

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – September 24, 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, September 24, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner King
Commissioner O'Connor arrived mid-meeting
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Bob Scott	Township Solicitor
David Splain	Police Chief
Charles Catania	Engineer

Mr. Knapp chaired meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McKenzie moved to approve the minutes of August 27, 2020, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 5-0, and Mr. Knapp abstained.

Mr. Knapp wished Mr. Spangler good luck. He also welcomed Commissioner King to the Board.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

ENGINEERS REPORT - Mr. Catania said the sanitary sewer evaluation has been underway for a couple of days. He also noted that the pollutant reduction plan would be advertised on September 25th and comments would be accepted until October 25th, with a brief presentation to be given at the October 22nd Board meeting along with an opportunity for public comment.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Grady said there would be a blood drive through the American Red Cross on October 7th at the Township Building. He noted several other items: October 3rd – 10th is the Delco Arts week; a ballot box drop-off location would be placed at the Furness Library in the coming weeks; HBO will resume filming the Mare of Easttown in the area of Waterford Way in the 7th Ward in December; there is a County Household Hazardous Waste Event on October 12th and registration is required; and the Township was awarded \$127,100 from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for improvements at Gouley Park.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Mr. Garson

Renaming Woodrow Wilson Park - Mr. Knapp explained that after a public meeting and much public input, the name of Martha Burton was put forward for the renaming of the park. The community meeting settled on the Martha Burton Community Park. Mr. Knapp moved to rename the park Martha Burton Community Park, and Ms. McKenzie seconded, and the motion passed 6-0. Ms. Martha Burton was present on the Zoom call and she offered her appreciation of the honor. She thanked the community.

NPAA Soccer – Request for Travel Games – Mr. Garson explained that NPAA Soccer had asked to resume allowing travel and tournament games. Mr. Cooper said that he felt the risk could be minimized if they follow the recommended safety guidelines. Ms. McKenzie said the Board could get more restrictive if the guidelines dictated doing so. Mr. Grady said he would let NPAA Soccer know.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Ms. King

Recycling Contract – Ms. King said that B&L Disposal is the company that picks up our recycling, and Republic is the facility that receives the recycling. Both companies have agreed to extend their contracts for another year. B&L is extending at \$54.88 per household, and Republic is extending at \$98.80 per ton.

Halloween – Ms. King said that Ms. McKenzie had brought this idea forward, and Ms. McKenzie said that another local community was doing a Halloween Decorating Competition. She thought it would be a fun idea for the community. The Board asked the administration to begin advertising it.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Cooper

Media Walk Development – Mr. Cooper said that Media Walk site development has begun. Ms. McKenzie noted that while this is very close to Sapovits Park, it is not and never was a part of Sapovits Park. She said there is a misperception among some in the community that the Township used to own that land and sold it off, but that is not accurate. There will be no impacts to Sapovits Park during this development.

Wallingford Presbyterian Zoning Variance – Mr. Cooper said that the Presbyterian Church asked for a sign variance, but it was denied by the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Garson said he participated in the meeting, and he noted that the Church is well-respected in the community and has offered many good things, but there were concerns from the neighbors about the impact of having a lighted sign in the area.

Mr. O'Connor arrived.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Police Pension Agenda- Ms. McKenzie said that the pension restatement is progressing, but there are still ongoing negotiations between the union legal team and the Township's on minor issues.

Budget Draft & Timeline – Ms. McKenzie noted that the first meeting will be on October 1st. She also pointed out for the new Commissioners that the meetings will be more frequent during budget season. She gave an overview of the variable costs that can cause the budget to increase each year.

MMO for 2021 – Ms. McKenzie noted that the Minimum Municipal Obligation was approved at the prior meeting, and she ratified that motion. The amount was \$182,200 for the non-uniform pension, and \$575,591 for the police pension.

Fire Relief Association Funds- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pass resolution 2020-15 to distribute the 2020 Volunteer Fire Relief Association Funds in the amount of \$95,186.92, to be evenly distributed to the two fire companies in the amount of \$47,593.46. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the resolution, and Mr. Knapp seconded. Mr. Molloy asked if the Township was required to distribute the money evenly, since the companies do not always handle the same number of calls. Mr. Knapp said it would be good to review this in the future in conjunction with planning for the future of the firehouses. The motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Molloy dissenting.

Warrant List – Interim Bills - Ms. McKenzie said these bills are typically for items that are regular or require payment before the bills list is available for Board review, such as payment for a grant. A/P Procurement Card: She mentioned the All-Traffic Solutions charge was an expected expense for the traffic monitoring system. She pointed out other charges, including for trail cameras for use in the parks. Delfera replaced the furnace system at the Township building, which was approved at a prior meeting. She noted that the Township is tracking COVID-related expenses for eventual reimbursement. AP Bills List: Ms. McKenzie highlighted expenses related to a challenged reassessment, the distributions to the fire companies, and fees for electrical inspections, which are covered by the permit application charges. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the A/P Bills list in the amount of \$306,745, the P-card total of \$59,159.71, and the Interims bills in the amount of \$168,406.94. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Traffic Calming – Resident Contributions – Springhaven; Surrey Lane – Mr. Catania said that the traffic study was completed, and the warrants for the stop signs would be met. Mr. Cooper said he would review with Mr. Catania, Mr. Molloy, and the Country Club. Ms. McKenzie said that a traffic study was being conducted on Surrey Lane, and Ms. McKenzie suggested that the Board consider drafting a policy that would allow neighborhoods to help fund traffic calming measures for situations where those measures would normally rise to the top of the priority list.

East Rose Valley Road Sidewalk Meeting – Mr. Cooper noted that a meeting would be held on September 30th at 6 PM in two outdoor locations along East Rose Valley Road.

Multimodal Transportation Fund – Mr. Molloy made a motion to apply for the sidewalk project on Providence Road through the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund, and Mr. Cooper seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Plush Mill Rd Speed Humps – Mr. Knapp asked Mr. Catania if the prior speed studies could be used as a basis for installing the permanent speed humps, and Mr. Catania confirmed that they could. Ms. McKenzie asked about Surrey Road where the temporary speed humps were put in. Mr. Grady said that once the upcoming Aqua work is done, the permanent speed humps could be installed. Mr. Knapp authorized the Township to begin a resident survey for the installation of permanent speed humps on Plush Mill Road. Ms. McKenzie seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

8 Can't Wait Document and Use of Force – Mr. Knapp explained that the 8 Can't Wait Document and the Use of Force Policy have been posted on the Township's website. Mr. Knapp said that the police department, led by Chief Splain, is following the best practices and exceeding many of the recommendations in the 8 Can't Wait Document.

Accreditation Consultant – Chief Splain explained that the process of getting accredited is very labor intensive. He has been the accreditation manager, and could continue, but it will take a long period of time. Hiring another officer to manager the process would prove to be expensive, so he is recommending hiring an experienced consultant to lead the department through the accreditation process. This would cost \$30,000 and would be paid through the drug forfeiture fund. Ms. McKenzie asked if future costs, as there would be an annual fee, would be paid through the drug forfeiture fund, and Chief Splain confirmed that it would. Chief Splain said he expects the accreditation process, with the consultant, would take less than a year. Mr. Cooper asked if there would be insurance savings. Chief Splain said that the insurance company was very supportive, and while it is hard to put an exact dollar amount on it, there would be expected savings from the plan. Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the Rogers Group Proposal for \$30,000 from the Drug Forfeiture Fund, and Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. Chief Splain offered his appreciation for the support.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Road Resurfacing- Mr. O'Connor said that the road resurfacing program has been completed. He also noted that the ongoing issue between Joseph Sucher & Sons and their supplier was still ongoing, and Mr. Scott noted that he has been working with the attorney from Sucher in resolving the issue. Mr. Cooper asked about how roads are selected for road resurfacing. Mr. Grady explained that when roads are brought up for consideration, they are added to the road resurfacing matrix, and they are then evaluated after the winter and rated on a scale of one to three, with one being the worst. This becomes the basis for the road program decisions in the early spring each year.

Stop Sign issues – Mr. O'Connor said that Mr. Catania has assessed the intersection of Oakland Avenue and Moylan Avenue. He said Oakland/Moylan may have an issue with confusion over the normal right-of-way requirements, which may be the reason for consideration of a stop sign there. At Scott/Beaumont, there is currently a stop sign on Beaumont at Scott, but there has been a request to make it a three-way stop. Mr. Catania said the stop bar sits far back at the current intersection and makes it awkward. Mr. Knapp, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Molloy, and Mr. Grady agreed to meet and look at the issue.

Advertising of Virtual Meetings: Mr. Knapp made a motion to advertise all future meetings in 2020 as virtual, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.