

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 5, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 5, 2016 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following attended:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, President; Earl E. Swavely, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez and Robert W. Mohollen. Stephen M. Klotz, Vice President was not in attendance.

Charles Garner, Solicitor, Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Police Chief Michael Foltz; Jennifer Marsteller, Tax Collector; Scott Exley, Township Engineer and Sharon Colletti, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Garner announced that prior to tonight's meeting the Board met in Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss a matter of police personnel & collective bargaining.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of both the November 7 and November 17, 2016 Board of Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 4-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION: BURSICH SIGN DONATION

Representatives of Bursich Associates Inc., and Traffic Planning and Design Inc., presented the Lower Pottsgrove Police Department with a \$1,000 donation to help buy an electronic speed alert sign to be used for traffic study and monitoring, and emergency situations. Money for a portable sign had been budgeted by the township but the price of the sign exceeded what the township could afford. Police Chief Foltz asked Bursich and TPD, if they might lend a hand. Both of them stepped up, and the assistance they offered in obtaining the sign will make the township safer as a result.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Tom Troutman, 2469 E. High Street, asked if the Commissioners would join Pottstown Borough and enact a Resolution to Montgomery County Commissioners asking them not to enact the 11% tax increase. Commissioner Foltz replied that the Commissioners would take it under advisement.

Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, had questions about the 2017 budget. He wanted to know how we buy cars for Township personnel. Chief Foltz stated that we buy through Costars or State Contract. Mr. Doyle wanted to know what type of cars we are considering and why the amount in the budget was so high. Chief Foltz stated that we are looking for sedan type vehicles in the range of \$32-36 thousand. Mr. Doyle asked if the police contract was over. Chief Foltz stated the current contract is over at the end of this year and they are currently in negotiations to complete the 2017-2020 contract. Mr. Doyle wanted to know why the budgeted legal fees for

the department were so high and was that due to the current contract negotiations. Chief Foltz stated the budgeted amount was to cover any legal fees that could be incurred by the department for any reason throughout the year.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONS

Police Report: Chief Foltz, presented the Police Report for October.

Statistics:

CALLS FOR SERVICE	983
ASSISTS:	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	9
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	5
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	
Violations Indicated	114
DUI Arrests	3
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	
Violations Indicated	75
Adults Arrested	31
Juveniles Handled	7

Departmental Activity:

All statistics and information are included in the Chief's report.

- Last month a resident expressed concerns about traffic safety along Hause Avenue, specifically concerned about speeding and cars parked along the roadside. The resident asked the Township consider several options including prohibiting parking along all of Hause Avenue and/or making the road one-way traffic only. Subsequent to this concern the Chief ordered a traffic study be conducted by our traffic safety officers; the study was conducted between November 9th and November 15. Based upon the study there is no need to change anything based on data collected
- Bursich Associates and Traffic Planning & Design have provided the department with a \$1,000 donation to off-set budgeted costs to purchase a radar speed sign from All-Traffic Solutions of State College, PA. Department took delivery of the new sign in late November; it is an 18" radar sign that displays speed, short messages and can be used to conduct traffic studies and will supplement the smaller 12 inch sign we currently use.
- Pursuant to our new Internship policy, we will be welcoming our first intern later this month. Ms. Kira Keane of Bucks County, PA, a senior from Albright College studying Biology and

Criminology, has applied for our internship during her winter break, which lasts about 6 weeks. She will be required to complete approx. 150 hours with the department.

- Information was received from Montgomery County Dept. of Public Safety pertaining to the new police radios. Due to problems encountered with some of the models of the new portable radios shutting off unexplainably, the County sent them back to Motorola. An agreement has been reached in which Motorola will be replacing the affected portable radios free of charge however this will delay the delivery of the radios until late spring 2017.

Chief Foltz outlined proposed resolution 1121-16 to amend and adopt policies to be included in the Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department Policies & Directives Manual.

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve Resolution 1121-16 to amend and adopt policies to be included in the Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department Policies & Directives. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0)

Chief Foltz explained Ordinance 331 which will be advertised. Chester/Montgomery Emergency Response Team has officially changed its name to the Montgomery County SWAT Western Region. This is necessary to come into compliance with Federal funding that comes into various SWAT teams throughout the county.

Commissioner Foltz asked the chief about a previous traffic study on Welsh Road. Chief replied that the study did show that traffic should be limited to parking only on one side of the street. As all of the residents on the street that would be affected by the change had not been contacted, Chief has not yet brought this to the Board for a Resolution.

Emergency Management: Eric Linsenbiger, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator gave the Emergency Management report.

- There were no Emergency Operations Center Activations during the month of November
- Promulgation of the LP Emergency Operating Plan was completed with Montgomery County on November 17th
- Ray Lopez attended EM training at the Mont Co Public Safety Training Campus on November 16th
- The Critical Incident Management Trailer is at the VoTech School being fitted with equipment holders to organize and stabilize items being stored in trailer so they don't move around while the trailer is in motion.

Fire Marshal: Fire Marshal Babel noted the following statistics for the month of November:

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	25	62 Hours 45 Minutes	79 Hours 45 Minutes	61 Hours 25 Minutes	No Report

Ringling Hill (Station 59) No Report this month					
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Sanatoga reported 10 hours total Fire Prevention hours and 211 total man hours of fire prevention for *October* serving the local day cares and elementary schools

(All hours are approximate)

Highway – Public Works Department: Commissioner Foltz read the Public Works Report for the month of November 2016. The Report will be posted in the lobby.

C.O.G.: Commissioner Foltz had nothing to report as there was no meeting.

Engineer: Scott Exley, P.E. of Bursich Engineering, presented the written Engineers' report updating the Board on various projects and activities going on in the Township. He highlighted the following projects:

- **Rupert Road Bridge** – The foundation report has been approved by the County. Final structure plans have been submitted to the County for its review. The final bidding plans, specifications and estimates are nearly complete and are scheduled to be issued to the County by January 2017.

Proposed easement and right-of-way exhibits are nearly complete based on the final design plans and the County's feedback. The County will meet with the affected property owners to discuss agreements for required right-of-way and temporary and permanent easements. The plan is for construction to begin as soon as school is over.

- **Sanatoga Green** – Review letters were issued on November 17 based on the revised land development plans and design reports. The applicant attended the November 21 Planning Commission meeting to provide an overview of the project; no action was taken. A meeting was held to discuss the design and comments in the latest review letters. A meeting was held with PADEP to discuss sewage planning for the project.
- **Spring Valley Farms** – Applicant attended the November 21 Planning Commission meeting to provide an overview of the project status, request two waivers and request Final Approval. The Planning Commission voted to recommend conditional approval of the waivers and conditional Final Approval of the project. We are currently awaiting revised plans and confirmation that permits from outside agencies have been granted.
- **Coventry Christian Building Expansion** – Applicant is proposing a 12,000 sf building addition to their gymnasium. Revised plans and design reports are currently under review.

- **Aldi Building Expansion** - Applicant is proposing a 1,220 sf building addition at their Armand Hammer Boulevard store. The Planning Commission voted to recommend Preliminary/Final Minor Lot Development Approval.
- **Intersection Signs** - Permit applications and plan updates were submitted to PennDOT for the addition of “Do Not Block Intersection” signs at the intersections of Armand Hammer Blvd. and Medical Drive and Armand Hammer Blvd. and Home Depot for vehicles heading towards SR 422.

Commissioner Lopez mentioned he saw that Aldi would be reducing their impervious surface by reducing some parking lot. The applicant responded they would be removing four spaces.

Commissioner Foltz wanted a clarification in regards to the Spring Valley Farms project pertaining to the road alignment. Mr. Camburn explained that PennDOT has determined that the traffic from this particular project does not warrant the realignment of Bleim and Pruss Hill Roads. PennDOT, the Township and the Developer are being proactive to allocate land to be available for the future realignment when it is deemed appropriate.

Treasurer: Jen Marsteller reported that she collected \$5,097.50 in the month of November of which \$3,357.00 was real estate.

Solicitor: Mr. Garner asked the Commissioners if there were any questions in regards to his written report. In addition, he mentioned the following:

The CMERT restructure and name change will require an ordinance to approve intergovernmental interaction. All municipalities who participate will have to adopt an ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance under the law is to approve the new intergovernmental cooperative agreement involving the SWAT team for Western Montgomery County. The ordinance should be ready for review in January.

At the last meeting a resident had expressed concern in regards to over-crowding and long lines at one of the polling centers. He stated that his office is researching it and will report the findings in January.

Mr. Wagner presented the following reports:

Parks and Recreation: Had their meeting on November 28th. The Board was introduced to the new regional coordinator, Michael Lane; overall the Board was very impressed. There is a meeting scheduled on December 13th to go over potential grants. Katie Smith and Chad Camburn have a meeting this week to review the Montco 2040.

Pottstown Metropolitan Planning Commission: Tom Troutman attended the meeting on December 1st. The New Hanover Town Center project to be constructed at the old New Hanover Airport was reviewed. The biggest issue was how to handle traffic.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority: The next meeting is Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. Spring Valley Farms will be asking if the Authority will assume the sewer mains in that private development.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve Resolution 1120-16 Aldi, Inc. Minor Land Development Plan, located at 297 Armand Hammer Boulevard for the construction of a 1,220 sq. ft. addition to the rear of the existing building. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to advertise Ordinance 331 concerning the Emergency Response Team. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0)

REVIEW OF WARRANT #855 FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2016

Township Manager stated it would be ready by the end of the week for review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mohollen likes the new sign and expressed thanks to Mr. Wagner and Commissioner Foltz for their work in making it happen.

Commissioner Lopez likes the new sign and feels it will be a useful tool for not only standard business, but for Emergency Management situations as well. He thanked Fire Marshal Babel and the firefighters for their fire prevention work and also for installing the fire hydrant markers. He reminded everyone that these guys are strictly volunteers and their efforts should be commended. In addition he announced that the annual spaghetti dinner would be held at the Sanatoga Fire Station on Saturday, December 10th from 4:30-6:00.

Commissioner Swavely recognized and commended the Chief for the work he puts into the policy and procedure manual keeping it updated and current.

Commissioner Foltz thanked Bursich and Traffic Planning & Design for their donation towards the new traffic sign.

Ed Wagner stated that the new trash mailer would be going out to all of the residents in the next couple of weeks and that trash pick-up would occur on Monday, December 26th as well as Monday, January 2nd. The fire company Santa runs will be held the weekend of the 17th. Sanatoga Fire Company will be Saturday, December 17th and Ringing Hill will be Sunday, December 18th. The next Board of Commissioners Meeting will be held Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and will consist of a presentation by Sanatoga Green and the approval of the budget.

Mr. Zlomek asked if the sign would be made available for non-profit events or only for township business. Mr. Wagner responded that it was going to be an armor of the township but if there were any questions they could be directed to him.

Solicitor Garner thanked everyone for their well-wishes for him after his recent surgery and stated he is glad to be back.

Sharon Colletti announced that there would be an electronics recycle event on Saturday, December 17th at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Wagner also mentioned that in the near future J.P. Mascaro will be having an electronics recycling center at their new Birdsboro location.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti
Township Secretary