

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**February 23, 2017**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Municipal Building, 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Stephen M. Klotz, Vice President; Earl E. Swavely, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez and Robert Mohollen. President Foltz was not present and the meeting was chaired by Commissioner Klotz.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2017 MEETING

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the February 6, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

PRESENTATION:

The Pottsgrove Soccer Association presented the Township with a check for \$2,500.00 to be used for the purchase of a new Zero Turn Mower. The Association is grateful for the assistance the Township provides to them for the use of and in maintaining the fields at both Gerald Richards and Sanatoga Parks and wanted to express their thanks. They look forward to our continued partnership.

Commissioner Klotz thanked Pottsgrove Soccer Club for their generous donation and mentioned that this is one of many generous donations over the long 20-year relationship between the soccer club and the Township. He recognized the Association for continuously stepping up and for the amount of time and effort that is expended to keep the Association running smoothly.

Mr. Robert Basile, General Partner of LPAL Limited presented his plan for the proposed construction of a medical marijuana facility to be located at 125 Porter Road. They are seeking a letter of recommendation from the Board to be included with their application submission to the State for the chance to receive one of twelve available grower licenses.

The property is and would continue to be owned by LPAL LP, a limited partnership involving Douglassville real estate developer Basile. The production facility itself would be operated by another firm, Bunker Botanicals LLC of Berks County, headed by Geoff Whaling. Whaling is a co-founder of Coalition for Access Now, a national non-profit medical marijuana advocacy group, and president of the Pennsylvania Hemp Industry Council. Mr. Whaling explained that the property is a perfect fit for this particular application and feels it would be one of the most secure facilities in the State. He stated that it meets, if not exceeds, all of the States requirements for security. He indicated that there will be six employees to start and will potentially be 15 on-site employees once the facility is at full capacity. The facility will have two full-time security guards during the day and will not be open to the public for walk-in traffic.

Commissioner Lopez stated that he had the opportunity to visit the facility and feels this is a win-win for both parties. It would be an income stream for our taxes and from any permits that would develop out of this project. In addition, it would clean up an unattractive building and property in the community which would be a huge plus for the Township. He looks forward to more information coming in.

Commissioner Swavely stated he would want to see the security plan for the facility and also the qualifications required for personnel being hired. Mr. Whaling explained that there must be two full-time security guards on duty during the hours of operation and their security system must be tied into the State's system so it can be monitored at all times.

Commissioner Mohollen asked about the timeline for the process. Mr. Whaling explained that applications must be submitted to the State by March 20, 2017. In addition to their expertise and their knowledgeable staff, the benefits to LPAL in getting a permit is that they already own the site and have all of the financing in place. The State requires that if a license is issued you must be up and ready to operate in six months. Licenses are expected to be issued at the end of June.

Commissioner Klotz asked what future changes would be proposed. Mr. Whaling explained that they would be adding a fence and possibly an air locked vestibule area. Mr. Klotz asked how many unmarked vans leave the property per day. Mr. Whaling stated only one van, if that, leaves per day and will depend on the demand requirements. He stated that the vans are secured and will have blacked out windows and a safe lockbox installed. In addition two people must be on board at all times, one being a security person. The van will be equipped with a GPS tracking device so its whereabouts are known at all times.

Commissioner Lopez made the motion for Mr. Wagner to draft a letter of recommendation for LPAL Limited to proceed. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Klotz not in favor due to some safety concerns with the building. Mr. Wagner will draft a letter for review.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Swavely made the motion to purchase a 2017 Ford Explorer for the Code Enforcement Officer in the amount of \$27,654.55 to be financed through Diamond Credit Union. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion and mentioned that this was included in the 2017 budget; all in favor (4-0)

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to advertise Ordinance 334 Deferred Retirement Option Plan for Uniform Employees. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

None

Commissioner Mohollen motioned for the approval of Warrant #857 for the month of January 2017. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (4-0)

Commissioner Swavelly motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2017. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (4-0)

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mohollen expressed his thanks to Commissioners Klotz and Swavelly for their work during the negotiations of the police contract and for keeping the lines of communication open. He feels it is a great contract for both parties.

Commissioner Lopez thanked the Soccer Association for not just their donation, but for everything they do in the community. He praised them for their hard work and dedication and for the direction that they provide to the young people in our Township.

Commissioner Swavelly had no comments.

Commissioner Klotz again thanked the Soccer Association for their generous contribution to the Township and for how much they do for the Township and their help in maintaining the fields. He stated that he was not going into the medical marijuana debate. The State has approved it, and although he is not in favor of the program, he explained at this time his reason to not support drafting the letter for LPAL was due to safety issues that currently exist in the building. He stated that he met with John Fogel and toured the new pole barn last week and was very pleased with the work the guys did in the building and thanked them for their hard work and the resulting cost savings.

Mr. Wagner thanked the Soccer Association for their donation and also a special thanks to Ed Windrim of our road crew for his continued interaction and relationship between the Association and the Township which helps to keep things running smoothly between the two organizations.

Solicitor Garner had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti
Township Secretary