

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 20, 2014

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled work session meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014 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 attended:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, President; Stephen M. Klotz, Vice President; Shawn Watson and James Vlahos.

Blake Dunbar, Solicitor; Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Chief of Police Michael A. Foltz and Michele Christman, Finance Director.

Commissioner James Kaiser and Michele Cappelletti, Township Secretary, were absent from the meeting.

Commissioner Foltz announced the meeting was being recorded.

SERGEANT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:

Chief Foltz advised there was some restructuring taking place in the Police Department to allow for increased supervision 24/7. As a result of the restructuring, three officers will be sworn-in as police sergeants at tonight's meeting.

Det. Joseph Campbell, Ofc. William James and Ofc. Scott Weidenhammer were sworn-in as sergeants by the Honorable Edward C. Kropp, Sr., Magisterial District 38-1-12.

Chief Foltz explained the process to become a police sergeant. He said each officer needed five years minimum of service in the Department and was required to take both a written and an oral examination. At that point, the candidates were selected and then had to undergo psychological and physical testing. Chief Foltz was proud of these officers and offered his congratulations.

On behalf of the Lower Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners, Police Commissioner Steve Klotz congratulated the three new sergeants. He said along with Chief Foltz, the Police Committee's goal is to make sure our Police Department is the safest and strongest it can be to serve our community. He felt the addition of the three sergeants will help accomplish that goal and he was very proud of this day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 23 and November 3, 2014 Board of Commissioners meetings. Commissioner Vlahos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the SRO Agreement between Lower Pottsgrove Township and the Pottsgrove School District. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Joe Zlomek of the Sanatoga Post asked if there was any change in the Agreement from last year. Chief Foltz advised it was changed from a one-year contract to a three-year contract and some language was removed relating to the D.A.R.E. Program, which we no longer teach.

Conditional Offer of Employment—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Scott Burnick as a police officer in Lower Pottsgrove Township. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Adoption of 2015 Tentative Budget—Commissioner Watson made a motion to adopt the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2015. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Advertisement of the 2015 Budget and Tax Enabling Ordinances and Resolution—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to advertise:

- **Ordinance No. 146-OO** Adopting the Lower Pottsgrove Township 2015 Budget
- **Ordinance No. 133-NN** Setting the Real Estate Property Tax Rate for 2015
- **Ordinance No. 134-OO** Setting the Rate of Assessment of Street Lighting for 2015
- **Resolution No. 344-33** Establishing the Rates for Act 511 Taxes for 2015

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 318—Commissioner Watson made a motion to advertise Ordinance No. 318 for installation of a stop sign on Hunter Run. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 1041-14—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1041-14, confirming special fire police officer, **Sharon A. Hausmann**, of the Sanatoga Fire Company. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution No. 1042-14—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1042-14, confirming special fire police officer, **Juan A. Martinez**, of the Sanatoga Fire Company. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Warrant #830—Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Warrant #830 for the month of October 2014. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report—Commissioner Vlahos made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2014, as submitted by Jennifer Marsteller. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION BY H&R MOBILE MARKETING SOLUTIONS:

Ray Strano of H&R Mobile Marketing Solutions explained his company's services, which are designed specifically for local governments. Mr. Strano's focus was text marketing and he demonstrated how this works. A question and answer session followed.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Vlahos had no comments.

Commissioner Watson extended congratulations to the new sergeants. He had the privilege of being part of the promotion process and he was impressed with the candidates. He said they are a great group of guys.

Commissioner Watson stated the Township's food drive is coming up. We had a good turnout last year, but this year there is more time to collect donations. Food will be collected from homes throughout the Township during the fire companies' Santa Runs on December 20 and 21. Commissioner Watson advised the Township is also adopting two families through the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family Program.

Commissioner Klotz also congratulated the sergeants and the entire police force. He said this is something we've been working on for quite some time and we took our time with it and got it right. Commissioner Klotz felt one of the biggest concerns facing the Police Department is how safe we can make the Township. Commissioner Klotz said our

Police Chief does a great job with knowing the numbers and what we need to do. He expressed his appreciation to Chief Foltz and the Police Department

Commissioner Klotz touched on the budget. He said when the 2015 budget process started, approximately \$800,000 would have been taken from Reserves to achieve the Commissioners' goal of no tax increase. Township staff worked to reduce the amount taken from Reserves to \$350,000. Commissioner Klotz said this is a credit to Ed Wagner, Chief Foltz, Michele Christman and all who worked on the budget and he appreciated everyone's efforts.

Commissioner Foltz also thanked Ed Wagner and Township staff for doing a tremendous job with the budget.

Commissioner Foltz advised due to other obligations, Chris Wilcox resigned as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator and Assistant Fire Marshal. Commissioner Klotz made a motion to accept the resignation of Chris Wilcox. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

Mr. Wagner and Solicitor Brant had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz announced the Board of Commissioners will meet in executive session immediately following the public meeting on a personnel matter and the Board will not reconvene into public session.

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward C. Wagner
Township Manager