

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 19, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

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

Charles Garner, Solicitor, Edward C. Wagner, Manager and Sharon Colletti, Secretary also were present.

Mr. Garner announced that prior to tonight's meeting the Board met in Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining. The Sunshine Act requires this announcement to be made.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Mr. Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, stated that the sign out front of the township building looks good and commended the township on doing a good job with it. He wanted to express concerns over some of the properties in the Township and how junky they have become and wanted to have the Code Officer stop by to ensure the owners were in compliance.

Mr. Ronald Guerra, 891 Brookside Road came to the meeting to make the Commissioners aware of an incident that occurred at his home back on January 11th where two police officers responded to a 911 call at his home. His grandson had fallen and there was uncertainty as to whether or not he was injured or not. Two officers had arrived on the scene quite quickly and took charge, offered immediate advice and counsel. Mr. Guerra came to express his gratitude for not only these two police officers, but for all of the officers and leadership within the Township. He presented President Foltz, Mr. Wagner and Chief Foltz with a letter of appreciation (copy follows).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2016 AND JANUARY 3, 2017 MEETINGS

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the December 15, 2016 minutes and the January 3, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to accept **Resolution 1128-17 Coventry Christian Schools, Inc., Preliminary/Final Plan Approval**, proposal to the overall site consisting of 13.143 acres located at 699 N. Pleasantview Road within the R-2 Residential District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 12,160 sq. ft. addition to the rear of the existing building. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

Commissioner Swavely made the motion to accept **Resolution 1129-17 Pottstown Medical Building Associates Preliminary/Final Minor Subdivision Plan** to Lower Pottsgrove Township consisting of two lots, with Lot #1 being 18.4 acres, which includes an existing Home Depot building with parking lot and drive lot area; and Lot #2 being 1.9 acres in size, which consists of an existing 8,000 square foot brick and masonry medical office building. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

Engineer Rolph Graf outlined for the Commissioners the Spring Valley Farms plan that calls for 178 homes at the corner of Bleim and Pleasantview roads on 143.67 acres. The project has been in the works for several years and takes advantage of a zoning provision allowing the developers to cluster the homes more closely together than otherwise allowed in exchange for preserving about 83 acres of open space to the Township. Commissioner Klotz questioned whether the Applicant was in a position to receive final Approval. Chad Camburn, Township Engineer feels the Applicant has come a long way since their original application and that they are in compliance with his previous requests. It is his feeling that they are in a position to receive final approval. Solicitor Garner stated that if the Board grants approval, no work could be commissioned until permits from all outside agencies were approved and obtained.

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to accept **Resolution 1130-17 Spring Valley Farms II**, seeking *Final Plan Approval* for the proposal to construct 178 homes on 143.67 acres along Bleim Road [42-00-0266200-5] in the R-1 Residential District with PSD (Preservation Subdivision District Overlay) contingent on getting DEP and PennDOT permits. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to award the On Road and Off Road Diesel Bids to Penn Petroleum Inc. of Boyertown. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to approve and authorize a 4 Year Police Contract 2017-2020. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0).

Commissioner Swavely made the motion to approve the Agreement signed between the Township of Lower Pottsgrove, Police Sergeant Timothy Walters and the Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Officers Association to permit Sgt. Timothy Walters to be placed on the ballot in the upcoming Primary Election for Magisterial District Justice Office No. 38-1-19. Commissioner Klotz seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0).

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Commissioner Klotz made the motion to approve Resolution 1127-17 to adopt a Sexual Violence Policy to be included in the Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department Policies & Directives Manual. This policy is designed to protect the victims of sexual intimidation. It mirrors the Domestic Violence Act but specifically for sexual intimidation or violence. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0).

Commissioner Klotz motioned for the approval of Warrant #856 for the month of December 2016. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (4-0)

Commissioner Klotz motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2016. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (4-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Lopez thanked Mr. Guerra for coming to the meeting tonight and sharing the experience he had with our Township Police. He encourages all residents to come to the meetings to voice their opinions and concerns, both in a negative or positive scenario, and reiterated his satisfaction with the public safety personnel in the Township.

Commissioner Swavely also thanked Mr. Guerra for his kind words and expressed how much it means to him both personally and to the Township.

Commissioner Klotz acknowledged Mr. Guerra for his comments. He stated that the Township had settled a four-year police contract without going to arbitration and feels that it worked for both sides and that both sides came out very happy. He extended his thanks to Commissioner Swavely and to all of the Commissioners for their input in getting the contract negotiated.

Commissioner Foltz wanted to thank the police committee and the police officers for their work in getting the contract settled. He thanked Mr. Guerra for his gracious letter and noted that it would be included in the public record.

Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti
Township Secretary

Ronald J. Guerra
891 Brookside Road
Lower Pottsgrove, PA 19464
610-662-6090

January 19, 2017

Mr. Bruce L. Foltz
President/ Board of Commissioners
Lower Pottsgrove Township
2199 Buchert Road
Pottstown, PA 19464

Hello Mr. Foltz!

I am visiting and writing to you today to bring to your attention and to your fellow Commissioners and officers of Lower Pottsgrove Township an incident that occurred at my home this past Wednesday, January 11th.

My wife was babysitting for our 18 month old granddaughter when an accident occurred. The baby fell and the fall caused her immediate concern on the health of the baby. Very fortunately, the baby was not injured. Still, the fall did cause extreme reason for concern.

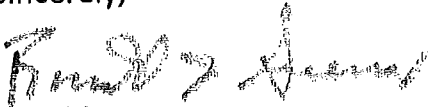
Not knowing the extent of the injury (none) my wife asked my son to call 911. 911 responded immediately and dispatched police and EMS. A police officer arrived within a very few minutes followed by a second officer again very shortly thereafter. Your kind and very courteous police officers took charge and offered immediate advice and counsel.

Police work today is fraught with danger to the police officer and over and over again second guessing as to the proper response. Often times a peace officer is held to an unreasonable standard of conduct. A police officer is often asked to help and assist under unknown conditions that may cause injury to the officer or the person that is asking for help. The officer enters a home not knowing what to expect?

Your officers are well trained, very courteous individuals that need to be commended for their service to our community. I do not know the names of the two police officers that responded to our call for help but I can tell you that I sincerely want to thank them for their service!

Please extend my appreciation to all persons that offered care and concern that day when we reached out to the Lower Pottsgrove Township for help. I will be writing to the appropriate EMS service to express my appreciation for their assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Guerra". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Ronald J. Guerra

CC: Edward C. Wagner, Township Manager

CC: Michael A. Foltz, Chief of Police