

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – May 14, 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, May 14, 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

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

Mr. Knapp supplied the call-in number for public comment and Mr. Grady noted there is about a 30 second delay. No public called in at this time.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions – Mr. Knapp stated there are 2 openings on the EAC. Ms. McKenzie noted Paul Jacobs volunteered to be an Ad Hoc member. After discussion, Mr. Knapp moved to appoint Paul Jacobs as an Ad Hoc member. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Catania stated road resurfacing bids are to be on-line bids to be opened on May 21 and Sucher stated they will start the remaining 2019 work on May 25 after Memorial Day noting the Governor allowed an extension in completing work. After discussion, Mr. Knapp moved to grant a 45-day extension from May 19. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0. Mr. Catania stated there was a pre-construction meeting held on the CDBG work on Madison and Denver Courts and work is set to begin the week of May 26. Mr. Catania noted a tree fell and caused structural damage to the bungalow and he has contacted two contractors to supply repair cost estimates.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Scott stated they have received an approval from Verizon to the franchise agreement terms but need to get higher approval so it should be ready in two weeks. Mr. Scott noted Republic Services has a \$95/ton contract rate but charged \$95.33 per ton. He said the charge may be appropriate, but they need to document why.

Building and Zoning Committee (Max Cooper) –

Amendments to storm water management regulations – Mr. Cooper noted this arose from issues with the 310 Wallingford Avenue development and changes are as recommended from the Township Engineer. Mr. Cooper moved to advertise the ordinance for consideration in two weeks. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion but suggested removing the language “or a continuation of”. Mr. Catania stated he was trying to convey they need to correct an existing problem. There was much discussion on how to address this. Mr. Scott stated we can make minor changes after advertising the ordinance and before adoption. Several changes were made to the draft including addressing issues within 1,000 feet of the site property lines. Relative to the stream buffer, Mr. Sullivan suggested the buffer extend to each side of the top of the bank of the channel. Mr. Sullivan also asked about section 281-32 B. Mr. Catania stated this relates to redevelopment. After further discussion, the Board agreed to the changes as stated. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Amend pool regulations - Mr. Cooper stated this came out of people purchasing pools and there is a hole in the code in that a wading pool is under 36' and a swimming pool is over 36'. He also noted the UCC code has different regulations. Mr. Cooper moved to advertise the amendment to clarify our code and to also be in accordance with the UCC. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion but asked what we are trying to do with the UCC code. It was noted the UCC code requires a permit and fencing for any pool 2 feet or higher. Mr. Knapp asked if 1 foot makes a difference and MR. Sullivan stated he has an issue with a 3-foot pool not having a fence. After further discussion, the Board agreed to require a fence for pools 2 feet and above. Mr. Cooper so amended his motion. Mr. Sullivan seconded the

motion which passed 7 to 0.

Community Enhancement Committee (Scott Spangler) –

Community Cleanup Day – Mr. Spangler noted we usually have clean-up day in April, but it has been cancelled so we are looking to have one in October unless the demand would make us hold it earlier.

School graduation event – Chief Splain stated the school district was looking to have a graduation parade on June 5 and that it would be no risk to police. Mr. Cooper asked how the parade was to occur. Chief Splain stated it was just going to be a drive by.

Summer Camp Status – Mr. Spangler stated we have 69 campers signed up and the school district stated we may be able to use their facilities if in the Yellow Phase with proper counselor to camper ratios. He noted Mr. Grady's concerns with cleaning and sanitizing and that other camps have cancelled. Mr. Cooper stated that if we open it will be as a region and we are expecting clarification from the state soon. It was noted camp was set to start on June 29. Mr. Sullivan asked what has been told to the public. Mr. Grady stated we are just holding onto the checks for now. After discussion it was agreed to wait two weeks to make the decision.

Finance and Administration (Kaitlin McKenzie)

Police Pension restatement ordinance adding DROP – Ms. McKenzie stated the draft was sent to the FOP in April and it has been advertised. She noted email traffic with the FOP and we just need to adopt it within 60 days from when it was advertised on May 7.

2019 Financial Audit – Ms. McKenzie stated the 2019 audit was finalized with the help of Mr. Grady and we want to move forward with hiring a new finance director. It was noted the Board agreed to hire a new director who would work on processes and he is expected to start May 26.

CARES Act funding received by County – Ms. McKenzie noted the County received \$98 Million in funding and just informational for now.

Media Quarry blasting – Ms. McKenzie stated this is a 4th ward issue and that the quarry has been quiet for a long time but there have been 4 blasts last week. She stated she is trying to get the quarry to give advance notice. She said they do have permits and asked Mr. Scott if we can do anything about this. Mr. Scott stated he will have to look into it. Ms. McKenzie noted there is a potential sale of the property and Mr. Grady has contacted DEP to come and perform an inspection.

Face Amount Deadline for Taxes (consider extending beyond 5/31) – Ms. McKenzie noted Act 15 allows us to extend the face period in collecting real estate taxes until December. She noted we have collected about 90% of our taxes and most are paid out of escrow funds. After discussion, the Board agreed to extend the face period through August. Mr. Scott stated it should be done by resolution. Ms. McKenzie moved to approve extending the face period through the end of August by resolution. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

Infrastructure Committee (Matt Sullivan) –

Moore Road sidewalk construction – Mr. Sullivan noted the governor lifted the moratorium on construction work so the contractor will be back up and running.

DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program – Mr. Sullivan noted the grant is due May 31. He said possibilities include streambank restoration of sections along Beatty Run and we could also address the flooding between Briarwood road and Palmers Lane. Mr. Grady noted there is a \$300K limit with a 15% match and it is to improve water quality and reduce flooding. After discussion of the costs involved, the Board agreed to pursue a grant for reducing flooding between Briarwood Road and Palmers Lane and to do the resolution in two weeks.

Parks and Open Space (Matt Garson) –

Summit School asbestos removal and demolition – Mr. Garson stated work is moving along, but some additional asbestos was encountered. He stated we are awaiting the cost estimate from the contractor for additional remediation work, but it should be covered under the RACP grant. He stated we will discuss in two weeks after we get the estimate.

Furness Park improvements project – Mr. Garson stated the contract has been awarded and asked Mr. Grady for a start-up date. Mr. Grady estimated work could begin as early as two weeks. Mr. Garson stated we are also going to talk to the homeowners about an easement to Knoll Road.

DCED Greenways and Trails Program – Mr. Grady stated the maximum grant is \$300K and the match is 50%. He noted the remaining Furness Trail and the Turner Road crosswalk are estimated to cost \$249K.

Public Safety Committee (Micah Knapp) –

Mr. Knapp noted Coronavirus information is on County website and at Health.Pa.Gov

Opening/Use of Parks, Playgrounds, Pools & Tennis Courts – Mr. Knapp stated we are soon to get guidance from the State on opening these facilities. He noted recent questions on opening up tennis and basketball courts and the concern if we open tennis courts earlier than basketball courts. Mr. Grady noted the information he supplied is from the PA Parks and Recreation Society versus the official State guidelines. Mr. Knapp stated that public facilities will be closed for the time being, but he is not sure it applies to private facilities. Mr. Scott stated the Governor’s order applies to everyone. It was noted golf is now permitted. Mr. Cooper stated he feels it is appropriate to include tennis with the other restricted sports.

Food Insecurity – Mr. Knapp noted the details of the school district program and the Media Food Bank served 75 families, so the need continues.

Use of the DelCO Alert system – It was noted this came from a resident who asked if we were going to use the system to notify the change in the date of the primary and the change in polling locations. Mr. Knapp stated elections are important, but he is not sure it is at a level of an emergency. Mr. Garson said there are other ways to notify the residents. Mr. Garson asked if the Township ever used the system. Mr. Grady stated he and Chief Splain have been trained on its use. Mr. Knapp noted the primary has been moved to June 2 and noted polling for wards 1 & 2 are at the high school and those at Garden City Fire House are now at NPE. Ms. McKenzie stated the 4th ward was relocated to the Media Shopping Center. The Board discussed the procedures to vote by mail in ballot.

Purchase of Police Durango – Mr. Knapp noted the budget allowed for the purchase of two Dodge Chargers, but they are hard to find at this point. He stated the Chief is requesting to purchase one Durango now which is about \$4,000 more than a charger. Chief Splain said Car 6 is out of warranty so he wishes to just replace Car 6 with a Durango and we can wait until 2021 for other vehicles. Mr. Knapp moved to authorize the purchase of a Durango in lieu of two Chargers. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0. The Chief noted the Durango will cost \$32,592 plus a warranty cost of \$3,930 and the upfit cost is about \$7,000.

Public Works Committee (Robert O’Connor) –

Yard-waste drop off/collection – Mr. O’Connor noted Mr. Grady’s suggestions to on yard waste collection and drop off and noted DEP granted temporary suspension. The Board agreed to collect those on the existing list. Mr. O’Connor noted that mulch drop off continues. Mr. O’Connor thanked the Township staff for all their continued work during the shutdown.

Manager’s Report – Mr. Cummings stated everyone should respond to the 2020 Census and the Real ID deadline was extended to October 2021. He noted out shredding/E-waste event was cancelled. After discussing having only one meeting during the summer, it was agreed they would be held on June 11, July 9 & August 13.

Mr. Knapp thanked the police for helping with the sheep crossing. Mr. Grady noted no one is on the phone line.

Adjournment - Next meeting is legislative meeting on May 28