

**LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**July 5, 2022**

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building, located at 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

The following were in attendance:

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

Edward C. Wagner: Manager, and Gregory W. Phillips: Solicitor were also present

Commissioner Foltz presided over the meeting and stated the meeting will be recorded, he asked any speakers to give their names and address for public comments.

Solicitor Phillips announced the Board met in an executive session prior to the public meeting to discuss a personnel matter. No formal action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lopez made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 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:**

**REPORTS:**

**Police**

Chief Bell presented the Police Report for June 2022.

<b><u>CALLS FOR SERVICE:</u></b>	<b>1016</b>
<b>Directed Patrols / Extra Patrol Actions</b>	<b>883</b>
<b><u>ASSISTS:</u></b>	
<b>Given by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Received by Lower Pottsgrove PD</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:</u></b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Traffic Citations</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Accident Investigations</b>	<b>26</b>
<b><u>CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:</u></b>	
<b>Violations Indicated</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Adults Arrested</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Juveniles Handled</b>	<b>0</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>0</b>
<b>MH/Involuntary Commitment</b>	<b>1</b>

Chief Bell stated highlights of his report were the following.

- Chief Bell stated that background investigations are being conducted on candidates who successfully completed the written test, physical agility test, and oral interviews.
- Chief Bell stated that the department is currently reviewing departmental policies and updating them based on the review from labor attorney suggestions.

**Emergency Management**

- Commissioner Lopez explained that there were no EOC activations during the month of June.
- Commissioner Lopez stated that he continues to correspond and communicate with local businesses regarding their Emergency Plans, however, due to summer vacations, it has been taking longer to complete this process.

**Fire Marshal**

Mr. Babel read the following statistics from the June 2022 Fire Marshal report.

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>Total Hrs. of Service</b>
<b>Sanatoga (Station 58)</b>	38	27 hours 45 minutes
<b>Ringling Hill (Station 59)</b>	38	30 hours 11 minutes

(Hours are approximate)

**Highway Public Works Department**

Commissioner Foltz presented the June report which included the following: finished paving projects, pothole patched, tar sealed all the recent paved areas, dropped 3 dead trees at Sanatoga Park, roadside cut, cut back intersections, mowed township parks, worked on equipment, sprayed for weed control, removed tree limbs from road signs, rebuilt two (2) inlets on North Adams Street, saw cut areas on Yerger Road for base repair and cleaned up Sanatoga Park for Concert Series.

**Engineering**

Nick Perilli from McCarthy Engineering presented the engineer report which included the following: Gerald Richards Park Project is about 85 percent completed and attended a walk-through at Spring Valley Farms with the Township Manager, Township Building Code Official, and members of the HOA to address concerns that were presented during the June 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting.

**Solicitor**

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

**Park and Recreation**

Mr. Wagner reported that the Summer Concert Series kicked off on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Mr. Wagner stated there were three (3) dead ash trees that were removed from Sanatoga Park

bandshell due to potential dangers. Mr. Wagner stated two (2) were removed before the concert and one (1) after the concert. Mr. Wagner explained that removing the dead tree was the safest option for visitors who are attending the summer concert series.

### **Planning Commission**

Mr. Wagner reported a letter he received from Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee regarding Valley Forge Properties (Sanatoga Marketplace) stating they were okay with the project, however, PMRPC wanted to investigate the truck traffic at the Rupert Road entrance. They would like to see potential road improvements along Rupert Road. Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Tornetta was scheduled to appear at the Planning Commission meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, however, Mr. Tornetta decided to clean up the plan before presenting them to the Planning Commission. Mr. Wagner stated they will appear at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Wagner also stated that there will not be a Planning Commission meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> due to the reason stated earlier.

### **Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority**

Mr. Wagner explained that the Authority will be meeting on July 9, 2022. At this meeting we will review the bids for the sewer main replacement projects along Sunnyside Avenue. This project consists of replacing and locating the 8-inch sewer main from the intersection of Stuart Drive to the intersection of Kepler Road. The lowest bidder was Almeida & Hudak Contractors, LLC at \$426,510 and we are hoping to complete the project sometime late summer.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Update on the installation of a pole/lighting along Pebble Beach Lane**

Mr. Wagner stated the neighbors at 47 and 49 Pebble Beach Lane did not want the pole/lighting to be placed outside of their home. Mr. Wagner explained that he is waiting for prices from an electrician to install the light on Township Park property. This will increase the initial cost of \$10,500 due to the fact the electrician will need to install electric and cable conduit under Pebble Beach Lane by either saw cutting or boring.

#### **Route 422 Bypass Noise Barrier Installation between Porter Road & Evergreen Road.**

Mr. Wagner explained a letter from PennDOT was received on June 27, 2022, which includes noise-sensitive barrier areas. Mr. Wagner explained Area B includes Porter Road to Liberty Thrift (former Kmart). Mr. Wagner stated a group of residents chose a stone finish with gray on the inside resident wall of the noise barrier. Mr. Wagner explained Area C from Pleasantview Road to Terraced Hill and that group of residents chose the stone finish with gray as well. Mr. Wagner explained the final noise-sensitive barrier Area F between Park Road and the Sanatoga Interchange this group of residents chose a stone finish with brown for the inside of the barrier. Mr. Wagner stated he was shocked to learn that there were 25 different color options, he and the residents felt this was too overwhelming. There is no time date when the project will begin

### **SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Confirmation approval for Fire Police to assist with the July 4<sup>th</sup> Waltz's Golf Farm Fireworks Event**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the Fire Police to assist with the July 4<sup>th</sup> Waltz's Golf Farm Fireworks Event. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Confirmation approval for Fire Police to assist with the Norco Fair July 4-9**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the Fire Police to assist with the Norco Fair July 4-9. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Brad Kalb for the Highway Laborer Position.**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Brad Kalb for the Highway Laborer Position. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Motion to accept the resignation of Cody Robbins as a member of the Sewer Authority effective July 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to accept the resignation of Cody Robbins as a member of the Sewer Authority effective July 12th. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Motion to accept the resignation of Bruce L. Foltz as a member of the Board of Commissioners effective July 6th.**

Commissioner Foltz stated his resignation is on hold due to the sale of his home. No action was taken at this time.

**RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

**Resolution 1285-22 authorizes the submission of a grant application for the County Transportation Program N. Adams Street Bridge**

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve Resolution 1285-22 authorizing the submission of a grant application for the County Transportation Program N. Adams Street Bridge. The estimated cost is for the bridge deck replacement is \$557,280 and the Township is applying for a \$325,000 grant. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Resolution 1286-22 authorizing the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee effective July 6th.**

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Resolution 1286-22 authorizing the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee the formation of a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status as a supporting organization to PARRC as a method to supplement funding provided by the municipalities as defined in the PARRC Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Resolution 1287-22 approve the S.R 422, Sec. M1B Utility Relocation Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT.**

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Resolution 1287-22 approves the S.R 422, Sec. M1B Utility Relocation Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT. Mr. Wagner stated this is the relocation of the sewer main along South Sanatoga Road due to the construction of the new bridge along Route 422. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**REVIEW OF WARRANT #921 FOR THE MONTH OF May 2022:**

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #921 for the month of May 2022. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022:**

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for the month of May 2022. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**REVIEW OF WARRANT #922 FOR THE MONTH OF June 2022:**

Warrant #922 is under review.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner McGroarty** – Commissioner McGroarty publicly thanked Mr. Robbins for his years of service to the Township Sewer Authority. Commissioner McGroarty also thanked the Township Staff & Commissioners for thinking of his family during a challenging time.

**Commissioner Mohollen**—Commissioner Mohollen had no comments.

**Commissioner Lopez**— Commissioner Lopez thanked the Township Staff and Mr. Wagner for getting the park ready for the concert series in the park.

**Commissioner Swavely** – Commissioner Swavely echoed Commissioner McGroarty in thanking Cody Robbins for his years with the Township.

**Commissioner Foltz**—Commissioner Foltz thanked Chief Bell for having officers being present at the concert.

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

**Solicitor Phillips** – Solicitor Phillips had no comments.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

**At 7:01 PM**

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

**Diane & Robert Ferko – 22 Pebble Beach Lane.**

Ms. Ferko explained that she was made aware of the issues occurring at the other side of Pebble Beach Lane and wanted to come to the meeting to give her story. Ms. Ferko explained that she has been in contact with the Chief as well as Officers of the Police Department. Ms. Ferko stated she wanted to know if the Board had any other options (other than a camera and light), to deter

the activity that is happening currently. Ms. Ferko stated her home has cameras and she still has several issues that have occurred over the last few weeks. Ms. Ferko also explained that the individuals causing these issues are now wearing hoodies and masks to cover their faces, so they are unrecognizable. Ms. Ferko asked if there were any other options such as fencing, etc. Mr. Wagner stated a fence was not possible, however, he explained that the Township proposed a pole with a light and a camera located on a resident's property, and the resident does not want it. Mr. Phillip Mount (58 Pinehurst Dr) stated the three (3) houses around him are up for sale currently.

Ms. Ferko began to explain instances that were happening to her property. Chief Bell explained to Ms. Ferko that if criminal behavior is not reported, it is hard for the department to be aware of it. Commissioner Lopez stated that the Township staff and the Commissioners hear their concerns and are truly trying to find a solution that all neighbors could agree upon. Commissioner Lopez explained that the Township staff and the Police Department have been attending small meetings to narrow down the type of security options that are a good fit for this situation. Commissioner Mohollen explained to the Ferko's that the County is responsible for the repercussions of these individuals' actions, and unfortunately, little-to-no punishment is occurring. Commissioner Mohollen explained because of the lack of repercussions, it is putting extra weight on the Chief, and the Department. Mr. and Ms. Ferko stated that they have seen officers be more present on Pebble Beach Lane in which they were thankful. Mr. Ferko asked if there was any type of screening for the community involved. Chief Bell explained that one development is half subsidized, and the other community is completely privately owned. Chief Bell also explained that the department has been trying to collaborate with the HOA of the Walnut Ridge community and are receiving some pushback. Mr. Ferko thanked the Commissioners, Chief Bell, and Mr. Wagner for all their help.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 21, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



Madison Orler  
Township Secretary