

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 19, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled work session meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 W. Vlahos, Earl E. Swavely, Jr. and Raymond W. Lopez.

Robert L. Brant, Solicitor; Edward C. Wagner, Manager, Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police, Michele Christman, Finance Director and Michele Cappelletti, Secretary.

Commissioner Foltz announced the meeting was being recorded and asked speakers to please state their name, address and nature of business for the record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor Brant announced the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss a real estate matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the regularly scheduled November 5, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Vlahos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Tom Troutman, E. High Street, provided the Board with copies of the Lower Pottsgrove Township Historical Society 2016 calendar.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reimbursement Agreement with Ringing Hill Fire Company—Mr. Wagner advised this Agreement, between Ringing Hill Fire Company and Lower Pottsgrove Township, ties in with the five-year, interest-free, radio purchase agreement between Lower Pottsgrove Township and Montgomery County.

Ringling Hill has agreed to reimburse the Township for its portion of the Township's radio purchases in the amount of \$161,898.24, payable in five (5) equal installments. The Township will be reimbursed by deducting from Fire Tax payments to Ringling Hill for its share of the loan.

Commissioner Vlahos said Ringling Hill will be paying for their own radios and Commissioner Swavely said they piggy-backed on the Township's interest-free loan with the County. Commissioner Vlahos asked what Sanatoga Fire Company was doing. Mr. Wagner advised Sanatoga decided not to participate in the County's loan program. Instead, they applied for a grant to pay for the radios; however, they were not awarded the grant. They intend to re-apply for the grant in the future.

Commissioner Swavely made a motion to authorize execution of the reimbursement agreement with Ringling Hill Fire Company on the emergency radio equipment. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016 On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Fuel Request for Proposals (RFPs)—

Commissioner Foltz explained the RFPs would be for on-road and off-road diesel fuel used by the Township's Road Crew, Sewer Authority and emergency generators.

Commissioner Vlahos made a motion to request proposals for on-road and off-road diesel fuel. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016 Tentative Budget—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to adopt the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Commissioner Vlahos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Advertisement of 2016 Budget and Tax Enabling Resolution and Ordinances—

Commissioner Klotz made a motion to advertise Ordinance No. 146-PP Adopting the Lower Pottsgrove Township 2016 Budget, Ordinance No. 133-OO Setting the Real Estate Property Tax Rate for 2016, Ordinance No. 134-PP Setting the Rate of Assessment of Street Lighting for 2016 and Resolution No. 344-34 Establishing the Rates for the Act 511 Taxes for 2016. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Ordinance No. 322—Solicitor Brant summarized that Montgomery County has entered into a bulk purchasing agreement with Motorola Solutions to buy emergency radio equipment that would benefit both Lower Pottsgrove Township and the fire companies. The County has made available to municipalities the ability to buy this equipment at a discount. Since this is considered a public purpose, the Township can borrow the money at no interest through the County.

Solicitor Brant said on the agenda this evening, as advertised, is Ordinance No. 322. On October 22, 2015, the Board of Commissioners made a motion to advertise this ordinance. The ordinance came to the Township very quickly and has to be in effect by December 1, 2015. A true and correct copy of the ordinance was sent to the Montgomery County Law Library on October 26, 2015. The ordinance was sent to the Mercury for advertisement on October 27, 2015 and the proof of publication date was October 30, 2015.

Solicitor Brant said earlier in this meeting, the Board authorized execution of the Reimbursement Agreement between Lower Pottsgrove Township and Ringing Hill Fire Company in the amount of \$161,898.24. The ordinance that was advertised essentially states the Township would sign a promissory note and agree to repay Montgomery County the sum of \$297,832.40. Payment dates would start on January 25, 2016 and continue into 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, with the principal amount of each payment being \$59,566.48. There would be no interest and the loan would be paid off in a five-year period.

Solicitor Brant then asked if there were any questions about Ordinance No. 322. Joe Zlomek of the Sanatoga Post asked for the cost per radio. Chief Foltz said the Police Department and the Township would be ordering 22 radios at an estimated cost of \$136,000. He explained portable radios and mobile radios are different prices and he will provide the exact figures to Mr. Zlomek.

Mr. Troutman asked if they were all fire department radios. Solicitor Brant advised the radios were for Township Police, Emergency Services and Ringing Hill Fire Company. Commissioner Foltz pointed out that Sanatoga Fire Company is not participating in the County loan program. Mr. Troutman asked how much the Township was spending. Solicitor Brant said the Township is borrowing money and the total amount is \$297,832.40.

Mr. Zlomek asked assuming Sanatoga reapplies and does not get the grant, since they haven't participated in the County funding program, would they be without radios? He also asked if Sanatoga would have to make an extracurricular purchase of the radios. Solicitor Brant said this an opportunity for the Lower Pottsgrove Township Commissioners to enter into a "deal" with the County by December 1, 2015. Ringing Hill decided to participate and he could not speak for Sanatoga Fire Company. Commissioner Foltz said Sanatoga would have to go on their own for the funding and he did not think they could get the 0% financing offer. Chief Foltz confirmed it was a one-time offer from the County.

Mr. Troutman asked if Sanatoga has to have the same radios. Commissioner Foltz said yes so they can communicate with the County. Chief Foltz said the County Radio Program has three phases taking place. The first phase is for the Police, the second phase is for Fire; therefore, Sanatoga would have a window of two to three years to pursue other avenues of funding. The radios will be operational in 2016.

Mr. Wagner said initially, Sanatoga was going to participate in the program. The Township then received a letter from them in mid-September advising they were going to withdraw and apply for a grant.

There being no further questions from the public or the Board, Commissioner Lopez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 322 for the issuance of a promissory note for the purchase of emergency radio equipment with Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report—Commissioner Klotz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2015, as submitted by Jennifer Marsteller. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Warrant #842— Commissioner Klotz made a motion to approve Warrant #842 for the month of October 2015. Commissioner Vlahos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Vlahos had no comments.

Commissioner Lopez said over the past month, Lower Pottsgrove Township staff has been getting ready for the Limerick Generating Station exercise that took place on November 17, 2015. The exercise was 4 hours long. Three counties, 43 municipalities, 13 school districts, 1 trade school and countless fire and police departments within a ten-mile radius of Limerick Generating Station coordinated and cooperated in the event. Commissioner Lopez commended Lower Pottsgrove staff who participated in the exercise for their professionalism. The Township is awaiting observation letters from Federal, State and County entities.

Chief Foltz commented that the exercise went smoothly and congratulated Commissioner Lopez, who is the Emergency Management Coordinator, on how he handled the exercise.

Commissioner Swavely reiterated Commissioner Lopez's remarks and congratulated him on the exercise. He said it was organized and ran exceptionally well. He also commended and thanked everyone who planned and participated in the exercise.

Commissioner Klotz had no comments.

Commissioner Foltz offered special thanks to Ray Lopez, Michael Foltz and Michele Cappelletti for putting in a lot of extra time to prepare and carry out the exercise.

Mr. Wagner said overall, it was a good event and he also thanked all who were involved.

There being no further business, the public meeting adjourned 7:18p.m. Next meeting will be held on December 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele M. Cappelletti".

Michele M. Cappelletti
Township Secretary