

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 7, 2022

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022, at Sunnybrook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook Road, Pottstown Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, Earl E. Swavely, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen, and Michael McGroarty were all present.

Edward C. Wagner; Manager, Richard Bell; Chief of Police and Jamie Ottaviano; Solicitor were also present.

Commissioner Foltz stated the meeting will be recorded, he asked any speakers to give their name and address for public comments. The township is following social distancing guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease and Control to limit exposure.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY WITH DISTRICT JUSTICE MAURICE H. SAYLOR

Chief Bell gave a brief background about Ms. Mara Smith where he stated that Ms. Smith graduated from Abington High School and went on to study Criminal Justice at Kutztown University. Ms. Mara Smith attended the Montgomery County Police Academy after college. After the academy, Ms. Smith was a part-time officer in Chester Township, Delaware County. District Justice, Maurice H. Saylor conducted the swearing in Officer Mara Smith as a Lower Pottsgrove Police Officer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to appoint Jamie Ottaviano of the Law Firm Yergey, Daylor, Allebach, Scheffey, & Picardi as the Township Solicitor at a rate of \$150hr.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to appoint Jamie Ottaviano of the Law Firm Yergey, Daylor, Allebach, Scheffey, & Picardi as the Township Solicitor at a rate of \$150hr.

Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS: None

REPORTS:

Police

Chief Bell presented the Police Report for January 2022.

<u>CALLS FOR SERVICE:</u>	1,004
Special Assignments	448
<u>ASSISTS:</u>	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	3
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	1
<u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: (Contacts)</u>	
Traffic Citations	72
DUI Arrests	9
<u>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</u>	
Violations Indicated	53
Adults Arrested	12
Juveniles Handled	4
Youth Aid Panel/Reprimand Release	0
Juvenile Court	1
Adult Court/Citation (Juvenile)	1
MH/Involuntary Commitment	1

Chief Bell stated some highlights of his report were the following.

- Chief Bell stated the Department managed 448 Special Assignments. Chief Bell explained that these types of calls are not included in the total for Calls for Service. Chief Bell stated that the special assignment calls are extra and happen when there is a noticeable pattern in crime, etc.
- The Department is in receipt of the new Police vehicle. The car has already been lettered and it currently getting the equipment installed on the interior.
- The department is working with H&K in conducting traffic control on Route 422 where the construction is beginning to pick up.

Civil Service Commission

Chief Bell explained that the Civil Service Commission met on four (4) separate occasions. Chief Bell stated that the Police Department just hired a new officer. Chief Bell explained that 40 applications were received, 29 applicants were administered a written examination, 15 applicants passed the written examination, 13 applicants passed the physical agility examination, two (2) were hired to the Department. Chief Bell stated that the Civil Service Commission has met once already this year and he is in the middle of scheduling another meeting for early March.

Emergency Management

- Commissioner Lopez explained that there were no activations for the month of January.
- Commissioner Lopez explained that Montgomery County gives about three (3) months for all documents and plans to be updated and current.
- Commissioner Lopez stated that the updating process will begin for all emergency plans, including the emergency operations plan, emergency contact list, and the radiological response plan.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Babel was absent. Mr. Wagner read the following statistics from the January 2022 Fire Marshal report. Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Babel gave a report for 2021. Mr. Wagner explained that Station 58, Sanatoga, had 349 calls with a total of 228 hours and 5 minutes of service and Station 59 had 366 calls with a total of 514 hours and 51 minutes of service. Mr. Wagner stated that the total fire loss of 2021 was \$549,800.00 which was a significant increase from 2020 which was \$242,000.00. Mr. Wagner also explained that the total man hours from both Stations were 2,408 hours and 58 minutes for 2021.

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service
Sanatoga (Station 58)	42	31 hours 44 minutes
Ringing Hill (Station 59)	45	28 hours 1 minute

(Hours are approximate)

Highway Public Works Department

Commissioner Foltz presented the January report which included the following: trimmed trees at the parks, snow and ice removal, pothole patched, cleaned storm drains, replaced hydraulic lines on the F-650, cutting edges on plows, replaced end terminals on guide rail, renewed salt contract, repaired outside lighting at the township office, worked on an inlet at Kenny Road, serviced small equipment, and serviced the chipper.

Engineering

Jim McCarthy from McCarthy Engineering presented his report which included the following: Pruss Hill Road bridge is in for permitting at DEP and the Montgomery County Conservation District. Mr. McCarthy is estimating getting a review back from both agencies in May, in June Mr. McCarthy plans to resubmit to the DEP and Conservation District and put it out for bid. Mr. McCarthy also stated that bid could be received and ready to open by July and potentially award the contractor at the August meeting. Mr. McCarthy explained that the field work at Gerald Richards Park has been on hold due to the frigate temperatures. Mr. McCarthy hopes the work will continue once the weather warms up.

Solicitor

Solicitor Garner provided a written report with a synopsis of all projects his office worked on during January.

Park and Recreation

Mr. Wagner reported that a kick-off meeting for Community Day was held on January 26, 2022. Mr. Wagner explained that Community Day will be held on September 10, 2022, at the Lower

Pottsgrove Elementary School from 11:30am-1:00pm. Mr. Wagner stated there will be a follow up meeting on Friday, February 11, 2022, at 7:45am. Mr. Wagner explained that the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 9th with a rain date of April 16th at 10am held at Sanatoga Park due to the construction at Gerald Richards Park. Mr. Wagner also stated that the Fish Rodeo will be May 7th, beginning at 8am held outside at Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Planning Commission

Mr. Wagner reported that the meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at Sunnybrook Ballroom. Mr. Wagner stated that the following items are to appear on the agenda: a planning module for 1752 Karen Drive as well at 710 White Pine Line. Mr. Wagner also stated that Mr. Thomas Troutman is now the chairperson of the Regional Planning Commission.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. where the topic of discussion will be the draft private lateral inspection ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

2021-15 Zoning Hearing Application for AD Moyer Lumber 300 Armand Hammer Blvd. Road IN (interchange) District. The Applicant is requesting variances to 250-143.A(4)(a) to allow a 10 feet setback when 20 feet is required; 250-157 to allow maximum impervious coverage of 74.86% when 65% is allowed; and 250-202 to allow 35 parking spaces when 57 are required.

Mr. Wagner explained that AD Moyer has submitted a zoning hearing application. Mr. Wagner stated that Royal Farms has bought a sizable portion of AD Moyer's property. Mr. Wagner added that AD Moyer is now faced with a lumber storage issue. Mr. Wagner explained that AD Moyer is interested in installing a rack mechanism to store their lumber. Mr. Wagner stated that AD Moyer would be eliminating some of their front parking spaces. Mr. Wagner explained that some of the rack mechanism would be placed under high tension lines, AD Moyer must get approval from PECO. The Board of Commissioners agreed and decided to leave the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board.

2022-02 Zoning Hearing Application for Francis L. Gorski 1876 Glen Eagles Drive R-2 (Residential) District. The applicant seeks to construct a single-family residence and is requesting variance from 250-59.A to allow for a minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet when 20,000 square feet is required; and 250-59.B to allow for a side yard setback of 15 feet when 20 feet is required.

Mr. Wagner explained that this property was apart of the Grove Point subdivision from the early 1990's and at that time property lots with public water and sewer in the R-2 was 10,000 square feet. Mr. Wagner explained that the setbacks were 15 feet when this property was subdivided, and they have since changed to 20 feet. Mr. Wagner explained that the current property owner wants to build a single-family home on the land, and it will be similar looking to the houses surrounding it. The Board of Commissioners agreed and decided to leave the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion to approve and ratify all the motions and actions taken at the January 20th Meeting
Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve and ratify all the motions and actions taken at the January 20th Meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Discussion on draft private sewer lateral inspection ordinance

Mr. Wagner explained that a presentation was made at the January 10th Authority meeting. The Authority Board members had a question of what other surrounding township/boroughs are utilizing this type of inspection, the authority engineer is finalizing a list for the Board. Mr. Wagner stated that the authority engineer has reached out to DEP to see if they would support this program as well. Mr. Wagner stated that the Authority Board has questioned the cost to the homeowners, in which Mr. Wagner replied would be around approximately \$250-\$300 for the inspection and \$100 for the Engineer to review the video. Mr. Wagner stated that Pottstown Borough is also looking into the same system.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to advertise Oil & Chip Bid for consideration at the March 7th Meeting.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to advertise Oil & Chip Bid for consideration at the March 7th Meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:

Resolution #-453-T(A), Amendment for establishing certain fees, deposits, and escrows payable to the Township.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution #-453-T(A) Amendment for establishing certain fees, deposits, and escrows payable to the Township. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Resolution 1273-22 authorize the auction via Municibid of the 2018 Ford Explorer.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution 1273-22 authorize the auction via Municibid of the 2018 Ford Explorer. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

REVIEW OF WARRANT #917 FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022:

Warrant #917 is under review.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty welcomed Mr. Ottaviano to Lower Pottsgrove. Commissioner McGroarty also thanked Mr. Garner for all his service with Lower Pottsgrove Township.

Commissioner Swavely—Commissioner Swavely echoed Commissioner McGroarty in welcoming the new Solicitor. Commissioner Swavely also thanked Mr. Garner for his years of service with the Township.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez spoke of Barbara Updegrove long time resident of Lower Pottsgrove who had passed away. She was incredibly involved with the community and will be missed dearly. Commissioner Lopez echoed Commissioner McGroarty in welcoming Mr. Ottaviano.

Commissioner Mohollen—Commissioner Mohollen echoed Commissioner McGroarty by welcoming Mr. Ottaviano and thanking Mr. Garner for his years of service. Commissioner

Mohollen also echoed Commissioner Lopez in mourning Mrs. Updegrove who passed away. Commissioner Mohollen also stated how much extra service that the Fire and Police Department does for our community. Commissioner Mohollen stated he is very thankful for the first responders.

Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz explained he was approached by residents in the township who are apart of the “Rolling Thunder” motorcycle group about potentially hosting an event called “The Traveling Wall” for the Vietnam Veterans. Commissioner Foltz wanted to bring this idea to the other Commissioners for discussion. No actions were taken at this time.

Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner had no comments.

Solicitor Ottaviano – Solicitor Ottaviano stated that the public meeting was now closed, and the Board of Commissioners are going to enter an Executive Session to discuss a personal and a real estate matter. Mr. Ottaviano stated no formal action will be taken.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 24, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Madison Orler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Madison" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Orler".

Madison Orler
Township Secretary