

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – July 9, 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, July 9, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:

Commissioner Knapp  
Commissioner Garson  
Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner McKenzie  
Commissioner Spangler  
Commissioner O'Connor  
Commissioner Molloy

Dave Grady, Township Manager  
Gary Cummings, Former Manager  
Jon Lichtenstein, Township Solicitor (substituting for Robert Scott)  
Charles Catania, Township Engineer  
David Splain, Chief of Police

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Mr. Knapp began by noting that Gary Cummings has retired after 41 years of service to the Township, and he would be staying on in a consulting role until his official retirement date later this year. The Board will honor him when everyone can gather in person again. He thanked Gary for his many years of dedicated service and said the Township will forever be grateful for his service. Mr. Knapp then said Mr. Grady has been promoted from Assistant Township Manager to Township Manager, and he made a motion to ratify the appointment of Mr. Grady to Township Manager, which was seconded by Mr. Garson, and the voted passed 7-0. He congratulated Mr. Grady.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Keith Mason – Mr. Mason wanted to reiterate his support in renaming Woodrow Wilson Park, and would like to rename it after Martha Burton. Mr. Grady showed the petition that Mr. Mason had started, which explained Ms. Burton's valuable contributions to the community. Mr. Knapp gave some background on the park, including the plaque that had a dedication to the soldiers of Nether Providence who fought in World War I. The Park was given from the Geary family to the Nether Providence School District, who then leased it to the Township in 1979, and at some point, was transferred to the Township. The Board felt it was best to do a title search to ensure there are no restrictions against renaming the park, which could cause the park's ownership to revert to the family who donated it. The plaque with Woodrow Wilson's name has been covered and the sign was removed. Mr. Knapp also explained the reasons for removing Woodrow Wilson's name were his racist policies and tendencies, especially during his terms as president,

and the Board has been discussing this for years. Mr. Mason thanked the Board for looking into the issue.

Anne Tallent (103 Woodward Road) – Ms. Tallent explained that she is concerned about a section of West Possum Hollow Road as you walk towards Providence Road and the train station. She said a portion of the hill is collapsing, and she feels the narrowness of the road is dangerous for pedestrians, especially young kids heading to school, and bikers. She wanted to know if there was a plan for repaving, and if it could include a sidewalk and guardrail to make it safer. Mr. Knapp explained that Aqua will be doing water main work in 2021, so the road would be ripped up. However, their work will be an opportunity for the Township resurface the road. Mr. Catania noted that narrowness of the road, proximity to the train tracks, and the slope of the hill could make it complex, but he would review and measure. Mr. Knapp asked Mr. Grady to reach out to the owners at the corner of W. Possum Hollow and Providence Road to see if they would be willing to coordinate with the Township when the time comes to repair the road, as those owners are looking to relocate their driveway. Mr. Molloy asked if yellow, striped lines could be painted, like other locations in the Township. Mr. Catania said he would take a look, but his memory indicated that doing so would make it the vehicle travel lanes too narrow.

### **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Mr. Knapp noted there are two vacancies on the Environmental Advisory Commission. Mr. Ken Rose introduced himself and said he and his wife have lived in the Township for 20 years. He is a retired chemist, and he enjoys traveling and volunteering. He is interested in studying greenhouse gas reductions. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to appoint Mr. Rose to the EAC, and Mr. O'Connor seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. Mr. Knapp said that left one vacancy on the EAC.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Verizon Franchise Agreement – Mr. Lichtenstein relayed Solicitor Robert Scott's message that the Verizon agreement is still needing internal approval, and he has not received further word from Verizon.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Catania noted there are two road resurfacing contracts ongoing – the remainder of Phase II from 2019 with Sucher and Sons, and the 2020 program with Glasgow. Glasgow is tentatively planning to begin working the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>, pending PennDOT approval. Mr. Catania said that Sucher and Sons has not begun their work under the contract and asked that the Board authorize him and Solicitor Scott to terminate the contract if work does not begin by July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Grady said that the Delaware Valley Trust, who is the Township's liability and workers compensation insurer, provides small grants for projects. Ms. McKenzie suggested reviewing the risk report that DVIT provides each year for ideas. Mr. Grady said Delaware County created a memorial for those who have lost their lives to the pandemic. He said South Media Fire

Company was to hold a food truck on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The reassessment process is nearly complete, and the appeal deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT - (Scott Spangler)**

Media-Smedley Trail Study Committee - Ms. McKenzie noted that former Commissioner Matt Sullivan was on the committee, led by the County Planning Department, but she would be filling his spot. She noted the trail would go through the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. The plan is a feasibility study.

Penn Environment Request – Mr. Spangler said that the Penn Environment group asked the Board to petition to the State legislators to oppose efforts to extend or renew the legislation that preempts municipalities from eliminating single-use plastics.

Recycling Contract – Mr. Spangler said the current contract with the recycling disposal company is set to expire at the end of 2020. Mr. Knapp expressed concerns about having both a labor contract and disposal contract but understands the reason was for cost savings. He also expressed interest in bidding out trash and doing so in a way to allow multiple companies to participate, which could include creating regions. Bill Silverstein, the EAC Chair, added that the recycling disposal company was only willing to do a one-year contract, which is why a longer contract was not in place.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE - (Max Cooper)**

310 Wallingford Avenue Development – Mr. Cooper said that the Township Engineer has been reviewing the stormwater management plans, and Mr. Catania noted that it is close to being finished.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - (Kaitlin McKenzie)**

Warrant List – Ms. McKenzie noted that third quarter payments were made to the funded organizations. The final payment for the audit to Bee Bergvall was made. General Sewer was paid for dealing with a root intrusion issue. A repair was made to Truck #7 by Bayshore. A PowerDMS payment was made, which manages all the police policies and procedures. Charges for Marino Corp. and Pennoni were reimbursed by the grant. She made a motion to approve the warrant list: the AP Bills list in the amount of \$133,003.35, AP P-card list of \$56,763.22, and AP Interims list of \$271,251.50, and Mr. Knapp seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Closure of Unused Accounts – Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pass Resolution 2020-12, which closed the unused General Fund PLGIT Plus Account and the Township Sidewalks PLGIT Fund, and move the balances, totaling about \$600, into the General Fund PLGIT Prime Account. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Police Pension – Ms. McKenzie noted that there are a few minor points still under negotiation and made a motion to re-advertise the pension restatement ordinance. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

HVAC Unit – Ms. McKenzie noted quotes were received for a single stage furnace unit and a dual stage furnace unit. After some discussion, it was decided that the quotes would be reviewed further to see if the energy cost savings would outweigh the cost of the dual stage.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT – (Marty Molloy)**

Moore Road Sidewalk Project/PECO – Mr. Molloy noted that there had been communication issues involving PECO with notifying affected residents of the need for above-ground transformers in two locations.

Updates – Mr. Molloy noted that the Township would be applying for the DCED Watershed Restoration Program for the project on Palmers and Briarwood, and the Township had submitted the ARLE grants. He also noted that the East Rose Valley Sidewalk Project design was completed. Mr. Catania suggested we have a public meeting for the residents along the route of the sidewalk.

Sanitary System Potential Sale – Mr. Garson and Ms. McKenzie discussed forming a committee to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of selling the sewer system. Mr. Knapp suggested the Board budget \$15,000 for 2021 to do a feasibility and valuation study.

### **PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – (Matt Garson)**

Summit School – Mr. Garson said the building has been demolished and the grass seed has been put down.

Furness Park – Mr. Garson noted that the construction is progressing quickly and is expected to be completed by the end of July. Additionally, the DCED Greenways and Trails Program grant application was submitted for Phase II of the project.

Renaming of Woodrow Wilson Park – Mr. Garson noted that this topic was thoroughly covered during public comment.

NPAA Lighting Agreement – Mr. Garson said that NPAA has been operating under a tentative agreement, and the neighbors are satisfied with the temporary agreement.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – (Micah Knapp)**

Coronavirus Updates – Mr. Knapp said there is information on the State and County websites about COVID-19, and he said testing is available on July 14<sup>th</sup> by appointment at the Center for Health in Chester and Yeadon.

Food Insecurity – Mr. Knapp noted the school district is continuing its food program, and the Media Food Bank continues to need donations.

Fireworks – Mr. Knapp mentioned that there have been many complaints about fireworks and explained the restrictions on fireworks and where they are permitted. They are not permitted on public property or within 150 feet of a structure.

Masks and Sporting Activities – Mr. Cooper explained he was working with Dr. Tom Ball, who is with Nether-Swarthmore Baseball. They were seeking information on who should wear masks during baseball games.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – (Robert O’Connor)**

Road Resurfacing – Mr. O’Connor noted this was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Yard Waste Dropoff Resuming – Mr. O’Connor said that the yard has been reopened on the first Saturday of the month and on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 AM to noon for yard waste drop-offs. Collections will take place on the second Tuesday of the month by appointment.

Transportation Improvements Inventory – Mr. Grady said that Delaware County’s Planning Department keeps an inventory of desired transportation infrastructure improvements, and he asked that suggestions be sent to Mr. Grady for submission to the County.

Public Works Report – Mr. O’Connor read the Public Works Report, including the reopening of the Township Parks.

**Adjournment** - Mr. Knapp noted the next meeting would be virtual on August 13th as a combined working and legislative session, and he made a motion to advertise the August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> meetings as virtual. Mr. O’Connor seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.