

**Lower Pottsgrove Township
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Monday, October 1, 2012 7:00PM**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 1, 2012 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

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

R. Kurtz Holloway, Solicitor; Rodney P. Hawthorne, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager; Jennifer Corley, Administrative Assistant; Jennifer Marsteller, Treasurer; Scott Exley, Township Engineer; Chief Michael Foltz; Lew E. Babel, Fire Marshal.

Commissioners Jonathan H. Spadt, President and James Kaiser were absent from the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 20, 2012 Board of Commissioners work session meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor Holloway announced that an executive session was held tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

REPORTS:

Police:

Chief Foltz recognized Officer Robert Diesinger for his dedication and honorable service to the Camp Cadet Program for the past 11 years with an Honorable Service pin and plaque. Trooper Morgan Crummy was present and offered her congratulations as well as her thanks for all Off. Diesinger does for the program. Off. Diesinger in turn thanked the Board of Commissioners for allowing him to participate with the program. Commissioner Bruce Foltz commented that this program is excellent and creates better young men in the community.

Chief Foltz reported that the Lower Pottsgrove Township Police committed to mutual aid to Plymouth Township PD as a result of the line-of-duty death involving Plymouth Township Police Officer Bradley Fox. He also stated that the department has upgraded its Visual Alert reporting system and is now LEJIS (Law enforcement Justice Integration System) compliant.

1. Training: Chief Foltz reported that Sgts. Greenwood and Walters attended a 2 week training on "Supervision of Police Personnel" hosted by Northwestern University and sponsored by Spring Township PD. He went on to report the Ofc. Ryan Smith, who was recently added to

CMERT as a tactical operator, underwent a 5 day Basic SWAT Training. Ofc. Matt Meitzler attended a 2-day Drug Diversion training at Ft. Indiantown Gap taught by Northeast Counterdrug Training Center at no charge to the Township. Ofc. James McCue, a member of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Municipal Drug Task Force unit, has been invited to attend "Top Gun" training at Ft. Indiantown Gap from October 21-27. His name was submitted for attendance by the Montgomery County District Attorney's office and is offered at no charge to the Township.

2. Traffic Enforcement: Police Department has been temporarily contracted by JD Eckman to conduct traffic calming and buffering in the 422 construction zone as part of their agreement with PennDOT. Ultimately, PA State Police will take over the buffering while Lower Pottsgrove Township Police will continue to conduct periodic traffic enforcement through the construction zone. Chief Foltz also reported that a traffic study was done at the intersection of Rupert Rd. and Pruss Hill Rd at the request of a citizen with a complaint about a school bus stop. The citizen was requesting a 3-way stop sign. A group effort was made by the school district, the transportation company and the police department to make the bus stop safer. The children are now on a different bus and picked up in their driveway. The resident has expressed her gratitude for all those that worked with her towards a resolution. Chief Foltz then reported there was a reduced manpower DUI checkpoint on Armand Hammer Blvd between the hours of 9PM and 1AM on Friday, Sept. 28th. The results are as follows:

- 2 DUI arrests (7 persons tested total)
- 1 Drug arrest
- 4 Expired inspection stickers
- 2 Child restraint systems
- 1 Driving under DUI suspension
- 1 Red light
- 1 Illegal U turn
- 1 Illegal backing

3. Criminal Investigations/Arrests: Chief Foltz reported that Det. Campbell closed an ongoing sexual abuse of child investigation. He also stated that charges have been filed in the December 2011 armed robbery of the Turkey Hill Store by Montgomery County Detectives and that the Police are currently investigating a series of burglaries and thefts in the Sunnybrook Village area of the township.

4. Fleet: Chief Foltz reported that the transmission is beginning to slip in the unmarked car assigned to the SRO and will cost approximately \$2600 to replace.

5. Overtime: There were 52.5 hours of overtime expended on mutual aid provided to Plymouth PD as a result of a line-of-duty death. A number of officers who made overtime on this detail have committed to donate their earnings to the Officers memorial fund. Chief Foltz also reported that 33.5 hours were expended for traffic calming and buffering in 422 construction areas. The costs associated with this detail are being billed to JD Eckman Inc, contractor for PennDOT.

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

Commissioner Klotz commented that he participated in a ride-along on the night of the DUI checkpoint and they handled themselves very professionally. Commissioner Klotz also inquired

about the upgrade to the radios and if there was a time frame. Chief Foltz responded that he expects a 2017 rollout and the current radios are being upgraded for compliance. There is an approximate cost of \$200,000 to \$250,000 and that he must plan for this expense in future budgeting processes.

Commissioner Foltz inquired about the 2006 Crown Victoria on Municibid. Mr. Hawthorne responded that the item has been re-listed as of October 1st and the auction will be complete on Monday, October 15th. The bids will be presented for approval at the October 18th meeting.

Fire Marshal:

Mr. Babel announced that the first week of October is Fire Prevention Week. Both companies will be out to public and private schools. He also reported that Ringing Hill will host a HAZMAT refresher course.

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hours	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hours
Sanatoga (Station 58)	September 2012	September 2012	September 2012	September 2012	September 2012
	19	12:01	76	126	
Ringing Hill (Station 59)	16	12:02	103	133:30	248

(Hours are approximate)

Commissioner Klotz commented that he would also like to thank the fire department volunteers and the fire police for their good work.

Highway – Public Works Report:

Commissioner Foltz read the report for September 2012. The full report will be posted on the bulletin board.

C.O.G.: Commissioner Foltz reported that discussion revolved around sharing equipment between townships. Questions arose about the responsibility of repairs when equipment breaks and also the liability and insurance responsibility. He would like to report back to COG at their next meeting whether the commissioners would be interested in participating in such a program. Commissioner Foltz also reported that West Pottsgrove and Upper Pottsgrove are considering combining forces. There was also discussion on the abandoned gas station at the corner of Charlotte St. and Mervine St. and that there is another property owned by the same people in North Coventry. The Township manager was supposed to contact Mr. Hawthorne. Solicitor Holloway announced that the solicitor from North Coventry contacted him and they discussed the viable options for these properties. It was determined that both municipalities are up against an owner with no funds. It would not be good to attempt to enforce clean up as there would be the challenge of the cost. If the municipalities attempt to impose fines, the owners have no funds to pay them. Commissioner Foltz asked if the buildings could be razed and the pumps removed to make that corner presentable. Solicitor Holloway commented that at present there are no safety concerns with the property, and the only remedy is eminent domain. If the Township

chooses to exercise that right, they still have to pay the landowner fair market value. It would be township funds expended for an ultimate grassy area. At this point there are no real solutions to the problem.

Engineer: Mr. Exley reported on the progress of 2209 E. High St. – Bella Italia. At present the owners have discussed re-starting the project. Currently the engineer is awaiting a schedule and notice from the contractor as to when work will begin.

Mr. Camburn reported that all paving and concrete sidewalk, curbing and driveway apron work is completed at Raven's Claw. Bursich is working with the developer and their contractor to complete the remaining work by October 15, 2012.

Mr. Exley also reported on the two bridges that were inspected, Sanatoga Station Bridge and Sunnybrook Road Bridge. There are recommendations on a couple issues with Sanatoga Station Bridge that Mr. Hawthorne has and the Sunnybrook Road bridge report had no comments.

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

Solicitor: Solicitor Holloway had nothing to report.

Parks & Recreation: Ms. Elliott reported that the biggest discussion has been on the topic of Regional Recreation. There were many points discussed about how each of the participants wants it to work, the differences of opinion and the similarities. The general consensus is that it is a good idea to share ideas and equipment and programs. The Borough of Pottstown has a good program. Ms. Elliott also requested the Board members complete and return the Regional Recreation questionnaire. Ms. Elliott reported that within the township there is concern over the safety on the new playground equipment at Gerald Richards Park. According to the Parks & Recreation ordinance, the Rules and Regulations can be amended with a resolution.

Resolution No. 951: Adopting rules for the use of playgrounds and /or tot lots in the parks and recreation areas of the Township. A motion was made to approve Resolution No. 951 with amendments to numbers 3 & 4 to read as follows:

- 3) Adult supervision is required for children under the age of 6.
- 4) Adult supervision is recommended for children older than 6.

The motion was made by Commissioner McGroarty and seconded by Commissioner Klotz and passed with a unanimous vote of 3-0.

Audience member Bill Wolfgang inquired as to whether the Township has insurance for the playground equipment. Mr. Hawthorne responded that the Township does have the required insurance.

Regional Planning: Ms. Elliott reported that the main discussion at the Regional Planning meeting was the Regional Recreation. There was also an announcement that the deadline for public comments for the Fiscal Impact Study is approaching.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hawthorne explained that a condition of Chief Foltz hire package was that he take a non-competitive exam. A motion was made by Commissioner Klotz and seconded by Commissioner McGroarty for authorization for the Civil Service Board to meet at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Administration Building on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 5:30PM. Commissioner Foltz abstained from the vote. The motion carried with a vote of 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hawthorne asked the board for authorization to send out bids for diesel fuel. The current contract expires on October 30, 2012. He explained the fuel is used for the trucks and generators at the pump stations. Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to authorize the diesel fuel bid. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klotz and carried with a vote of 3-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Resolution No. 952 – Mr. Hawthorne presented Resolution No. 952 authorizing the expenditures of the General Municipal Pension System State Aid in the amount of \$178,805.49 as follows:

Police Pension Plan	\$121,587.73
Non-Uniformed Pension Plan	<u>57,217.76</u>
Total Distributed	\$178,805.49

And authorized the municipality to deposit **\$180,305.51** from the General Fund in order to satisfy the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of **\$134,504.24** and for the Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of **\$45,801.27**. The motion was made by Commissioner Klotz and seconded by Commissioner McGroarty. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Warrant- Warrant #805 for September 2012 will be distributed via email for review.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

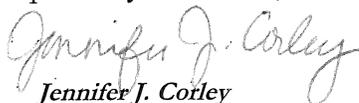
Commissioner Klotz had no further comments.

Commissioner McGroarty had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz commented that there are many street lights out and the corner of N. Pleasantview Rd. And E. High St. is very dark. The Rite Aid lights are out as are the street lights. Mr. Hawthorne responded that he will check with Keith regarding the lights at Rite Aid and have staff make a call to PECO for the street lights to be checked.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer J. Corley