

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 7, 2022**

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

The following were in attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Bruce L. Foltz, Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen, and Michael McGroarty were all present. Commissioner Earl Swavelly was absent.

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.

Executive Session Announcement

In accordance with the Sunshine Law, Mr. Ottaviano announced that the Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss a matter of real estate. There was no formal action taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**COMMENTS BY VISITORS:** None

**REPORTS:**

**Police**

Chief Bell presented the Police Report for February 2022.

<b><u>CALLS FOR SERVICE:</u></b>	<b>861</b>
<b>Directed Patrols / Extra Patrol Actions</b>	<b>470</b>
<b><u>ASSISTS:</u></b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: (Contacts)</u></b>	
<b>Traffic Citations</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Accident Investigations</b>	<b>27</b>
<b><u>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</u></b>	

<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Youth Aid Panel/Reprimand Release</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Juvenile Court</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Adult Court/Citation (Juvenile)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MH/Involuntary Commitment</b>	<b>2</b>

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

- Chief Bell stated the Department has been working with the Township Staff to plan the Fish Rodeo and Community Day.
- Chief Bell stated the two new officers have completed the standardized field sobriety test training.
- Chief Bell stated that three officers have attended the FBI Lead of Command training that was held at Sunnybrook Ballroom.
- Chief Bell stated that officers are still participating in DUI patrols.

### **Civil Service Commission**

Chief Bell explained that the Civil Service Commission met in January for a kick-off meeting for the upcoming year. Chief Bell explained the Police Department had an officer resign and Chief was meeting with Civil Service on March 8, 2022, to discuss the hiring and testing procedures.

### **Emergency Management**

- Commissioner Lopez explained that there was one (1) EOC Watch desk Activation on February 25, 2022 from 4:00 AM until 2:00 PM due to winter weather conditions.
- Commissioner Lopez explained that on February 28, 2022, the Public Work Director's emergency management radio was updated.
- Commissioner Lopez stated that Montgomery County has been in the process of updating all radios. Montgomery County issued new radios to Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management.
- Commissioner Lopez stated that he continued to update 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 February 2022 Fire Marshal report.

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>Total Hrs. of Service</b>
<b>Sanatoga (Station 58)</b>	37	20 hours 37 minutes
<b>Ringling Hill (Station 59)</b>	30	13 hours 23 minutes

(Hours are approximate)

### **Highway Public Works Department**

Commissioner Foltz presented the March report which included the following: removed one salt spreader for hot patching, installed new tires on the chipper and F-350, worked on street signs, worked on equipment, cleaned storm drains, hot patched potholes, serviced the roller and tow behind air compressor, excavated the shoulder on Orlando Rd., and installed surge stone, excavated the swale on Pruss Hill Rd., dropped a dead tree on Pruss Hill Rd., marked manholes on High St. for paving, prepared long and short lines for 2022 painting, prepared Oil & Chip bids for 2022, replaced the abutment signs on Schaffer Rd. Bridge, and worked on winter storms on 2/4, 2/13, 2/24, and 2/25.

### **Engineering**

Jim McCarthy from McCarthy Engineering presented his report which included the following: the escrow was closed out for Pottsgrove High School. The Pruss Hill Road bridge received the permit from DEP and is waiting on the Montgomery County Conservation District permit. Mr. McCarthy also stated that the bridge bid could be sent out later this month (March) and potentially have the bids back by the May meeting. Mr. McCarthy stated the roof has been installed on Building One (1) at Sanatoga Green and the Clubhouse framing has begun.

### **Solicitor**

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

### **Park and Recreation**

Mr. Wagner reported that a meeting for Community Day is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022. Mr. Wagner explained that Community Day will be held on September 10, 2022, at the Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Mr. Wagner stated that the work has picked back up at Gerald Richards Park since the weather has warmed up. Mr. Wagner explained that the work will need to be substantially complete by May 31, 2022 in order to comply with the various grant deadlines.

### **Planning Commission**

Mr. Wagner reported that the meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at Sunnybrook Ballroom. Mr. Wagner stated that Ordinance 357 will be the topic of discussion, which are requesting amendments to the Gateway Interchange District. Mr. Wagner added that today a site meeting was held with Sanatoga Green officials regarding 850 liner feet they are required pave as well as add a speed hump along South Park Rd. Mr. Wagner stated that the road will receive portions of base repair due to the state of the current road.

Mr. Wagner added that PENNDOT announced they will be paving High St. from Township Line Rd (Limerick Township) to Keim St (Pottstown Borough) later this month.

### **Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Mr. Wagner explained that the Authority asked McCarthy Engineering to apply for a GP11 permit, issued by DEP, for the Sanatoga Lake Pump Station. Mr. Wagner explained that the stream embankment is eroding away. Mr. McCarthy explained that to stop the erosion they will conduct a "Rock Dump Slope," according to DEP, which is utilizing large boulders or large concrete slabs to stop the erosion. Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:**

**2022-02 Zoning Hearing Application for Khair, Inc., Pruss Hill Road R-1 (Residential) District, vacant unimproved land approximately 34.65 acres. The Applicant seeks Special Exception approval pursuant to 250-49. D (6) of the Zoning Ordinance to operate a cemetery on the property utilizing no less than five acres. The applicant is proposing to initially utilize at least 12.5 acres of the property for this use.**

Commissioner Foltz raised objection to the proposed use. The Board of Commissioners left the final decision for the Zoning Hearing Board.

**2022-03 Zoning Hearing Application for Jamie Rivera 854 Duckworth Dr., R-2 (Residential) District. The applicant seeks to extend his attached garage into the area of the side yard setback and is requesting a variance with respect to 250-59. B of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for a side yard setback of seven (7) feet eight (8) inches when 25 feet is required.**

Mr. Wagner explained to the Board that Mr. Rivera is adding on to his existing garage to store his vehicles. Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Rivera is located within the R-2 District in the Woodgate Subdivision. Mr. Wagner stated that under the regulations of the R-2 District with one (1) utility, the setback required is 25 feet. Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Rivera proposed a seven (7) foot, eight (8) inch setback. Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Rivera's lot is existing non-conforming therefore, Mr. Rivera is requesting the variance. Mr. Wagner stated that Mr. Rivera does meet the impervious coverage requirement for his lot. The Board of Commissioners left the final decision for the Zoning Hearing Board.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to award the Oil & Chip Bid to Martin Paving of Litiz, PA for \$84,831.36**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to award the Oil & Chip Bid to Martin Paving of Litiz, PA for \$84,831.36. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**Motion to award the Equipment Rental Bid to Sacks & Sons of Zieglerville, PA for \$108,275.00.**

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to award the Sacks & Sons of Zieglerville, PA for \$108,275.00. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**Motion to advertise to accept applications for a Full-time Police Officer position.**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to advertise to accept applications for a Full-time Police Officer position.

Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:**

**Resolution 1275-22 approval of Douglas Hawkins as Fire Police for the Ringing Hill Fire Department.**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution 1275-22 approval of Douglas Hawkins as Fire Police for the Ringing Hill Fire Company. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**Resolution 1276-22 approval of Justin Hawkins as Fire Police for the Ringing Hill Fire Department.**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution 1276-22 approval of Justin Hawkins as Fire Police for the Ringing Hill Fire Company. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

**REVIEW OF WARRANT #918 FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022:**

Warrant #918 is under review.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner McGroarty** – Commissioner McGroarty had no comments.

**Commissioner Lopez**— Commissioner Lopez mentioned the chain link fence on S. Pleasantview Road was fixed to be able to fit a fire hose through it, however, Commissioner Lopez stated that it is not big enough to fit the hose coupling adaptor through it. Commissioner Lopez also stated that since the wire chain link fencing was cut, it is very sharp. Commissioner Lopez stated he is working with PENNDOT to resolve the issue.

**Commissioner Mohollen**—Commissioner Mohollen spoke of two (2) fires that occurred in Pottstown Borough. Commissioner Mohollen stated that the Fire Departments work together to help each other in times of need. Commissioner Mohollen also spoke about the civilians in Ukraine and asked for them to be thought of.

**Commissioner Foltz**—Commissioner Foltz had no comments.

**Mr. Wagner**— Mr. Wagner had no comments.

**Solicitor Ottaviano** – Solicitor Ottaviano had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Madison Orler  
Township Secretary