anything done with this legislation. Commissioner Kaiser made a recommendation to send a letter to Representative Tom Quigley and the Board agreed to do so.

Parks and Recreation—Ms. Elliott reported the following:

1. **Fishing Rodeo:** Will be held on June 16, 2012. Jen Corley is in the process of finalizing this event.
2. **Summer Concerts:** Jen Corley is finalizing the schedule of concerts. First concert will be held on June 24, 2012.
3. **Gerald Richards Park Playground:** John Fogel requested that installation be postponed until later in June to accommodate his schedule. Ms. Elliott said this timeframe works well.
4. **Montgomery County Regional Parks & Recreation:** Meeting tentatively scheduled for June 27.

Commissioner Klotz asked about the installation of grills in the parks. Ms. Elliott received a request for grills and ordered two for Sanatoga Park at a cost of \$125 each. Park Board member Rich Wood is providing guidance of this project. Ms. Elliott will monitor to see if the grills are being used and will report back to the Board.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission—Ms. Elliott reported that a revised draft of the Strategy Report and Market Analysis and Fiscal Impact Study shows the impact of recreation on capital budgets. The revisions did not make much of a difference in Lower Pottsgrove Township. The Commission plans to adopt the plan later in June or in July.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

The following information was included in the Commissioners packets:

1. Email to Rod Hawthorne. Subject: Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Radio Committee.
2. Email from Bryan Kulbacki, Ticket Sales Consultant, Reading Royals Hockey Team. Subject: Group Night

Sprint Nextel—According to a memo from Keith Place, Nextel has started its transition to decommission its platform and change over to a Sprint-based system for two-way communications. A Sprint representative will be meeting with Keith Place to demonstrate its two-way phones.

Two-way communication is currently used by Township staff and the Police Department. Acting Chief Foltz said very few carriers offer direct connect and we could go back to using two-way radios. He suggested doing a cost/benefit analysis to determine if the Township should stay with Sprint or go back to the radios.

The Board further discussed two-way phones and direct connect communication. They did not take action at this time.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Generators—Mr. Hawthorne, Acting Chief Foltz and Mr. Place met with electrical engineer Neal Fisher regarding the generator project.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution No. 940—See **REPORTS: Police.**

Warrant—Warrant No. 801 was distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Klotz congratulated and thanked Michele Cappelletti and the Lower Pottsgrove Police Department for their actions.

Commissioner Klotz said the Relay for Life is a great event and the Pottsgrove Relay is the 4th largest in the country.

Commissioners Kaiser, McGroarty and Foltz echoed Commissioner Klotz's appreciation to Michele Cappelletti and the Police Department.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele M. Cappelletti
Secretary