

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – August 27, 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, August 27, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Spangler
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

UNAVAILABLE:
Commissioner Knapp

ALSO PRESENT:
Dave Grady Township Manager
Bob Scott Township Solicitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garson moved to approve the May 28, 2020 minutes, Mr. Molloy seconded, passed 6-0. Mr. Garson motioned to approve the minutes for June 11, 2020, Ms. McKenzie seconded, passed 6-0. Mr. Garson motioned to approve the minutes for July 9, 2020, Mr. Cooper seconded, passed 6-0.

APPOINTMENT OF RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER & LOCAL SERVICE TAX ADMINSTRATOR

Mr. Garson moved to approve David Grady as the Right-to-Know Officer, Ms. McKenzie seconded, passed 6-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Leo Stahl submitted a resume. He has lived in Nether Providence and wants to contribute to the community. He is working from home right now. Mr. Molloy asked if he had any ideas or thoughts for improvements. Mr. Stahl said he felt the meetings seem to be run very productively. Mr. Garson moved to appoint him to the EAC committee, Mr. Molloy seconded, passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shawn Jackson Herrington, 518 Washington Ave – Ms. Jackson Herrington said that Markham and Penn Street need to be cleaned up and that residents need to be made accountable. She asked if there is a permit system for residential parking since residents have no room to park. Ms. McKenzie asked her to reach out to the Township Manager. She also asked if there are any job opportunities available with the new development on Wallingford Avenue. Mr. Grady said he would reach out to the developer for information.

Mike Beulah, 516 Washington Ave, - Mr. Beulah said he was following up on the Woodrow Wilson Park renaming and the deed restriction and title search. Mr. Garson said there is no existing criteria for renaming, however, they are looking at holding a public meeting to discuss.

Dave Hackett, 501 Oakcrest La, - Mr. Hackett asked about speed humps in the Springhaven area, and he said that he hopes there will be a review and assessment before putting the actual humps in. Mr. Cooper said he agrees. Mr. Cooper believes the study was done in the area during the winter months. Chief Splain

confirmed the last study was performed on December 2, 2019. He will have Officer Smith conduct another study.

Mr. Adedayo Abeebe, 5 Bullens Lane – Mr. Abeebe, called about the deplorable conditions of a property on Bullens Lane. He wanted the Township to inspect it and have action taken against the owner. Mr. Grady said he and Mr. Haywood, the Code Enforcement Officer, were at the site earlier during the week. Mr. Grady said an enforcement letter has been sent to the owner.

Mr. Grady read a letter from Township Resident, Keith Mason, who thanked everyone for looking into changing the name of Woodrow Wilson Park. Mr. Mason's letter noted that Martha Burton would be a great name for the park, as she was a great influence on many in the community.

Mr. Grady read a letter from Township Resident Joseph Zarriello as well, in reference to the Moore Road project. Mr. Zarriello feels that Moore Rd should be seal-coated with striping, and that it should be the contractor's responsibility. He hopes the traffic will not inadvertently be redirected down Wilder Road because of the removal of the shoulder on Moore Road.

Mr. O'Connor asked Chief Splain to comment on that. Chief Splain has not done a study on that at this point, but they will keep an eye on it.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Verizon Contract – Mr. Scott said Verizon finally released and approved the franchise agreement with the conditions that the Board request. Mr. Scott asked that we approve. Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve, Mr. Molloy seconded, Mr. Garson abstained, and the vote passed 5-0.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Catania discussed the comprehensive evaluation program with Dukes 360, a sewer service company. He said they have sensors they put in manholes to measure the change in flows. It is a high-tech view of the manhole that could detect something that may have been missed with simply using a camera. He said the cost is about \$1.35 per foot, and he estimates about \$17,000/\$18,000 for a study. Mr. Molloy wanted to know if it is enough and if they will provide recommendations. Mr. Catania said Dukes will prepare a map of the area which will identify potential problem locations for further assessment. According to Mr. Scott, it is exempt from bidding because it is an engineering service. Mr. Grady said there are grant programs which could be used to repair some problem areas. Mr. Garson moved to authorize Mr. Catania to retain Dukes 360 to perform the sewer study. Mr. Molloy seconded, passed 6-0. Mr. Catania also mentioned the East Country Club and Golf View drainage issue. He said a concept plan was anticipated and a meeting with residents was to be arranged, then Covid-19 hit, and the meeting was put on hold.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Grady said the deadline for appealing the Delaware County reassessment is September 1, 2020. He said the DVIT Risk Control Grant is still available, and the employees are working to find a good project for it. He noted Delaware County has a Covid-19 memorial, and if you want to memorialize someone, you can send an email with a photo and memorial to DelcoPR@co.delaware.pa.us. Mr. Grady said Portnoff Associates would be resuming collections and could expose properties at Sheriff's sale, but Portnoff would inform the Township before doing so. He said the Blood Drive on August 19th was a success, and they collected 29 pints of blood. Mr. Grady said the Township received the liquid fuels number for 2021 in the amount of \$373,667.08, which was about an 11% decline from 2020.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT-

Recycling - Mr. Spangler introduced the topic, and Mr. Garson offered to assist. He noted the recycling contracts are ending at the end of 2020, and B&L picks up trash for \$54.88 per property. Republic receives the recycling materials at approximately \$95 a ton. He said the Township could extend with B&L for another year at same rate. He also said we could extend another year with Republic, but the price would go up from \$95/ton to \$98/ton. He noted that trash collection had been discussed as well. Ms. McKenzie

said she would like to put trash collection aside for this year and extend B&L and Republic for another year. Additionally, it was noted that more recycling cans need to be ordered at a cost of \$4,050 for 75 cans. Ms. McKenzie wondered if the Township should be charging residents for cans in the future. Mr. Garson moved to approve the purchase of the recycling cans, and Ms. McKenzie seconded. The vote passed 6-0.
Family Fun Day Status – Mr. Molloy suggested postponing or delaying Family Fun Day. The Board agreed that Family Fun Day should not be held in the fall of 2020.

Wallingford Post Office Hours - Mr. Garson said the Wallingford Post Office has given notice that it will be eliminating Saturday hours. Mr. O'Connor brought up the possibility of writing to our Legislator to keep it open. Mr. Garson moved to draft a letter opposing the Saturday closure, Mr. O'Connor seconded, passed 6-0.

Ballot Box Installation request from County- Mr. Garson said the Delaware County Board of Elections reached out to have a ballot box installed in the Township. Mr. Garson suggested Helen Kate Furness Library as the primary location. Mr. Scott suggested the front lawn of the Township Building as a secondary location. Mr. Garson motioned to request that the ballot box be installed at the Furness Library. Ms. McKenzie seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Spangler mentioned he is leaving the Township and relocating to Florida. He thanked everyone and feels confident he is leaving the Township in good hands. Members of the Board thanked Mr. Scott for his service. Mr. Spangler left the meeting at this point.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Warrant List – Ms. McKenzie mentioned there is a need for taser batteries for officer and public safety. These batteries will hold a charge and will need to be replaced in 2 or 3 years. Ms. McKenzie asked about a drone exam, and Chief Splain explained the need for search and rescue, and the money would be coming from the drug forfeiture fund. She said pest control at the Public Works Yard was needed. Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve the A/P Procurement Card List for \$57,849.54, the A/P Interim Bills for \$965,676.13, and the A/P Bills List for \$79,441.47. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance 821 – Ms. McKenzie said the police pension restatement was still being worked on, and they are not ready to pass the ordinance yet.

HVAC unit at the Township Building – Ms. McKenzie said the options are to replace the blower or replace the 25-year-old unit. Ms. McKenzie recommended replacing the furnace with the Delfera unit, as their price was the lowest. Ms. McKenzie moved to accept the Furnace Dual Stage Model for \$6,130.00. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Short Term Loan - Ms. McKenzie brought up the short-term loan for cash flow due to grant reimbursements, which will be used until tax revenue is received in early 2021. The Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority would issue the debt of \$1,000,000. The current interest rate is 0.85%, and there is no penalty for paying it off early, with the goal of repayment in June of 2021. The cost of origination is \$6,131.00. Ms. McKenzie moved to approve to advertise the ordinance for the September 10th meeting, and Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Budget Timeline – Ms. McKenzie said the next regular meeting is September 24, 2020, and the upcoming budget meetings are October 1st and October 15th, and extra meetings are held as needed. Ms. McKenzie said David Fiorenza, Finance Director, told her the General Fund Revenue is \$38,000 less than this point last year, and expenses are \$190,000 less than August of last year. She noted the concern is the Real Estate Assessment from the County, and the Township will not know the final assessment total until mid-November.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

Media Walk Development – Mr. Cooper reported that site work has started at the 310 Wallingford Avenue development.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

DELCORA Asset Transfer 537 Plan – Mr. Molloy said the Planning Commission reviewed the 537 plan, however, they did not make a recommendation as they felt they did not have enough information.

Moore Road Construction – Mr. Molloy said the construction has been completed. A stop sign was relocated from Maryland Avenue to School Lane as part of the project, at the recommendation of the design engineers. Mr. Molloy motioned to advertise the change, Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

East Possum Hollow Construction Inspection Agreement – Mr. Molloy moved to approve the project's construction inspection agreement for \$70,240.60, Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Speed humps on Springhaven Rd & Country Club Lane – Mr. Cooper said he received feedback from neighbors concerned by the speed of cars from the Springhaven Country Club, and he has discussed speed humps, an entrance island, and stop signs. They are still discussing, and no decisions have been made.

E Rose Valley Rd sidewalk preliminary design – Mr. Molloy said the public meeting would be the next step and he thought it might be possible with outdoor stations. Mr. Cooper weighed in and thought it sounded good. Mr. Catania agreed. Mr. Molloy motioned to advertise for the outdoor public meeting for the East Rose Valley Sidewalk design on September 16th, Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Multimodal Transportation Fund- Mr. Molloy said the grant application is due at the end of September and requires a 20% match. He suggested the continuation of the Providence Road sidewalk project.

Weston Village- Mr. Molloy said the Township was asked to make a section of Putnam Boulevard, east of the Weston Driveway on Putnam, a "No-Parking" location, since parked cars seem to create a visibility issue. Chief Splain did a study and agreed. Mr. Molloy motioned to advertise the new ordinance to make 150 feet east of the Weston Village entrance a "No-Parking" zone for the September 10th board meeting, and Mr. O'Connor seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Providence Road Sidewalk Options- Mr. Molloy felt the section from Rose Valley to Copples Lane will connect to the work that is being done on Rose Valley Road and connecting to the schools will make sense. Mr. Molloy motioned to approve Catania Engineering to provide the Board with a plan for sidewalk construction from Rose Valley Road to Copples Lane. Ms. McKenzie seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

PECO- Mr. Molloy said it has been an extremely frustrating few weeks with the residents of Wiltshire Drive and PECO, because PECO was performing work without helpful notification to the residents. PECO has agreed that for any future projects that could be challenging, they will involve a community liaison specialist and the Township Manager will be given a scope of work so that this does not happen again.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT

Furness Park – Mr. Garson said that construction has been completed, and the trail is beautiful. He noted he would like to possibly hold a social distancing ribbon cutting ceremony.

Public Trust Covenant Approvals for Leiper Smedley/Furness Park – Mr. Garson said Delaware County's Greenways program provided funding for two grants, and as part of the agreements, a public covenant must be filed. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Public Trust Covenants for Furness Park, and Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0. Mr. Garson made a motion to pass the public trust agreement for the Leiper-Smedley Trail Project, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Renaming of Woodrow Wilson Park – After additional discussion, Mr. Garson motioned to officially remove the name Woodrow Wilson from the park. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Renaming the Soccer Field at Houston Park – Mr. Garson said NPAA baseball would like to name the small soccer field after Brian Deppen, a father and coach in the NPAA baseball and soccer organization who had passed away. Mr. Molloy said we should finalize the guidelines for the naming of public facilities before we choose a name.

Cameras in Parks – Mr. Garson said Furness Park already had a vandalization incident, and the Leiper-Smedley Trail has had vandalism issues in the past. He wants to at least consider trail cameras. Mr. Molloy agreed. Chief Splain noted the Delaware County Emergency Service has loaned the Township a Polaris vehicle, and he also mentioned purchasing a drone, and both tools can be used for park surveillance.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

COVID Information – Mr. Garson said information about COVID is on the County website and Health.Pa.Gov. He also said to call 1-800-PAHealth if you are symptomatic.

Food Insecurity – Mr. Garson noted that the Media Food Bank is in need of food. He said starting Monday August 31st, Wallingford Swarthmore School District is opening their 2021 Food Service program. You must go to WSSD to be eligible for the meals.

Tree Debris Cleanup Timeliness - Ms. McKenzie said she received notice that trees in the Pine Ridge area were not cleaned up in a timely manner, which created a problem in the creeks and along roads. She asked Mr. Scott whether we can tweak the ordinance to include a requirement that debris be cleaned up in a certain amount of time.

West Possum Hollow – Mr. Catania said he reviewed and prepared a map, and he explained West Possum Hollow is going to have the water line replaced by Aqua in 2021. He also noted that they usually will make a contribution to the Township, and he said this could be an opportunity to possibly widen the road by 3 or 4 feet at a cost of approximately \$7,500. Ms. McKenzie said she is concerned it could lead to more speeding. Mr. Catania said a line will be marked on street.

Stop Sign on Oakland and Moylan – Mr. Grady said a resident requested a stop sign at this corner. Mr. Garson suggested they discuss at next meeting when the Commissioner for the Ward, Mr. Knapp, is present.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Road Resurfacing – Mr. O'Connor mentioned the Sucher project is complete, and the Glasgow work is ongoing. Ms. McKenzie wanted to know when the work on Grandview will be completed, since they milled a while ago. Mr. Catania said the work should be completed in the middle of September. Mr. Scott mentioned one of Sucher's suppliers has made a claim against them, and the supplier has asked that the Township pay the bonding company or supplier before Sucher is paid. He said the Township is holding off on paying until this is resolved.

Mr. Garson noted the next meeting is on September 10, 2020, virtually.

The meeting was adjourned.