

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**May 20, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at The Sunnybrook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook Road, Pottstown Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were in attendance:

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

Edward C. Wagner, Manager; Charles Garner, Solicitor; Kathryn Vlahos, Secretary were also present.

PRESENTATION:**Letter of Commendation for the April 7th Trench Rescue along Evergreen Road:**

Commissioner Mohollen and Commissioner Foltz presented the following fire companies with a letter of commendation for their hard work and dedication at the April 7th trench rescue along Evergreen Road.

Ringling Hill Fire Company Station 59

Sanatoga Fire Company Station 58

Limerick Fire Department Station 51

Pottstown Fire Department

Commissioner Mohollen read the letter out loud to each of the fire departments and presented each one with a plaque. Commissioner Mohollen stated that they would also like to thank Eric Linsenbigler who is also the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for Lower Pottsgrove Township as well as the Fire Chief for Sanatoga Fire Company. Mr. Linsenbigler thanked everyone that responded and assisted at this incident and it was an absolute team effort and he could not have done it without them. He said that it was amazing watching everyone come together for one common goal, to rapidly extricate the occupant from the trench. Mr. Linsenbigler commended Paramedic Harper for taking a risk early on getting into the trench. Commissioner Foltz thanked all of the departments for their hard work and dedication.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 and May 3, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Charles Nippert 222 North Pleasantview Road—Mr. Nippert said that he would like to join in the praise for the fire departments. Mr. Nippert stated that tonight he is speaking for himself and he does not represent any group or organization. He is speaking as a concerned citizen about the SRO program which has a long and successful history. Working together they are establishing good relationships with police and community youths in these trying times and the relationships benefit everyone. He believes that we need good relationships between our students and local police. He hopes that the township and the school board can reach an agreement that is fair and acceptable to all parties.

Susan Drauschak 1330 Randy Drive—Ms. Drauschak is a board member of the Pottstown Regional Public Library and wanted to share some updates for the board. The library is going to be holding its second charity auction at the Carousal on May 22 from 12 PM to 3 PM. There will be an area artist that have donated their time and talent to paint 20 chairs in book themes. Starting June 1st the library will be open to the public for browsing without an appointment. Ms. Drauschak really appreciates the support from Lower Pottsgrove Township. She introduced the board to the new children and youth service director, Mindy Lipsky.

Ms. Lipsky stated that she began in December and her goal is to get the library back out into the community and start focusing in the literacy programs. There are to go bags that are offered weekly at the library for kids 17 and under. There are three story walks scheduled and they are currently looking for one more park to walk.

Russel Knoll 734 Dogwood Court— Mr. Knoll congratulated Mr. Swavely and Mr. Lopez on the successful primary elections. Mr. Knoll thanked the board for the removal of the tent that was being occupied by the playground and the police addressed it quickly and appropriately. Mr. Knoll also thanked Mr. Wagner and Mr. Fogel for helping out with the situation at the light at Sunnybrook Road and High Street.

Katherine Coppa 630 Stern Drive— Ms. Coppa wanted to reiterate her support for the SRO program and hopefully the township and the school district can come to an agreement.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for Local Government— Mr. Wagner wanted to give the board an update on the American Rescue Plan that President Biden signed on March 11th. Half of the funding was supposed to be delivered 60 days after signing which would have been May 11th. Unfortunately, it was pushed back to sometime in June. The township is slated to receive \$1.2 million dollars in two installments. The township had until December 31, 2024 to spend the funds.

OLD BUSINESS:**Discussion on the Architectural Illustrations for Phase 2 of the Sanatoga Green**

Development— Solicitor Garner stated that members of Sanatoga Green were at the last meeting which they made a presentation, and the board wanted more time to review the presentation. Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve the architectural renderings for apartments units Phase II of Sanatoga Greene as submitted by H&K with letter dated April 23, 2021 incorporating elevations and architectural renderings of Meister Cox Architects dates 4/23/2021. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Drauschak thanked all the fire and emergency personnel who responded to the incident.

Discussion on 2201 Donna Lane request for a second driveway— Jennifer Hulnick from Baer Romain and Ginty LLP was present on behalf of John and Lisa Friday at 2207 Donna Lane. She prepared exhibits for the board. Her clients are looking to add an additional driveway onto Pleasantview Road. In Exhibit A shows where the property is located on the corner of Donna Lane and North Pleasantview Road, Exhibit B is a close up of the property so the board can see how the angle of property is situated. PennDOT came out and looked at the property and from that they determined that there should be two driveways. The house was the model home, and the garage was used as a sales office, and it was converted into a garage after the development was complete. The current owners realized that they cannot use the driveway to enter into their garage. Her clients are not able to pull into the garage unless they conduct a four-point turn to get in and when they get out, they have to back out of their driveway onto Donna Lane, which is not safe. In exhibits H, I and J it shows the house that is across the street, and they have driveway from Donna Lane and as well as a roundabout that is on Pleasantview Road and Donna Lane. Her clients are looking to do the same thing which will allow for a driveway that would come right off the road so that they can pull into the garage. The issues are that her clients cannot use their garage the way that it was meant to be used. They are depreciating the value of their house. They are proposing that they allow the additional drive to put on North Pleasantview Road which would only be used for entering and Donna Lane for exiting.

Solicitor Garner stated that the board is not required to take any action tonight they are allowed to take it under review. If there is a safety concern, he is certain there can be an agreement with some indemnification that her clients would sign releasing the township from responsibility of creating this driveway if there was a thought of a safety issue which would be recorded with the property. Ms. Hulnick stated that for the record the house across the street has the same situation, and they have a line of trees along their driveway and their view pulling out onto Pleasantview is horrific and her clients have a clear shot and would be able to see what is coming from either direction. Commissioner Foltz replied that he would like the board to discuss what was presented to them tonight and get back to them.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of Susan Kraynik—Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to accept the resignation of Susan Kraynik effective June 11, 2021 with regrets. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Zlomek commented that on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board Ms. Kraynik did an excellent job for them and they are going to miss her and thanked her for her service.

RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE: None.

Warrant #908 Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #908 for the month of April 2021. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report- Commissioner Mohollen made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2021. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty – Commissioner McGroarty would like to thank and congratulate the fire companies for the incident on Evergreen Road. He also thanked Sue Kraynik for her service to the township and she did a great job.

Commissioner McGroarty also commented that over several meetings they agreed to look at what the actual cost is to have the school resource officer at the school. The township has received a draft agreement back from the school district and the township has made some changes to the agreement in which would like to provide back to the school district. Commissioner McGroarty would like to propose to the board that they ask Mr. Wagner to send the information onto the school district so that they could take a look at it.

Item Added to the Agenda—

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to have Mr. Wagner send the tentative School Resource Officer Agreement for 2021-2024 to the Pottsgrove School District for their approval and possible response to our changes. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Foltz opened for public comment on the motion to have Mr. Wagner send the tentative School Resource Officer Agreement for 2021-2024 to the Pottsgrove School District for their approval and response to. Being no public comments Commissioner Foltz closed public comments and the motion was approved 5-0 in favor.

Commissioner Lopez— Commissioner Lopez announced that the application for Chief of Police for Lower Pottsgrove Township was open till May 21st at 4 PM. It was decided to extend the application period to June 4th in order to allow additional time to apply..

Commissioner Swavely— Commissioner Swavely had no comments.

Commissioner Mohollen – Commissioner Mohollen thanked Mr. Wagner in regards to the trench collapse, he requests that someone from the township should be there and he was already on his way. Commission Mohollen stated that at the last meeting the fire departments asked for a public meeting. They now have asked for a private meeting with himself and Mr. Wagner to see where they stand with them. The meeting will be held June 2, 2021 at 7 PM at the township building.

Commissioner Foltz—Commissioner Foltz stated that the summer concerts are going to start this year on June 27th with Bill Koss opening, July 11th will be Flamin' Dick and the Hot Rods, July 18th will be Jump Live and Wail and July 25th will be Where's Pete and the concerts are sponsored by JP Mascaro this year.

Mr. Wagner— Mr. Wagner had no comments.

Solicitor Garner – Solicitor Garner stated that the board will adjourning the meeting into executive session this evening to discuss a matter of personnel and they will not be coming back.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos
Township Secretary