

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 3, 2013

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 3, 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: Jonathan H. Spadt, President; Bruce L. Foltz, Vice President; Michael McGroarty, James Kaiser and Stephen M. Klotz.

R. Kurtz Holloway, Solicitor; Alyson E. Elliott, Assistant Manager; Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police; Lew Babel, Fire Marshal; Jennifer V. Marsteller, Treasurer/Tax Collector; Scott Exley and Chad Camburn, Township Engineers and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

Rodney P. Hawthorne, Manager was absent from the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Spadt announced that the Board of Commissioners met in executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a potential contract matter. Executive session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. No action was taken.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Tom Troutman announced that the Lower Pottsgrove Historical Society will be holding its Annual Strawberry Festival at the Chapel on Saturday, June 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He said it would be nice if some of the commissioners could attend.

PRESENTATION:

Regional Recreation Coordinator—Alyson Elliott introduced Anna Brendle Kennedy of the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF).

Ms. Elliott delivered a presentation on the Regional Recreation Coordinator position. She explained that the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has strongly encouraged the municipalities of the Pottstown area to join forces and hire a regional parks and recreation coordinator through its circuit rider program. With the approval of the member municipalities of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC), a regional recreation subcommittee was formed and, under the guidance and financial support of the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF), Sue Landes was hired as a consultant to determine:

- The feasibility of hiring a regional parks and recreation coordinator within the region
- What type of work the coordinator would do
- How the position would function

The consultant determined that a coordinator position would be very helpful to the municipalities within the region. One recreation coordinator would be able to serve six municipalities in Montgomery County (Lower, Upper and West Pottsgrove Townships, Pottstown Borough, New Hanover and Douglass Township) and two municipalities in Chester County (East and North

Coventry Townships). PAHWF will provide significant financial contribution, daily oversight of the coordinator, and office/meeting space for the coordinator over the five-year circuit rider program. The Regional Recreation Coordinator will provide technical assistance but will not take over the control the municipality's parks/facilities/programs and will not schedule the Township's fields/facilities.

Commissioner Spadt asked if PAHWF would actually be the Coordinator's employer. Ms. Elliott replied yes, PAHWF is making a significant contribution and they have offered to cover benefits. She provided the following figures:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
DCNR	\$65,000	\$48,750	\$32,500	\$16,250	\$0
PAHWF	\$10,000	\$23,825	\$37,708	\$47,277	\$48,158
TWPs collectively	\$0	\$4,375	\$8,750	\$17,500	\$35,000
Total Cost	\$75,000	\$76,950	\$78,958	\$81,027	\$83,158
Townships individually (LPT's contribution)	\$0	\$625	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000

Commissioner Foltz asked if the figures are based on all eight municipalities participating. Ms. Elliott said yes. She noted that the Lower Pottsgrove Parks and Recreation Board expressed concern about not all municipalities participating. They felt if at least three municipalities participated, with the Township's contribution over five years being \$22,000, the money would come back to us via grant funding, efficiency, sponsorship, etc.

As of the date of the meeting, Upper Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove, North Coventry, Pottstown Borough and Douglass Montgomery all said yes. Anna Brendle Kennedy will be presenting to East Coventry on June 10, 2013.

Commissioner Klotz noted that PAHWF will be contributing approximately \$48,000 in Year 5 and asked what happens in Year 6. Ms. Elliott said hopefully, during the 5 year process the program will be self sufficient with grant funding. She advised that after 5 years, the Township has no commitment.

Township resident Bill Wolfgang asked if a study has been done to determine the tax consequences for the Township, should the grant decrease or go away. Ms. Elliott said if we are awarded the grant, the funding is for five years. Commissioner Spadt said if the grant goes away, the Township has an out.

Commissioner Foltz said the Regional Recreation Coordinator position was discussed at C.O.G. Ms. Elliott said initially there was some confusion about how the position would impact an individual municipality's own parks and recreation systems. Commissioner Foltz felt the position is a good thing if the figures are accurate and it doesn't cost any more than what is being projected. Commissioner Spadt said if it works the way it is intended, it's an investment.

Commissioner Foltz asked if there will be a monthly report. Ms. Brendle Kennedy said the regional recreation subcommittee has been meeting for over a year and the Coordinator would report to that committee. There will be reports of their monthly meetings. Ms. Elliott said a Regional Recreation Report could be added to the Township's list of reports delivered at the first meeting of the month.

Commissioner Kaiser asked what the Township's three major goals would be over the five year period. Ms. Elliott said goals are up to the individual municipalities, based on what they want from the program. She said priorities should be established, such as open space funding, efficiency, etc., and the Township should develop a strategic plan.

Commissioner Spadt said Lower Pottsgrove hosts many children, from both inside and outside the Township, with its programs. He suggested leveraging what we have here, as certain areas are unbalanced. Commissioner Spadt's recommendation was to have the Board come up with three or four priorities based on what they want to accomplish.

Commissioner Foltz said the way things are now, if the Borough of Pottstown is hosting an event, Lower Pottsgrove doesn't know about it until the day after it's happened. By coordinating recreation, everyone will know what is going on and events won't clash. Commissioner Foltz asked if each township will have a representative and Ms. Elliott replied yes.

Commissioner Klotz asked if the Township goes along with hiring a Regional Recreation Coordinator, what happens if we don't get along or agree with this person. Ms. Brendle Kennedy said all municipalities who agree to participate will be involved in hiring the Coordinator.

Speaking as a resident, Scott Exley asked if anyone has talked to Pottsgrove School District and the Hill School, as they have the area's largest gyms and auditoriums. Ms. Brendle Kennedy said the schools are invited to all Regional Planning Commission meetings and they have strong relationships with the school districts. Commissioner Spadt said coordination could be on the Township's priority list.

Tom Troutman, a longtime member of the Township's Parks and Recreation Board, asked the Board of Commissioners to approve the resolution supporting the hiring of a Regional Recreation Coordinator. He thinks it is a step forward for us.

Ms. Elliott said the resolution requires the Township to set a minimum number of municipalities that must participate in order for the Township to support the submission of the grant and hiring the Coordinator.

After discussion, Commissioner Kaiser made a motion to approve Resolution No. 977 supporting the submission of a circuit grant application to the Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of hiring a Regional Recreation Coordinator, with a minimum number of five (5) participating municipalities. Commissioner Foltz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2013 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

REPORTS:

Police

Chief Foltz reported that there were 1,232 calls for service during the month of May 2013. There were 169 criminal investigations. 46 adults were arrested and 4 juveniles were handled. He highlighted the following from his report:

1. Calls for Service/Departmental Activities:

- a. The physical agility test for officer candidates was held on May 18. 15 of the 18 candidates participated; 1 candidate withdrew to take employment with another agency and 2 did not show. All 15 candidates passed and will move forward in the oral interview process scheduled for June 8.
- b. CMERT activation took place on May 30 in West Pottsgrove Township for a barricaded, suicidal subject wanted on domestic related offenses. He was successfully taken into custody by patrol officers on scene prior to deployment of tactical officers. Chief Foltz was on scene as CMERT team commander.
- c. Ofc. Scott Weidenhammer has been out on injury leave since May 24. He sustained an ankle injury while off duty.
- d. Exelon Nuclear Generating Station donated \$500 to help sponsor the Police Fish Derby that was held on April 27.
- e. The Police Bike Rodeo was held on May 25 at Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School. The event was once again a success with approximately 50 children attending.

2. Traffic Enforcement:

- a. On May 3, Lower Pottsgrove Police, with assistance from Pottstown PD, conducted a reduced manpower and equipment DUI checkpoint in the 300 block of Armand Hammer Blvd. Of the 325 total contacts, there were 5 DUI arrests out of 7 persons evaluated in secondary testing.

3. Fleet:

- a. Both decommissioned police cars are now listed on Municibid.
- b. The 2008 Ford Crown Victoria sold for \$3,451 (bidding closed at noon on May 31).
Commissioner Klotz made a motion to accept the high bid in the amount of \$3,451.00 for the 2008 Ford Crown Victoria, Item No. 15843 on Municibid, submitted by Steven Cesarz. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.
- c. The 2006 Ford Crown Victoria is still active on Municibid through June 19.
- d. The replacement SRO car is in the paint booth at Blast from the Past and expected completion is by June 10.

4. Overtime:

- a. The substantial overtime was due to an ongoing homicide investigation. Lower Pottsgrove Police are playing a supporting role to West Pottsgrove police in this investigation.
- b. Police provided contracted services for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at Sunnybrook on May 23 for their public meeting. Overtime costs are being reimbursed by the NRC.

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

Emergency Management

Chief Foltz delivered the Emergency Management Report, which was prepared by Chris Wilcox, Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Wilcox was not present due to his work schedule.

1. There were no Township EOC activations during March or April.
2. The Township was approved for reimbursement for expenses incurred during Hurricane Sandy. Total reimbursement will be \$5,831.07. FEMA approved \$18,604.03, but \$12,772.96 was deducted for pump station expenses covered by insurance.
3. On May 2, EMC Wilcox was on location during an incident involving an overturned truck carrying latex based driveway sealer.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel reported the following statistics for April 2013:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
	April 2013	April 2013	April 2013	April 2013	April 2013
Sanatoga (Station 58)	15	7.5	46	163	Not provided
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	13	9.5	65	Not provided	Not provided

(Hours are approximate)

Mr. Babel reported that both fire companies participated in a rescue and life saving drill at the former Occidental Chemical site. The drill was to prepare for potential accidents or incidents that could occur along Route 422. Mr. Babel commended everyone for working together as a team. Joe Zlomek of the Sanatoga Post took pictures of the event. Commissioner Foltz attended and said it was a good night for the crews.

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

Commissioner Foltz stated that the road crew did an excellent job pouring and finishing the concrete pad for the generator. At the time they were working on the project, there were only three men on the road crew, and he commended them for their hard work.

Commissioner Foltz reported that the generator project is moving along but the location of the generator had to be moved. The change was authorized by Rod Hawthorne and added \$1,500 to the cost of the project.

C.O.G.—Commissioner Foltz reported the next C.O.G. meeting will be held in September and Lower Pottsgrove Township will be hosting it. He said if any Commissioners would like to attend, they are welcome.

Engineering—Scott Exley of Bursich Associates provided an Engineers' Report updating the Board on various projects and activities going on in the Township. He said two residential subdivisions are wrapping up—Brookside Estates and Southview.

Mr. Exley also advised that the MS4 Stormwater Annual Report is due this month.

Commissioner Foltz said at the last meeting, the Board decided to support Wil Hallman's request for a variance for lighting at Buchert Ridge Community. He said Township staff was to either write a letter or send a representative to the Zoning Hearing on June 18 to express the Board's support. Commissioner Foltz asked if this was done and if Buchert Ridge Community got a U&O for the Prizer House Community Center. It was believed that the U&O had been issued by Keith Place. Commissioner Spadt asked if the Board entered an appearance. Solicitor Holloway advised that he has an email in to Rod to find out if Rod will be drafting the letter.

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

Solicitor—No report.

Parks and Recreation and Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning

1. **Regional Recreation Coordinator:** See PRESENTATION.
2. **Parks and Recreation:** Ms. Elliott announced that the Township will be holding its Annual Fish Rodeo on Saturday, June 15 at Sanatoga Park. Lines in at 7:30 a.m.
3. **Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC):** DVRPC is taking a project for PennDOT and expanding it. They will begin working with municipalities in July on a road and bridge management system.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator – Presentation: See PRESENTATION.

2008 Crown Victoria—Accept Municibid Auction Winning Bid: See REPORTS:
Police. Fleet.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution No. 977—Supporting Submission of Application to DCNR for a Circuit Rider Grant to Hire a Regional Recreation Coordinator: See PRESENTATION.

Resolution No. 978—Approving and Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Moyer Insulators for Billboard Sign: Solicitor Holloway reported that the Moyer Agreement spells out the size, rate of change (every 10 seconds), brightness, etc. using the same standards that are in the Lamar Agreement. The Agreement also allows the Township to use the sign for Amber Alerts and a certain amount of free advertising for Township events.

Solicitor Holloway advised if the Board approves Resolution No. 978, a letter would be sent to the Zoning Hearing Board stating there is no opposition from the Board on Moyer Insulators, Inc.'s request for relief. The letter would also request that the terms of the Agreement regulating the functioning of the sign become a condition of any order of approval with the Zoning Hearing Board may grant.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Resolution No. 978, Approving and Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Moyer Insulators for Billboard Sign. Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 979—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 979 Authorizing the Auction of a 2001 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD Truck through Municibid with a reserve price of \$3,000. Commissioner Foltz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant—Warrant No. 813 for May 2013 was distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Klotz attended the Bike Rodeo and thanked the Police Department, Fire Companies, Fire Police, Sheriff and everyone who was involved. He said it requires a lot of coordination and is a great community event.

Commissioner Klotz thanked Lew Babel for coordinating training with the fire companies. He said training is important and he's glad the fire companies participate in training exercises.

Commissioner Klotz said the Relay for Life was held this past weekend. He thanked the Police and fire companies for volunteering at this huge community event.

Commissioner Kaiser and **Commissioner McGroarty** had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz said the training event at Occidental Chemical was featured on the Sanatoga Post. He said all companies worked together and the display of firefighting equipment and apparatus was very impressive.

Commissioner Foltz asked if Township staff has heard anything about businesses being interested in the vacant Rite Aid store on E. High Street and/or Saint Pius X High School on N. Keim Street. Ms. Elliott has not heard anything about Saint Pius X, but said there has been discussion about a building permit for the Rite Aid building. Chad Camburn said there have been inquiries about sewage capacity and they have fielded phone calls about Rite Aid.

Commissioner Foltz said it's important that the Township work hard with whoever is interested to help fill these vacant buildings and he hoped any EDU issues could be worked out.

Commissioner Kaiser asked if the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is paying tax on the Saint Pius X building, since it is no longer tax exempt. Ms. Marsteller said yes, the Archdiocese has been paying tax on the property as of July of last year.

Commissioner Spadt said he heard about the Rite Aid building and said these types of re-development projects should be bumped up on and focused on.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele M. Cappelletti
Secretary