

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 22, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled work session meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015 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; James D. Kaiser, Shawn Watson and James W. Vlahos.

Robert L. Brant, Solicitor; Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Chad Camburn, Engineer; Michele Christman, Finance Director and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

Commissioner Foltz announced the meeting was being recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 18, 2014 and January 5, 2015 Board of Commissioners meetings. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Richard Kölsch, 1694 Kepler Road, asked the Board to look into putting a sign in front of the Township building to advertise meetings. Commissioner Foltz advised the Township is currently in the process of looking into this. Mr. Wagner recently met with Montgomery County officials to review our sign ordinance and compare it to the Model Sign Ordinance passed by the County.

Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, had questions and comments about the 2015 budget. He stated, as always, he has concerns with money being taken out of reserves. He estimated this has been going on approximately 8 years and the total is close to \$2.5 million. He said we are already in debt for \$350,000 and wanted to know what the Board intends to do to rectify this.

Mr. Doyle stated the Township will need to purchase new police radios in 2016 and asked if there is a number for this expense. Commissioner Klotz said Motorola's prices have changed this year and we do not know the cost at this time. Commissioner Klotz advised the fire stations radios will also need to be updated and Mr. Doyle asked who would pay for that – the fire companies or the Township. Commissioner Klotz advised he is not sure how this would work but all radios would need to be purchased at the same time to take advantage of 0% financing for five years.

Mr. Doyle had questions about the \$2,500 purchase of iPads proposed in the 2015 budget. The iPads would be for the Commissioners' use and they have not yet been purchased. Mr. Wagner advised the intent is to reduce paper and the cost estimate is \$499 for each iPad.

Mr. Doyle asked about the “Custodian” expense as listed in the budget. Michele Christman advised it is \$140 per week (\$7,200 per year).

Mr. Doyle asked about the Brown Street garage being for sale and if the entire operation was going to be moved to the Pole Barn. Mr. Wagner advised the sale of Brown Street is in the proposed sewer budget; however the building is owned by the Authority and it is an Authority decision to sell it. Commissioner Foltz said we would like to have all our operations consolidated into one area. The Authority does have an office on Porter Road and they can operate from that location but they will need space elsewhere for their truck.

Mr. Doyle said he saw Rich Yoder driving a Sewer Authority truck and asked if Rich retired. Mr. Wagner said Rich will retire effective July 31, 2015 and a new Authority employee started work on January 5, 2015. He advised the Township has a third-party contractor, M&B Environmental, as a back-up.

Mr. Doyle had other questions regarding the budget and he will make an appointment with Mr. Wagner to discuss his concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

Pipe Replacement on N. Pleasantview Road—The Township received notification that PennDOT is replacing the 60-inch culvert at N. Pleasantview Road and Heather Lane. The road will be dug up sometime in the spring and John Fogel will assist with this project. No action was required by the Board of Commissioners.

Pottstown Regional Public Library—Susan Davis, Executive Director, of the Pottstown Regional Public Library sent a thank you letter to the Board of Commissioners for its support during the Keystone Grant Process. Commissioner Foltz advised the Library was awarded grant funds for improvements to the Library facility.

Ringling Hill Fire Co.—Ringling Hill provided the Board with copies of its 2014 report of money spent from Township funds and its 2015 budget. Commissioner Foltz asked Ray Lopez to convey the Board’s appreciation to the Fire Company for this very detailed information.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cafeteria Plan for Employee Contribution to Medical Insurance—Mr. Wagner reported the Township would create a Cafeteria Plan in accordance with IRS regulations because employees contribute to their healthcare benefit plan. As a result, those contributions to the plan would not be included in the employee’s gross income.

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to adopt a cafeteria plan for employee contribution. There was no second and the motion failed.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)—Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Commissioner Foltz to sign the 2014 Community Development Block Grant agreement, for improvements to Sanatoga Park. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Joe Zlomek of the Sanatoga Post asked for an explanation of what we agreed to do. Mr. Wagner advised grant funds would be used to pave the gravel surface around the existing seating area and the bandshell and to upgrade the Park's restroom facilities to comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Commissioner Foltz noted it would also add a second tier of seating.

Delta Development Group—Commissioner Vlahos reported a meeting was held at Limerick Township regarding the ramp at the Sanatoga Interchange. He advised PennDOT is not looking to grant any more permits for development coming off of Evergreen Road unless there is some relief in regard to the ramps. The first ramp that was proposed is westbound; improvements to the eastbound ramp would occur in five to ten years and would improve the flow and eliminate left turns.

Commissioner Vlahos advised Limerick is looking for Lower Pottsgrove Township to partner with them on this project. To improve the ramps, we would be seeking funds from the Governor for municipalities and we would have to vie for it. Limerick feels it would be more feasible and easier to accomplish if we would combine our efforts, that way both Limerick and Lower Pottsgrove would benefit from one project.

Commissioner Vlahos stated the split would be 60 (Limerick)/40 (Lower Pottsgrove). Commissioner Vlahos felt this needed to be debated and felt the split should be 70/30, only because of how much Limerick has benefitted so far in reference to the ramps.

Commissioner Vlahos then made a motion to go back to Limerick and ask them to agree to a 70/30 split in regard to the Sanatoga Interchange project. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion with the following amendment: That Limerick would agree, in writing, to a 70/30 split for both the westbound and eastbound ramp improvements of the Sanatoga Interchange project. Amended motion was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Commissioner Vlahos asked Ed Wagner to send a letter to Limerick Township giving them the directive and advising where the Board stands on the matter.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution No. 1054-14—Commissioner Vlahos made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1054-15 appointing Richard Coleman to serve as an alternate member on the Lower

Pottsgrove Township Zoning Hearing Board. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Coleman was present at the meeting. Commissioner Foltz welcomed him and thanked him for serving.

Warrant #832— Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Warrant #832 for the month of December 2014. Commissioner Vlahos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report—Commissioner Vlahos made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2014, as submitted by Jennifer Marsteller. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Vlahos had no comments.

Commissioner Kaiser expressed his appreciation to Richard Coleman for volunteering.

Commissioner Watson also thanked Mr. Coleman for serving.

Commissioner Klotz had no comments.

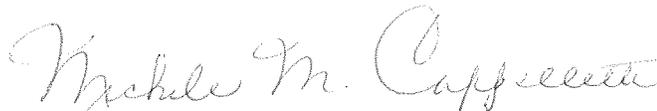
Commissioner Foltz said Comcast is getting out of hand with their pricing and services. He felt it was time for the Board to send a letter to our congress and senators on behalf of the people of Lower Pottsgrove Township about Comcast's unreasonable charges for service.

Commissioner Vlahos made a motion to send a letter to our state elected officials informing them of the excessive fees charged by Comcast. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned 7:19 p.m. Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2014.

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Respectfully submitted,



Michele M. Cappelletti
Township Secretary