

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Monday May 1, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday May 1, 2023, at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building, located at 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

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

Edward C. Wagner: Manager, Richard Bell: Police Chief, Lew Babel: Fire Marshal, Jim McCarthy: Township Engineer, Jamie Ottaviano: Solicitor 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 April 20, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

PRESENTATION:

Letter of Commendation for the broken Fire Sprinkler Incident on December 26th at Lower Pottsgrove Township Building

Mr. Wagner gave a brief recap of the events that took place on December 26, 2022, stating that at approximately 7:00 P.M. that evening, he received a call from Sergeant Walters inquiring how to turn off the sprinklers as a sprinkler head broke in the vestibule area of the Township Administration Building causing water to flood through the main floor and down into the Police Department. John Fogel, Chief Richard Bell, and numerous members of the Sanatoga and Ringing Hill Fire Companies responded to stop the damage from spreading and begin the cleanup. Commissioner Lopez stated that the Commissioners would like to show their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of those members of the Township, Police Department and Fire Companies who were successful at keeping the damage to a minimum.

The following people were presented with Commendations:

Lower Pottsgrove Township Police Department:

Chief Richard Bell, Sergeant Tim Walters, Officer Kevin Black, Officer David McKechnie & (Officer Christopher Di Piano not present)

Lower Pottsgrove Township: John Fogel, Director of Public Utilities

Sanatoga Fire Company: Eric Linsenbigler, Tyler Pennypacker, James Krieger & (Ricky Lewiski not present)

Ringing Hill Fire Company: Greg Delp, Brian Weil, Douglas Hawkins, Justin Hawkins, Chick Schaffer (Todd Krock, Bill Poston, Brett Rhoads, Michael Rightnour, Robert Romig, & Marc Zohe not present)

Commissioner Mohollen thanked everyone for saving our building. He noted that a few weeks later they saved a riding arena building on Sanatoga Road which was on fire. The Police Department as well as Mr. Fogel assisted with that as well and it was an outstanding success for which the Commissioners are very grateful.

REPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Mr. Wagner announced that Pottsgrove High School student Lydia Masimore of Kepler Road has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. Only 6 (six) percent of the Girl Scouts earn the award. The Commissioners prepared a citation to honor and congratulate her which Mr. Wagner read aloud. The letter will be presented to her during her Gold Award Ceremony.

Mr. Wagner received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development with an application to apply for a preemption system at the intersection of Buchert Road and Keim Street. Mr. Wagner and Chief Bell will assist Lieutenant James in applying for the \$20,000 grant.

Mr. Wagner announced that they are staying on top of property maintenance regarding high grass and complaints. There has been positive feedback from the residents that are complying. Regarding the Township's Summer Hours, at Commissioner Mohollen's request, Mr. Fogel had a sign made to be posted outside the Township Building. The new hours will also be advertised on social media. The hours are as follows:

Administrative Staff: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Mon – Thurs)

7:30 AM to 11:30 AM (Friday)

Code Enforcement: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Mon – Thurs)

7:30 AM to 11:30 AM (Friday)

Sewer Authority Personnel: 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Mon – Thurs)

6:00 AM to 10:00 AM (Friday)

Highway Department Personnel: 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Mon – Thurs)

6:00 AM to 10:00 AM (Friday)

Police Dept. Administration: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Mon – Thurs)

7:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Friday)

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Donna Staurowsky 3063 Duckworth Drive stated she has been attempting to find out what the code in our Township is for fencing. She went on to explain that she has a neighbor whose fence is unsightly, and she wants to find out what she can do about it. She has been in contact with the Police Department for other matters with that neighbor. Mr. Wagner asked her to provide her contact information and he would meet with her tomorrow to go over anything she has questions about and provide her with a plot plan of her property. Commissioner Lopez thanked her for bringing the issue to their attention.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONS:

Police:

Chief Bell presented the Police report for the month of April 2023.

CALLS FOR SERVICE	1004
Directed Patrols / Extra Patrols	557
ASSISTS:	
Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD	5
Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD	2
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:	
Violations Indicated	158
Traffic Citations Issued	88
DUI Arrests	3
Accident Investigations	25
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:	
Violations Indicate	39
Adults Arrested	13
Juveniles Handled	1
Youth Aid Panel/Reprimand Release	1
Juvenile Court	0
Adult Court/Citations (Juvenile)	2
MH/Involuntary Commitment	4

Emergency Management:

Commissioner Lopez reported there were no Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations for the month of April 2023. Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Henderson attended the G-191 ICS/EOC Interface Workshop at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus on April 17. On April 19, Commissioner Lopez and Ms. Henderson attended the monthly Emergency Management Training Meeting where they earned 2 continuing Education credits; specialists from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) discussed DEP Emergency Response. Commissioner Lopez attended the virtual PEMA meeting on April 24 titled Substantial Improvements/Substantial Damages Toolkit Training for Communities providing information for storm situations. Montgomery County is surveying municipalities regarding the purchase of Emergency Planning software. This acquisition would be at no cost to the Township. Commissioner Lopez provided the County with a response in favor of the Emergency Planning Software. This will allow the Township to get plans out in a more efficient and effective manner. Commissioner Lopez announced that the Emergency Management Facebook page went live in hopes of keeping the public updated regarding weather and traffic conditions and critical public safety incidents as well as relaying county and state emergency messages. He thanked Nicole Varady for her efforts in getting that up and running.

Fire Marshal:

Fire Marshal Lew Babel presented the April 2023 report.

Station	Total Calls	Total Hrs. of Service	Total Personnel Hrs.	Total Personnel Training Hrs.	Total Fundraising Hrs.
Sanatoga (Station 58)	40	35 hrs. 34 min	120 hrs. 09 mins	156 hrs. 20 mins	23 hrs. 30 mins
Ringling Hill (Station 59)	39	36 hrs. 41 mins	172 hrs. 09 mins	66 hrs. 30 mins	23 hrs. 0 mins

Highway Public Works Department:

Mr. Wagner presented the April 2023 report prepared by John Fogel which includes removing the last salt spreader, preparing for the Egg Hunt, cutting up trees blocking the swale on Heather Lane, trimming trees along Medical Drive in preparation of the paving project, cutting the grass at Township parks as well as the intersections, working on the baseball fields, repairing plumbing issues at Sanatoga Park, fixing the kitchen faucet in Township Building, spreading mulch and cleaning up litter with the work release crew from SCI Phoenix Department of Corrections, cleaning storm drains, patching potholes and servicing equipment.

Engineer:

Jim McCarthy of McCarthy Engineering Associates provided a written Engineer’s Report for the month of April 2023 updating the Board on various ongoing projects in the Township. There were no questions.

Solicitor:

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

Parks and Recreation:

Mr. Wagner reiterated that John Fogel and the Public Works Department have prepared all the baseball/soccer fields for the season. The road crew is also preparing to clean and prep the bandshell for the upcoming Summer Concert Series next month.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Wagner reported that Coventry Christian submitted revised plans which will appear at the June Planning Commission meeting. There will be no May meeting.

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority:

Mr. Wagner gave an update stating we currently have 4,308 (four thousand, three hundred eight) customers for trash; at this time, 51% (fifty one percent) have opened an Xpress Bill Pay account. 656 (six hundred fifty-six) customers have signed up to be paperless and 889 (eight hundred eighty-nine) are autopay.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion on the Infrastructure Committee Presentation of April 20th on the proposed municipal building project

Commissioner Lopez reviewed that there was a presentation at the previous Board of Commissioners meeting on April 20 regarding the proposed municipal building project. The Board is still open to comments from the public at meetings this month, which are tonight and May 18.

Tom Troutman 2469 E. High St. inquired if there is any updated news. Commissioner Lopez informed him that nothing has been done as they are waiting to give the public until May 18 to comment.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement with former Police Officer Robert Diesinger.

Mr. Zlomek stated that the matter has been going on for an extended period. Mr. Ottaviano confirmed and informed him that approving the agreement will effectively end the matter. Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement with former Police Officer Robert Diesinger. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution 1314-23 Donation/Disposition of property recovered by the Police Department aka Bicycles.

Chief Bell advised that when bicycles are recovered from around the Township and not claimed, after being held for a period, they are disposed of or donated.

Commissioner Swavely made a motion to approve Resolution 1314-23 Donation/Disposition of property recovered by the Police Department aka Bicycles. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

REVIEW OF WARRANT #932 FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023

Mr. Wagner announced that it is not completed yet.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who responded to the Township Building for the fire sprinkler incident. He congratulated resident Lydia Masimore for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award. He also informed Commissioner Lopez that he saw the Emergency Management Facebook page shortly after it was put up today.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked Mr. Wagner and his staff for their patience and flexibility while the building was being repaired. He thanked Nicole Varady for work in choosing the flooring, paint etc.

Commissioner Swavely recognized John Fogel and his crew for the work they do, especially this time of year.

Commissioner Lopez echoed Commissioner Swavely stating that the efforts of Mr. Fogel and his crew get mentioned often and the Commissioners are very appreciative. The Public Works Department does an excellent job. Mr. Fogel thanked him and stated what a pleasure it is to work

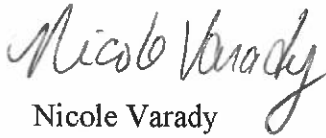
with the Township as everyone is so supportive. Chief Bell and Jim McCarthy agreed that they enjoy working with Mr. Fogel and his crew.

Mr. Wagner elaborated on Commissioners Swavely and Lopez stating that Mr. Fogel does any job asked of him with no complaints. He also thanked Ms. Varady for the Emergency Management Facebook page.

Mr. Ottaviano had no comments.

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor. There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Varady".

Nicole Varady
Township Secretary