

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – April 23, 2020
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom and shown on Youtube

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 23, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on Youtube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Sullivan
Commissioner Spangler arrived during the Finance Report

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Cummings Township Manager
Dave Grady Assistant Township Manager
Bob Scott Township Solicitor
Charles Catania Township Engineer
David Splain Chief of Police

Moment of Silence for Paramedic Kevin Bundy – Mr. Knapp ask for a moment of silence for Mr. Bundy who was a paramedic at Crozer where Commissioner Cooper works and passed away last week from Covid 19.

Public Comment – Mr. Knapp asked for public comment noting there is a 30 second delay from Youtube. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes – After discussion, Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the February 13, February 27, March 12, and March 26 minutes. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions – It was noted there is 1 vacancy on EAC but not applications received at this time.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Scott stated we almost have finalized the Verizon franchise agreement, but Verizon is now going to charge for the previous free drops so the Board should decide which drops to keep. He also noted they offered a PEG payment of \$6,000 for the 5-year agreement.

Engineer's Report – Resurfacing Mr. Catania stated bids are tentatively scheduled to be received May 13 for resurfacing on Penn Bid, an online bidding program. He also noted completion deadline was to be in the contract language. 310 Wallingford Avenue Escrow Mr. Catania stated they have approved the escrow amount of \$1,066,703 and asked if the Board should also approve the amount. Mr. Scott stated the Board can approve but it is not necessary. Ms. McKenzie asked how the escrow is utilized. Mr. Scott stated it is required for security of improvements and must be in place before building permits are issued. There was further discussion on the manner of security. Mr. Scott stated it could be cash, a bond or a letter of credit although the inspection portion should be required as cash.

Manager's Report – Mr. Cummings ask everyone to fill out the 2020 Census online noting its importance. He said the Book It 5 K benefitting the Furness and Swarthmore Libraries scheduled for April 25 will now be a virtual run. He also noted the HHW Collection on May 2 is cancelled and the next one is June 20. He also noted we need to advertise that our meetings are held virtually and how the public can make comments.

Building and Zoning Committee Report by Max Cooper

Amendments to storm water management regulations – Mr. Cooper noted a draft ordinance was just prepared and the changes are recommendations from the Township Engineer.

Finance and Administration Committee Report by Kaitlin McKenzie

Motion to approve warrant list – Ms. McKenzie noted expenditures for the BFI recycling fee and COVID 19 supplies which may be reimbursable. She noted \$6,800 insurance reimbursement for a damaged police vehicle, charges for the Moore Road sidewalk, the issuance of 2nd quarter contributions to the funded organizations, and the annual police computer software fee. She moved to approve the warrant list as follows: P Card - \$60,360.43 Interims - \$167,425.24 Bills to Be paid - \$179,972.24.

Mr. Cooper seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Pension Restatement and DROP ordinance – Mr. Cummings noted the FOP had supplied comments to labor counsel on the non-DROP portion of the ordinance. After discussion, Ms. McKenzie moved to authorize advertisement of the ordinance for the May 14 meeting. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

RE tax payment discount period – Ms. McKenzie noted the Board extended the discount period through April 30. She noted that 76% of the budgeted amount has been collected so far versus 78% this time last year. Mr. Scott noted issues with refunding the 2% discount amount to those who unknowingly paid the face amount. After discussion, the Board agreed to not extend the discount period, but to consider extending the face amount at the next meeting.

First Quarter Financial Update – Ms. McKenzie noted the summary submitted by Mr. Grady and stated we are in a pretty good position. Mr. Grady stated the balances are cash balances versus fund balance.

Community Enhancement Committee Report by Scott Spangler

Multi-municipal electronics recycling/ shredding event – Mr. Spangler stated the tentative date is May 23rd at Rose Tree Park and is a shared event with Media and Swarthmore Boroughs. He noted PAR Recycling would handle the electronics and J&K Disposal would handle the shredding.

Summer Recreation program – Mr. Spangler said sign-ups being accepted by mail and applications are available on the Township website. He noted that If NPE is unable to open by the end of June, camp would likely be cancelled.

Internet Connectivity funding – Mr. Spangler noted Comcast is offering free internet for the first two months for those who qualify and after that, it would be \$9.99 a month. He said residents may qualify if you are eligible for public assistance programs like the National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others.

Strath Haven Parade for High School Graduates – Mr. Spangler referred to a resident's request that the Township have a parade to honor the graduating seniors and to include a Fire and Police escort. He noted Garden City Fire Company" Chief said they are suspending all extra-curricular activities for COVID-19 safety, such as driving by for birthdays, graduations, etc., so they probably are not in favor of this as well.

Infrastructure Committee Report by Matt Sullivan

Moore Road construction – Mr. Sullivan stated that the Governor is allowing construction to start as of May 1 so the work that was paused due to COVID19 restrictions is set to start back up on May 4. He also noted a minor gas leak and sewer line damage in the area, both of which have been addressed.

DCED Watershed Restoration grant – Mr. Sullivan noted information sent to the Board, the grant is due May 31 and there is a 15% match. He stated we are eligible for the grant and can discuss at the next meeting.

Parks and Open Space Committee Report by Matt Garson

Summit School asbestos abatement – Mr. Garson stated during initial removal additional work may be needed. He said Mr. Catania has contacted AED to do additional testing and then get a cost from the contractor for additional work.

State Historical Preservation Office Request for additional information – Mr. Garson stated the state historical preservation office has requested additional information on the school building so demolition will not start until we receive the OK from them.

DCNR Recreation & Conservation grant – Mr. Garson noted the grant was due and submitted yesterday but the cost of the playground came in high over \$204k. He stated we can withdraw or amend the submission with a resolution to reduce the scope noting we will not need to fund our cost until next year.

After discussion, Mr. Sullivan said we should adopt a resolution to have the total project cost to be \$254,285 with the 50% match being \$127,143 but the actual cash outlay will be \$50,441. It was noted that County funding may also be available to help with the match. Mr. Garson then moved to submit the amended resolution as noted by Mr. Sullivan. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0. Furness Park Trail – Mr. Garson noted that at the last meeting the Board selected to pursue the Loop Trail. Mr. Garson noted that after receiving the bid we need to reduce the scope to \$200,425 and listed bid items to be awarded (bid items 1-5, 7,8 and 10). He then moved to award the reduced scope contract to JMC Contractors. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0. Mr. Knapp noted the conversation with resident on them giving an easement to connect the South Summit neighborhood to the trail and thanked them for their openness to granting the easement. DCED Greenways and Trails grant – Mr. Garson stated this grant can be used for the next section of the trail so we should consider this at the next meeting.

Public Safety Committee Report by Micah Knapp

COVID 19 – Mr. Knapp noted information can be found on the Chester County Health Department website and noted the latest case numbers. He said many of the cases have occurred in long term care facilities. He stated that could be the reason why Nether Providence is at the top of the percentage infected noting those at the top have group facilities.

Food Insecurity – Mr. Knapp noted the School District is providing free meals 3 days a week and asked those eligible to call in advance, so they have enough meals ready. He thanked the School District for supplying meals. He stated the County Office for Services to the Aged (COSA) and Community Transit will help with food deliveries. He also noted stated the Media Food Bank and Foundry church are accepting food donations and we have information on our website.

Purchase of ATV for Police Department – Mr. Knapp noted the Chief has requested to use drug forfeiture funds to purchase an ATV. Chief Splain referenced a recent incident on the Leiper Trail and said they cannot now easily access trails and parks noting people are out walking more now. The Chief stated he has located one for sale that meets all their needs. He said it costs \$10,88 and they have plenty of drug forfeiture funds. Mr. Knapp noted we also need to consider maintenance costs and whether we would replace it in the future. Chief Splain stated the cost would not be paid from taxpayer funds. Mr. Sullivan asked the Chief to provide a spreadsheet on the forfeiture funds showing what expenses have been made as well as possible alternatives such as a motorcycle. Chief Splain noted the ATV would be exempt from vehicle registration and it could be used in 3 seasons. Mr. Garson noted that ambulances also cannot access the Leiper Trail. Mr. Knapp stated we can discuss as part of the 2021 budget discussions.

Public Works Committee Report by Robert O'Connor

2020 Republic Rate increase – Mr. O'Connor noted Republic processes the recycling that B&L collects the recycling. He stated they recently changed their per tonnage rate from \$95 to \$95.33. He said it is not a significant amount of money, but their bid price was \$95 and we should decide if we want to respond to their letter and challenge the rate increase. Mr. O'Connor stated he is not sure if we have much leverage, but they could keep doing this throughout the term. Mr. Knapp stated the letter came from their Solicitor so Mr. Scott should respond. The Board agreed.

Yard waste drop off/collection temporarily stopped – Mr. O'Connor noted staff shortages and asked if this applied to our employees and Mr. Grady stated yes. Mr. O'Connor stated that he was advised that Laxton Trash stopped collection and stated because the Township had asked them. Mr. Grady stated they would probably be under DEP control. Mr. Cooper explained the reasons noting the need to social distance and yard waste would require workers to be in close-proximity for heavy bags. Mr. Knapp noted residents are home and cleaning up, but he asked residents to be patient and just store their yard waste until collection resumes. Mr. Knapp asked residents to also be mindful of what they put out for trash collectors as well. Mr. Grady noted that yard waste is not to be put out with recycling.

Adjournment – Mr. Knapp noted the next meeting is work session on May 14