

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017 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: Stephen M. Klotz, Vice President; Earl E. Swavely, Jr., Raymond W. Lopez and Robert W. Mohollen. Bruce Foltz, President was not in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Klotz.

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

Commissioner Klotz stated that the meeting will be recorded.

Solicitor Garner stated that prior to the meeting the Board met in Executive Session at 6:30 to discuss a personnel matter in regards to performance of a current township employee. No action was taken.

PRESENTATION

Scott Burnick was presented with the Commendation Merit of Service Award. On February 18, 2017 at 8:26 a.m., Officer Scott Burnick of Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department was on routine patrol monitoring a malfunctioning traffic signal at the intersection of Buchert Road and N. Keim Street. Officer Burnick observed a vehicle speed through the intersection without yielding caution to the flashing traffic signal, nearly striking two other cars in the intersection. Being proactive, Officer Burnick followed the vehicle and observed other equipment violations which prompted him to initiate a traffic stop on Hale Street in the Borough of Pottstown. Upon stopping the vehicle Officer Burnick approached the driver and passenger of the car and began his investigation into the violation. He quickly became cognizant that the passenger was being deceptive by providing false identification information. As Officer Burnick was trying to obtain a positive identification on the passenger, the subject exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Officer Burnick immediately gave chase, quickly overtook the suspect and singlehandedly apprehended him without further incident and using minimal force. It was then learned that the suspect was wanted by Pottstown Police Department for an armed robbery in which the suspect was armed with a sawed off shotgun and violently threatened another with deadly force during the commission of the crimes. The subject also had an extensive criminal history including prior armed robberies and drug offences.

Officer Burnick's actions resulted in the removal of a violent and dangerous felon from our community. This officer's tenacity combined with excellent investigative skills and superb physical conditioning resulted in a successful outcome to this case. The actions demonstrated by

this officer exemplifies his true professionalism, dedication to service and commitment to community safety.

Commissioner Klotz thanked Scott and the department for everything they do in upholding the township's commitment to have the safest townships and police force. The dedication and support for one another is clearly evident with the number of officers here tonight and the due diligence of the offers is what continues to keep our community safe.

Commissioner Swavely wanted to echo Steve's comments and thanked and congratulated both Scott and the other members of the Department.

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Charles Nippert 222 Pleasantville Road, Pottstown, PA read an article in the Mercury which discussed Sanatoga Green's impact on the schools in our district. The article stated the school board would be contacting the Township for further discussions. Mr. Nippert wanted to know if anyone on the Board or Administrative Staff had been contacted by them. Commissioner Klotz and Mr. Wagner both replied that they had not be contacted by the school.

Tony Doyle, 1745 Kepler Road, has concerns with the "junkyard" property on New Hanover Square Road. He feels it is getting out of control and is filtering onto the neighboring properties. He asked that the Code Officer take a visit and check it out.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Statistics:

CALLS FOR SERVICE	926
ASSISTS:	5
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	3
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	189
Violations Indicated ***with new ALPR in service there has been an increase in traffic enforcement subsequent to the technology***	
DUI Arrests	4
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	
Violations Indicated (high number due to numerous counts charged against subjects in a drug case)	99
Adults Arrested	39
Juveniles Handled	9

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

Departmental Activity:

- On March 6 & 7 the department is undergoing their assessment for re-accreditation with PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC). The department received their initial accreditation in March 2014 and must renew every three years. Credit goes to Sgt. Weidenhammer for his hard work and dedication to ensure we meet all the standards and requirements.
- The department took delivery of the new County radios
- The Chief continues to work on a proposed Noise Ordinance with the Township Solicitor
- Fleet update
 - New marked car – 2017 Dodge Charger
 - New detectives car – 2017 Ford Interceptor sedan

Commissioner Swavely asked if the Accreditation Team had any comments in regards to the facilities downstairs. Chief Foltz stated that he actually had received positive feedback considering our facilities are so tight.

Commissioner Mohollen expressed his appreciation for the police sitting in and around the schools and feels it makes a big impact in keeping the residents aware of the speed restrictions in the school zones.

Emergency Management: Eric Linsenbigler, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator presented the Emergency Management report.

- On February 8, 2017 the Emergency Management watch desk was placed on stand-by and kept a watchful eye on a potential winter storm. On February 9th, a declaration of snow emergency was enacted at 9:00 a.m. and was lifted at 11:00 a.m.
- On February 14, 2017 the K.I. pills were distributed to the fire departments.
- The critical incident management trailer was picked up from the vo-tech school
- Ray Lopez and Sharon Colletti attended the Emergency Management Monthly Meeting on February 15, 2017 at Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center.
- On February 25, 2017 Ray attended the LGS training day at Pottsgrove Middle School.

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

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	27	18 Hours 0 Minutes	69 Hours 8 Minutes	226 Hours 0 Minutes	Hours Minutes
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	30			27 Hours	192 Hours

(All hours are approximate)

Highway – Public Works Department: Commissioner Klotz stated the Public Works Report for the month of February 2017 would be posted in the lobby.

C.O.G.: There was no 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:

- **Sanatoga Green** – Floodplain Calculation Studies were received on January 16 and February 8, and review comments were issued on January 31 and February 17. Revised plans and design reports were received on January 23 and February 14, and review comments were issued on February 17. Applicant's team met on February 7 to discuss preliminary comments on their January 23 plans and on February 14 to discuss traffic impacts. A meeting was held on February 23 with Township staff, PennDOT, Sanatoga Green and the adjacent Tornetta property representatives. The meeting was held to discuss improvements that will be needed to mitigate the anticipated traffic from the two sites. Additional information will be submitted by the applicants, and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2017. He stated that all of the staff (Bursich, Township and the Solicitors office) members have been working closely with this applicant and have gone above and beyond for this developer in order to keep it moving forward.
- **Spring Valley Farms** – The latest review letters were issued on January 6, 2017 and are currently awaiting revised plans and a financial security cost estimate from the applicant. Permits/approvals from the PaDEP for stream crossing, PaDOT for highway occupancy, LPTA for sewage connection and conveyance, and Pottstown Borough Authority for water supply are pending.
- **Gerald Richards Park Improvements – Phase 1** – Plans and a bid package are currently being prepared for a trail, parking lot and stormwater improvements at the park. The engineering design and construction will be funded through grants that have been awarded to the Township.
- **Rupert Road Bridge Reconstruction** – Final plans, specifications, estimates and easement/right-of-way exhibits have been submitted to the County. The County will meet with the affected property owners to discuss agreements for required right-of-way and temporary and permanent easements.

Treasurer: Jen Marsteller reported that the tax bills went out February 1st and the revenue collected to date for February was \$279,875.00.

Solicitor: Mr. Garner said the DROP Ordinance for the new CBA would be ready for advertisement and for the Board's approval at the April 3rd meeting. He said he has been working closely with Bursich in making sure the conditions for final approval for Spring Valley Farms are being met. There will be certain agreements and documents forthcoming that will

require the Board's approval. He also reminded all those who need to fill out their annual Ethics Financial disclosure forms to do so by May 1st which is the deadline.

Mr. Wagner presented the following reports:

Parks and Recreation: The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday April 8th at Gerald Richards Park and is being sponsored by Traffic Planning and Design. Later on the Agenda, P&R is in the process of submitting DCNR CP2 Grant for Gerald Richards Park for stormwater management improvements consisting of grading, raingardens, swales, piping as well as rehabilitation and further development of two little league baseball fields closest to Coventry Christian and a practice field with grading and fencing closer to Buchert Road. In addition 1,200 LF of unsafe deteriorated path around the park will be rehabilitated in accordance with ADA standards.

Pottstown Metropolitan Planning Commission: The meeting was held on February 22nd. They discussed the three proposed medical marijuana facilities in our area with a fourth in Limerick. In addition, and a copy is provided, the 2016 Annual Summary of Subdivision, Land Development and Zoning Activities for Montgomery County Planning Commission was reviewed.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority: The next meeting is Monday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. Pottstown Borough has agreed to push the replacement of their current drier back to 2018 allowing the Pottsgrove Townships to budget the necessary contributions. PennDOT has announced they will begin construction on the Sanatoga bridge portion of 422 beginning in the fall of 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Swavely made the motion to participate in the Montgomery County Consortium Police Officer Testing Program. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to authorize the Township Manager to give a 3% salary increase to the Township Secretary whose six month probationary period has expired. Mr. Wagner stated that today marked the official six month period; a performance evaluation had been completed and, without getting into details, she did very well. He recommended to the Board she be given a 3% increase which was already included in the 2017 budget for a nine month period. Commissioner Klotz opened the floor for visitor comments as the item was not previously on the agenda. William Wolfgang, 2325 Pruss Hill Road stated he wholeheartedly

supported this motion as she has been wonderful to work with and felt the Secretary has done an outstanding job to date. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0).

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to enact Ordinance 333 utilizing of credit/debit cards for payment of delinquent real estate taxes and municipal fees and the associated fees associated with the transaction. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to adopt Resolution 1131-17 DCNR Grant Application for Gerald Richards Park in the amount of \$189,500.00. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion; all in favor (4-0)

REVIEW OF WARRANT #858 FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mohollen had no comment.

Commissioner Lopez wanted to express thanks again to Scott Burnick and the Department as a whole for their dedication and service. He is proud to be a Commissioner in the Township and proud that we have employees who do their jobs and go also go above and beyond.

Commissioner Swavely had no comment.

Commissioner Klotz thanked all of the staff members and both the police and fire departments for their hard work and dedication. He thanked Sharon Colletti for stepping up and for making the transition easy. He feels the police and fire departments in this township have always stepped up and we are blessed to have every emergency worker in this township because they really do take care of this Township. Commissioner Klotz promoted the Easter Egg Hunt and welcomed everyone to come out and participate.

Ed Wagner had no comment.

Solicitor Garner had no comment other than to mention the rescheduling of the next meeting.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Colletti
Township Secretary