

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday January 3, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday January 3, 2023, at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building, located at 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Board of Commissioners: Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen, Michael McGroarty, and William Keohane were present. Earl E. Swavely was absent.

Edward C. Wagner: Manager, Richard Bell: Police Chief, Lew Babel: Fire Marshal, Nick Perilli: Township Engineer, Jamie Ottaviano: Solicitor, Jennifer Marsteller: Treasurer, and Nicole Varady: Secretary, were also present.

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by President Raymond W. Lopez at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Lopez stated that the meeting will be recorded, and he asked any speakers to give their names and address for public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None

REPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Mr. Wagner reported that Monday 12/26, he, Chief Bell, and Commissioner Lopez received a call for an active fire alarm at the Township Building. Sergeant Walters called reporting gushing water and asked where to turn it off. He was advised how to do so. Upon arrival, Mr. Wagner found 3-4 inches of water in the lobby area. Mr. Wagner thanked Ringing Hill Fire Company, Sanatoga Fire Company, Lower Pottsgrove Police Department, Sergeant Walters, and Chief Bell who immediately had shop vacs going to clean up the water and avoid damage to the police evidence and records. Heat Restoration was on-site by 9:00 P.M. and had fans and dehumidifiers turned on by 9:30 P.M. The floor was replaced in the Detectives Office last Friday, and they were able to work out of their office on late that day. Mr. Wagner thanked all involved again and praised the phenomenal job that was done through great teamwork. Commissioner Lopez echoed his sentiments adding that John Fogel came on his own time to assist as well. Joe Zlomek asked if we had any idea what the damage would cost. Mr. Wagner advised that the Township only has preliminary estimates at this time.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONS:

Police:

Police Chief Bell presented the Police report for the month of December 2022.

| | |
|--|------------|
| CALLS FOR SERVICE | 935 |
| Directed Patrols / Extra Patrols | 814 |
| ASSISTS: | |
| Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD | 6 |
| Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD | 1 |
| TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: | |
| Violations Indicated | 48 |
| Traffic Citations Issued | 33 |
| DUI Arrests | 7 |
| Accident Investigations | 36 |
| CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS: | |
| Violations Indicate | 51 |
| Adults Arrested | 17 |
| Juveniles Handled | 3 |
| Youth Aid Panel/Reprimand Release | 0 |
| Juvenile Court | 0 |
| Adult Court/Citations (Juvenile) | 2 |
| MH/Involuntary Commitment | 3 |

Chief Bell reported that there was a shooting last week on the 2300 block of High Street. The street was closed for approximately 8 hours during the investigation. It is a unique situation as both the suspect and the victim fled the scene. Detectives continue to follow-up and are making headway but there are no further comments currently as it is an active investigation.

Commissioner Lopez thanked Chief Bell for closing the road for public safety. Chief Bell further clarified that the shooting took place inside a residence, and they believe it was a targeted incident that bears no danger to the public.

Emergency Management:

Commissioner Lopez reported that there was one (1) EOC activation during the month of December. It was in effect 12/23 0500 hours until 12/27 1800 hours and was due to the weather event Winter storm Elliott. The storm produced temperatures in the single digits and winds peaking at 50 mph. He thanked the police department and fire companies for their assistance as the storm caused many road closures from downed trees and as the utility company tried to make repairs. Commissioner Lopez thanked Officers Tantorno and Smith for going door to door checking on residents without power to ensure their safety.

On 12/20 Commissioner Lopez worked with staff at the Sanatoga Center to identify out-of-date radiologic equipment. He is working with the county to get the equipment replaced and get the staff trained on it. On 12/21, he and Amy Henderson attended the Emergency Management Meeting at Montgomery County Public Safety Training Center for integrated preparedness to identify training issues and topics in 2023. Over the next few weeks, Commissioner Lopez will be working with Montgomery County on the Emergency Plan updates for the Township. They should be ready for promulgation the beginning of February. Amy Henderson will continue her training for the first level of Emergency Management Certification. Commissioner Lopez concluded his report.

Fire Marshal:

Fire Marshal Lew Babel presented the December 2022 report

| Station | Total Calls | Total Hrs. of Service | Total Personnel Hrs. | Total Personnel Training Hrs. | Total Fundraising Hrs. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sanatoga (Station 58) | 41 | 16 hrs. 34 mins | 65 hrs. 8 mins | 121 hrs. 0 mins | 2 hrs. 0 mins |
| Ringling Hill (Station 59) | 33 | 14 hrs. 37 mins | 46 hrs. 30 mins | none | 12 hrs. 0 mins |

He added that he will be attending the Hazmat Refresher course on Saturday at Sanatoga Fire Company.

Highway Public Works Department:

Mr. Wagner presented the December report which includes shoulder cutting for drainage issues, dropping of several dead trees on Yerger Rd, salting on 12/15 and 12/23, restraining picnic tables at Ringing Rock Park, servicing the office generator, hauling tires for disposal, cleaning storm drains and patching potholes.

Engineer:

Jim McCarthy of McCarthy Engineering Associates provided a written Engineer's Report for the month of December 2022 updating the Board on various ongoing projects in the Township. Nick Perilli was in attendance and informed the board that the closeout documentation for Gerald Richard's Park was approved by DCNR and the final reimbursement request has been submitted. He also stated that he is working with PENNDOT and the County regarding the grant closeout for the Pruss Hill Road Bridge. There were no questions from the Board.

Treasurer:

Ms. Marsteller informed the board that she does not have a report yet as the mail is still coming in for the year, but she reported that she has 98.57% of the taxes in which is comparable to last year at this time which was 98.36%. There are no anomalies on the lien list, and she should have a report available in the next week to week and a half.

Solicitor:

Solicitor Ottaviano provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on for the month of December. Due to the confidential and privileged information he will answer any questions during the Executive Session if necessary.

Parks and Recreation:

Mr. Wagner reported that at 7:30 A.M. the final two tires were removed from the lake at Ringing Rocks Park with the help of Norco Fire Company making the clean-up complete.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Wagner has nothing to report as the township has not received the plans for Royal Farms or the revised plans from Wawa.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority:

Mr. Wagner relayed the message from Ashlea Bullock that anyone with Xpress Bill Pay should see their bill tonight. Residents who receive them in the mail should see them between the end of this week and the beginning of next week.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to award the On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Bids to Penn Petroleum Inc. of Boyertown

Commissioner Keohane made the motion to award the On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Bids to Penn Petroleum Inc. of Boyertown. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Motion to advertise Equipment Rental Bid for consideration at the February 23rd meeting

Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to advertise Equipment Rental for consideration at the February 23rd meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution #1302-23 reappointing Joseph McGeehan to the Lower Pottsgrove Sewer Authority

Commissioner Keohane made the motion to approve Resolution #1302-23 reappointing Joseph McGeehan to the Lower Pottsgrove Sewer Authority. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution # 1303-23 reappointing Scott Fulmer to the Lower Pottsgrove Planning Commission

Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to approve Resolution #1303-23 reappointing Scott Fulmer to the Lower Pottsgrove Planning Commission. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution # 1304-23 reappointing Joseph Chrisman to the Building Code Appeals Board

Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to approve Resolution #1304-23 reappointing Joseph Chrisman to the Building Code Appeals Board. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution # 1305-23 appointing Brian Ward to the Parks and Recreation Board

Commissioner Keohane made the motion to approve Resolution #1305-23 appointing Brian Ward to the Parks and Recreation Board. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution # 1306-23 formally adopting and implementing Act 57 of 2022 Local Tax Collection Law

Mr. Ottaviano explained that Governor Wolf signed Act 57 on July 11 to be effective October 11, 2022, that allows new home buyers to apply for and obtain a waiver on any late real estate taxes if the homeowner can prove they did not receive the tax bill. The purpose is to recognize the issues with the mail system. The application must be completed within 12 months of the purchase of the home. Mr. Zlomek inquired as to whether there is an appeal process should the waiver be denied. Mr. Ottaviano advised that there is no mention of an appeal process. Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to approve Resolution #1306-23 formally adopting and implementing Act 57 of 2022 Local Tax Collection Law. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Resolution #453-U, Amendment for establishing certain fees, deposits, and escrows payable to the Township

Mr. Wagner advised that this is the 2023 Fee Schedule which had some minor changes related to contract services for the police officers and fee schedule for the solicitor and professional services. Mr. Wagner also advised it will be posted on the Township website the following day. Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to approve Resolution #453-U, Amendment for establishing certain fees, deposits, and escrows payable to the Township. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

REVIEW OF WARRANT #928 FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022

Mr. Wagner announced that it will be available later this week.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty echoed Mr. Wagner's previous comments thanking all involved in minimizing damage to the Township Building after the burst pipe.

Commissioner Keohane also echoed those same sentiments and added thanks to the Police Department for the way the incident was managed on High Street making sure residents were safe.

Commissioner Mohollen echoed the comments of Commissioners McGroarty and Keohane and added his praise for all the hours Commissioner Lopez put in over the past few weeks for the weather incidents, the shooting, and the leak in the building. He kept everyone well informed. He also thanked Mr. Wagner for his efforts in getting the building up and running and he looks forward to having everything looking better than new.

Commissioner Lopez deferred to Mr. Wagner to update the board on the letters that went out last month.

Mr. Wagner gave an update that after the last meeting on December 15th, letters went out to the professional staff, department heads and Chairperson of various boards and commissions thanking them for all their hard work throughout the year.

Mr. Ottaviano announced at 6:55 P.M. that this concludes the public portion of the meeting, and they will be holding an Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter as well as a personnel matter. It is for informational purposes only and no decisions or actions will be made at this time.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Varady". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Nicole Varady
Township Secretary