

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****June 7, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 at The Sunnybrook Ballroom, 50 Sunnybrook Road, Pottstown Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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.

Edward C. Wagner; Manager, Charles Garner; Solicitor, James McCarthy; Township Engineer and Kathryn Vlahos; Secretary.

Solicitor Garner stated that in accordance with the Sunshine Act at 6:00 tonight prior to the meeting the Board met in Executive Session to discuss threatened litigation, judicial deliberation and personnel, no action or decision was made.

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 May 20, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Randy Galiotto of Alloy 5 Bethlehem, PA on Municipal Campus Building--** Mr. Galiotto stated that he reviewed the bids that were received for the municipal complex at a prior meeting with the board and since then he has met with the Construction Manager, Solicitor and Township Manager and created three options the board could consider. Option one would be to do nothing and reject all bids that have been submitted. The option two is award as is, which would award to all qualified bidders. The option three is awarding the General, HVAC, Plumbing and rebid the electrical work. The board discussed the positive and negatives of each option and their expressed their feelings on each.

A representative from Rebcor Construction stated that all material costs have gone up in the past year and currently the prices are still increasing, and it is going to be hard to hold his cost much longer. He has never seen price increases on materials as he is seeing right now.

**Item added to the Agenda, New Municipal Campus Building Bid Evaluations—**

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to formally reject all of the electrical bids for the new municipal township building. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion.

Commissioner Foltz opened for public comment on the motion to formally reject all of the electrical bids for the New Municipal Campus Building Bids. Being no public comments Commissioner Foltz closed for public comments and the motion was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to authorize the rebid of the electrical contract under a revised bid spec acceptable to the architect, construction manager and infrastructure committee. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Foltz opened for public comment on the motion to authorize the rebid of the electrical contract under a revised bid spec acceptable to the architect, construction manager and infrastructure committee. Being no public comments Commissioner Foltz closed for public comments and the motion was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

### COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

**Katherine Coppa 630 Stern Drive**— Ms. Coppa stated that she was at the meeting tonight to express concerns for the School Resource Program. She received a copy of the proposal which increased nearly \$30,000 which would be a zero-cost sharing with the Pottsgrove School District. In her opinion the SRO program is what made the Pottsgrove School District special. In the end the children are the ones that will suffer.

**Tony Doyle 1745 Kepler Road**—Mr. Doyle wanted to know if there was a maximum amount that the township would not go on for spending on the new municipal complex? Commissioner Foltz replied that it is hard to say, until they know what the new electrical bids are. Mr. Doyle thinks that Lower Pottsgrove does not have enough money to spend on the new municipal township building and should stop taking so much money from the township reserves bank accounts. Commissioner Foltz replied that the board has two Commissioners with financial background who closely monitor the accounts. Mr. Doyle asked Mr. Wagner to look at how much money was taken out of the reserves account from 2006-2010.

### REPORTS:

#### Police

Manager Wanger presented the Police Report for the month of May 2021.

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>971</b>
<b>ASSISTS:</b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>2</b>

Mr. Wagner stated that some highlights off of the police report were the following.

- All of the officers have been trained in the body worn cameras with the exception of Officer Kenny who will be trained when he returns to duties later this month.
- The oral board portion of the hiring process was completed, and 13 candidates moved on to the process of background investigations.
- Detectives are currently moving forward with the background investigations with those who passed the oral boards.

### **Emergency Management**

- Commissioner Lopez stated that there were no EOC activations during the month of May. During the month of May a fuel crisis hit the southeastern part of our country due to a cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline halting 5,500 miles of pipeline after being hit by a ransomware attack. This ransomware attack primarily effected the south and southeastern parts of the US and remained below the Virginia border. Behind the scenes, efforts were made to prevent the shortage from striking our local government supply chain. Fortunately, the problem in the southeast was resolved relatively quickly.
- The major focus continues to be on updating all of our Emergency Plans including the Emergency Operations Plan, our Emergency Contacts List and the Radiological Response Plan and preparing for the Tabletop exercise we will be providing to our staff in anticipation of the Limerick Exercise.
- On May 12<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Lopez attended the Monthly Emergency Management Update Meeting.
- On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Lopez attended the monthly training meeting entitles "Profiling the Arsonists".
- Limerick Generating Station Exercise was going to be a Hostile Action based exercise. This portion of the exercise has been postponed until the 2023 exercise and will not be incorporated into this year's exercise schedule for the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 training.
- The original Variable Message Sign we were issued several years ago remains at the repair shop. We expect to receive notice soon that the piece of equipment will be available for pickup.
- The number of COVID-19 cases in Lower Pottsgrove as of June 1, 2021 were 905 cases and the total of 12 deaths.

### **Fire Marshal**

Mr. Wagner read the following statistics from the April 2021 Fire Marshal report:

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>Total Hrs. of Service</b>	<b>Total Personnel Hrs.</b>	<b>Total Personnel Training Hrs.</b>
<b>Sanatoga (Station 58)</b>	22	32 hrs. 02 min	72 hrs. 12 min	67hrs. 30 min
<b>Ringing Hill (Station 59)</b>	29	51 hrs. 20 min	101 hrs. 44 min	63 hrs. 40 min

(Hours are approximate)

**Highway Public Works Department**

Commissioner Foltz presented the May report.

**C.O.G**

Commissioner Foltz stated that there was nothing to report.

**Engineering**

Jim McCarthy from McCarthy Engineering provided a written Engineers' Report updating the Board on various projects and activities going on in the Township. He highlighted the following projects:

- Sanatoga Green Phase II & III they are working on finalizing the plans and the escrows and the solicitor will be working on the agreements.
- There was an inspection of a storm sewer for Sanatoga Greene Phase I.
- Spring Valley Farms Phase III, there are some concerns with the grading plan and what is being completed.
- Gerald Richards Park Improvements the NPDES Plans were submitted on May 14 and there was a verbal review, the plans were changed and shipped back to the Conservation District.
- Pottsgrove High School would like to have an onsite meeting to go over any open items they would have so that they can wrap up that project.

**Solicitor**

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

**Park and Recreation**

Mr. Wagner wanted to give another reminder that the 2021 Summer Concert Series kicks off on June 27<sup>th</sup> with the Bill Koss Combo and the concert starts at 6:00 PM.

**Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission**

Mr. Wagner stated they had a meeting scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and the topic of discussion was the Moove In Storage Partners, they have generated a letter for the applicant for their review.

**Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority Meeting will take place on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:**

**2021-06 Zoning Hearing Application**— 2021-06 Zoning Hearing Application for Benjamin and Renee Huber 761 Bleim Road requesting a special exception pursuant to Section 250-21 D (4) to permit an accessory structure that will exceed the size of 600SF. Proposing a 30'X48' (1,440 SF) pole building.

Mr. Wagner stated that this pole barn is on a 64,000-sf lot, and it is to the rear of their property in a wooded area. This is for storage for their personal vehicles.

Solicitor Garner mentioned that he knows in the past President Foltz had some concerns with the size of the pole barns that are allowed, the way the ordinance is set up right now it allows for a special exception when the size of the structure is greater than 600 SF. A special exception is a much easier standard than a variance. The ordinance will allow for these to occur if they satisfy the standards in the ordinance. If he is concerned with this, then board should consider putting a maximum size on the building, if it is a special exception and if they want to go larger make that a variance.

2021-07 Zoning Hearing Application—2021-07 Zoning Hearing Application for Elizabeth Connelly 952 Briar Lane requesting a special exception pursuant to Section 250-21 D (4) to permit an accessory structure that will exceed the size of 600 SF installation of a swimming pool of 857 SF.

Mr. Wagner stated that the 857 SF includes the patio that is surrounding the pool.

**OLD BUSINESS:  
SEE PRESENTATION ABOVE**

**SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Gerald Richards Park**— Commissioner Lopez made a motion to advertise the Gerald Richards Park Phase 2 Project. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Vote was 5-0 in favor.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE:**

**Warrant #909-** Warrant No. 909 for May 2021 will be distributed via email for the Commissioners' review.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner McGroarty** – Commissioner McGroarty thanked Ms. Coppa for coming to the Board of Commissioners meetings to express her concerns and appreciates her passion for the SRO program. The intent of the board was to make the cost neutral with the township. The cost was not to make it unreasonable for the school district to continue with the program. The school district emailed the township and informed them that they will not agree with the township's proposal. In the proposal the township put in that they reinstate some of the programs that were ran in the past.

**Commissioner Swavelly**—had no comments.

**Commissioner Lopez**— had no comments.

**Commissioner Mohollen** – Commissioner Mohollen commented on the building project and wanted to thank everyone who was on the project for all of their hard work.

**Commissioner Foltz**— had no comments.

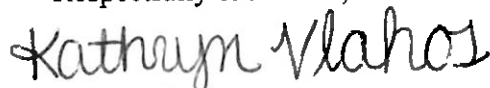
**Chris Wilcox 741 White pine Lane**—Mr. Wilcox commented in regard to the SRO, that the students' families pay taxes in Lower Pottsgrove Township and in essence will be double paying for that service. He feels should be taken into consideration with the fee that the township would charge the school. Commissioner McGroarty replied that it was taken into consideration when they were creating the proposal. The cost of that service is already accounted for in the school district's budget for residents of Lower Pottsgrove, Upper Pottsgrove and West Pottsgrove which the residents of Lower Pottsgrove are already paying for.

**Mr. Wagner**— had no comments.

**Solicitor Garner** – had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at The Sunnybrook Ballroom.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Vlahos  
Township Secretary