

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 1, 2013

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 1, 2013 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; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal; Chris Wilcox, Emergency Management Coordinator; Jennifer V. Marsteller, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Scott Exley, Township Engineer and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor Holloway announced that the Board of Commissioners met in executive session at 6:30 p.m. immediately prior to tonight's public meeting to discuss a personnel matter. No action was taken.

DEPUTY TREASURER/DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR:

The Honorable Maurice H. Saylor, Magisterial District 38-2-03, swore in Virginia Smith as the Lower Pottsgrove Township Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Tax Collector. The Board of Commissioners appointed Virginia Smith to this position at its regularly scheduled meeting held on March 4, 2013 by Resolution No. 971.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2013 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

REPORTS:

Police

Chief Foltz advised that due to the holiday and his commitment to attend a meeting in Harrisburg, the final statistical report will be submitted later this week. He will have a full report for the Board at the April 25, 2013 workshop meeting.

Chief Foltz highlighted the following from his interim report:

1. Calls for Service/Departmental Activities:

- a. Chief Foltz and SRO James attended a cabinet meeting of Pottsgrove School District Administration. School safety and security measures were discussed.
- b. In response to recent incidents in Camden and Philadelphia where 2 police cruisers were stolen, coupled with ongoing concerns for securing police vehicles which are often left idle, the department is beginning to install "idle safe" units in cars. Cost is \$159/vehicle, installed. This device allows the car to be left idle, but requires entering the proper security sequence to put the car in gear.
- c. Police Officer Eligibility/Application Process—89 applications were received. 79 applicants took the written examination on March 23, 2013. Physical agility will be held on April 20 for the top 15 candidates.

2. Training:

- a. SRO James, Superintendent of the Pottsgrove School District and members of her staff attended a seminar on school safety at DeSales University.
- b. Chief Foltz attended PELRAS conference in State College, PA from March 20 to 22. He highly recommended it.

3. Traffic Enforcement:

- a. The Department has received Smooth Operator funding to conduct traffic enforcement. Funding will be used to enforce traffic violations along various roadways in the Township, including the 422 construction zone and along Bleim Road.
- b. On March 7, 2013 a traffic detail was conducted on Bleim Road in cooperation with the PA State Police.

4. Criminal Investigations/Arrests:

- a. Det. Campbell and Off. Kienle are working on an armed robbery of a pizza delivery driver in Walnut Ridge Estates.
- b. SRO James handled an investigation into a Township juvenile who made threats to harm others in the Pottsgrove Middle School over social media.
- c. On March 27, police responded to a suspicious person call on Crestwood Drive. Suspect asserted he was looking for three lost children; this was determined to be false and the investigation turned into a burglary investigation. Investigation is ongoing.

5. Fleet:

- a. One new Dodge Charger is in service; the second should be in service by the end of the week.
- b. The old marked patrol car (88-3) is being converted to an unmarked car to replace the current SRO vehicle. Western Montgomery County Vo-Tech School is handling the body repairs and painting of this vehicle.

6. Radio Update:

- a. Chief Foltz has learned that County Radio is moving forward with implementation of the new communication system. We are advised to begin planning and budgeting for the purchase of new radios in 2014. Chief Foltz is recommending the purchase of 20 portable radios at \$4,000 each, at an estimated

total cost of \$80,000. Chief Foltz also recommends the purchase of at least 3 mobile radios. Price of mobile radios has not yet been determined.

- b. Montgomery County may offer 5-year zero interest loans to municipalities to help with the cost of implementation. More information to follow.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel reported the following statistics for February 2013:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
	Feb. 2013	Feb. 2013	Feb. 2013	Feb. 2013	Feb. 2013
Sanatoga (Station 58)	29	24	206	114	Not provided
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	14	6.5	Not provided	96.5	586

(Hours are approximate)

Highway—Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read the Public Works Report for March 2013. Report will be posted on the bulletin board.

C.O.G.—Commissioner Foltz reported that one C.O.G. meeting was cancelled and some C.O.G. representatives were not notified of a second meeting. Commissioner Foltz asked Michele Cappelletti to check around to get a current C.O.G. meeting schedule.

Engineering—Scott Exley of Bursich Associates provided an Engineers' Report updating the Board on various projects and activities going on in the Township. He reported that Southview Subdivision, Pottstown Oral Surgery (Sunnybrook C-3) and Tri County Urologic (Sunnybrook C-7) are in the final phases of construction.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) Chris Wilcox reported the following:

1. There were no Township EOC activations in March 2013.
2. Chief Foltz has the Request for Public Assistance Application complete. Waiting on FEMA and PEMA to submit it.

Treasurer—Ms. Marsteller presented the Tax Collector's Monthly Report to Taxing Districts for the month of March 2013 to the Commissioners for review.

Solicitor

Delinquent Tax Collection—Solicitor Holloway reported that during this legislative session, there is a bill in the Senate to eliminate the 5% default payment that is paid to Montgomery County on delinquent taxes, even if the County does not collect the tax.

According to a letter from Portnoff Law Associates, Representative George Dunbar intends to initiate that all taxing authorities should contact their local state representatives to support elimination of the 5% fee and sign on as a co-sponsor of the legislation. Solicitor Holloway recommended reaching out to our new State Representative, Mark Painter.

Commissioner Kaiser made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to contact The Honorable Mark Painter and voice the Board's support of elimination of Montgomery County's ability to collect a 5% fee on any taxing entity they do not service. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Parks and Recreation and Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning

Ms. Elliott reported that the Parks and Recreation Board did not have a meeting in March due to lack of a quorum. The Regional Recreation Coordinator position will be discussed at the April meeting and Ms. Elliott will report the Parks Board's recommendation back to the Board of Commissioners. Regional Planning is following through with the Regional Recreation Coordinator position as well.

Health and Wellness Foundation Mini-Grants—Ms. Elliott discussed the Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation mini-grants to be distributed among the 8 member municipalities. Grants are for small projects that do not require a lot of planning. The Township Parks and Recreation Board will determine if there are any projects that would qualify for this grant.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

Rupert Road Bridge—Mr. Hawthorne received a letter from Ken Starr, Director of Montgomery County Assets and Infrastructure, recapping their telephone conversation of February 12, 2013 regarding the replacement of the Rupert Road Bridge. The letter listed the major discussion points from that call. Mr. Hawthorne has a meeting on April 2 with Montgomery County Commissioner Leslie Richards and Mr. Starr. Mr. Hawthorne will report back to the Board on April 25, 2013.

Commissioner Foltz asked Mr. Hawthorne if he thinks replacement of the Rupert Road Bridge by the County is going to happen. Mr. Hawthorne said Mr. Starr is very interested and he does think it will happen.

REPORTS:

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority—Mr. Hawthorne reported that a joint meeting will be held at Pottstown Borough Hall on April 16, 2013. Representatives of Lower, Upper and West Pottsgrove will meet with the Pottstown Borough Authority to express their desire to have a say in decisions on capital-funded projects on the five-year plan. The Pottsgroves would also like to have a seat at the table in joint grant writing for plant improvements. Mr. Hawthorne will report back to the Board of Commissioners at its April 25, 2013 meeting.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Equipment Rental and Labor Agreement—Mr. Hawthorne reported that the Township received the following two bids for the 2013-2014 Equipment Rental and Labor Contract:

Contractor Name	Address	Bid Total
Reid Paving Contractors, Inc.	1850 Swamp Pike Gilbertsville, PA	\$253,300.00
Reading Site Contractors	392 Sanatoga Road Pottstown, PA 19464	\$286,800.00

Mr. Hawthorne recommended that the bid be awarded to the lowest bidder, Reid Paving Contractors, Inc. Solicitor Holloway reviewed the bids and the low bidder has complied with the provisions of the bid package.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to award the 2013-2014 Equipment Rental and Labor Contract to Reid Paving, whose total bid for the complete schedule of equipment (14 items) was \$253,300.00. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Allocation to Library—Commissioner Foltz said he had a conversation with Judge Yohn, who sits on the Board of the Pottstown Regional Public Library. Judge Yohn said it was very embarrassing that Lower Pottsgrove Township's allocation to the Library was one of the lowest. Commissioner Foltz admitted to Judge Yohn that he has had concerns about the amount Lower Pottsgrove contributes to the Library because of the Township's budget constraints.

Commissioner Foltz then received a letter from Judge Yohn advising that Pottstown Borough's per capita contribution is \$7.31; Lower Pottsgrove, Upper Pottsgrove and West Pottsgrove all contribute the same amount, which is \$5.15 per capita. Therefore, Lower Pottsgrove Township's contribution to the Library is less than Pottstown's but equal to the other two Pottsgroves. Commissioner Foltz supports revisiting the Library allocation during next year's budget process and hopefully increasing Lower Pottsgrove's contribution. The Executive Director of the Library usually attends a meeting and presents the Board with facts and figures prior to the start of the budget process.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

None.

Warrant—Warrant No. 811 for March 2013 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Klotz referred to a letter in the Commissioners' packet from Ken Starr, Director of Assets and Infrastructure for Montgomery County regarding the Rupert Road Bridge. He thanked Scott Exley for initially setting up a meeting between Township Commissioners, staff and Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro, which led to discussion about the Rupert Road Bridge. He said Scott made it happen.

Commissioner Kaiser thanked staff for putting together another great Easter Egg Hunt. The event was well attended. Ms. Elliott gave credit to Jennifer Corley for planning and running the Egg Hunt, saying Jen did a great job as always.

Commissioners McGroarty and Foltz had no comments.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, thanked the person who was responsible for the article in the Mercury about plans for 500 new homes in the Township. He felt the article was an eye-opener for everyone in the Township. Mr. Doyle is hoping that residents attend the May 6 Board of Commissioners meeting to voice their opinions.

Mr. Hawthorne advised that Robert L. Brant, Esquire will deliver a presentation to the Board at the May 6, 2013 meeting on the Dinnocenti subdivision on S. Park Road.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele M. Cappelletti
Secretary