

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 1, 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, October 1, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner King
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director

Mr. Knapp chaired meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

NPAA

Mr. Ron Anderson represented the Nether Providence Athletic Association. He explained that NPAA has had to make a number of adjustments due to COVID, and due to outstanding questions and information, they are still finalizing the budget requests for the funding. The only organization that was available was basketball. Mr. Michael Keller was available to represent NPAA Baseball. He explained some of the new initiatives, such as "Buddy Ball" that were begun in 2020. He also discussed the recently installed lighting system through the DCED State grant. He said the COVID situation led to revenue losses, including the issuance of refunds and loss of snack bar revenue, which hurt the balance sheet. Despite all the safety procedures that were put in place, the return of baseball in the summer brought back some normalcy for the kids in the league. Though they do not have the final numbers, they expect to request a larger amount over 2020's numbers due to the impacts of COVID. Mr. Molloy asked if scholarship funds were used and, if so, how often. Mr. Keller said it was a priority in the league, and each one is handled on a case-by-case basis, with an average of 15-20 each year. Mr. Anderson said that the scholarship program has been in place for at least 30 years. Ms. McKenzie asked if the budget request numbers could be made available for the other NPAA programs within the next week or two, and she also thanked Mr. Keller and Mr. Anderson for their time and all that NPAA does for the community.

Helen Kate Furness Library

Ms. Kerri Phipps, the President of the Library Board, began by introducing the library representatives, and spoke about the happenings in 2020. In addition to COVID, they had staff changes, including the hiring of a new Library Director, Ms. Leah Kulikowski. Ms. Phipps explained they had to change their fundraising efforts in 2020, since most of their normal fundraising events were in-person in past years. She also talked about a few of the larger expenses they had to deal with in 2020, including a flooding issue and repairs to the upstairs HVAC units. Ms. Kulikowski covered some of the positives from 2020, including grants they received from the County. She said they have been finding innovative fundraising procedures, including curbside pickup and sales of books. They had to hire a new part-time staff member due to the loss of volunteer assistance. They have also expanded their digital services. Ms. Kelly Kaminski, the Treasurer, discussed the budget request, and she said the 2021 library budget will require additional janitorial and maintenance costs for when the library is opened to the public, due to COVID safety protocols. These protocols, along with increased staffing costs, and a reduction in available grant funds are the reason for the additional requested funding. She said the library is requesting \$169,100 from the Township. Ms. Phipps talked about the contribution per capita costs in Nether Providence as compared to other

communities in Delaware County. Nether Providence is at \$9.30 per capita, and the Delaware County average is \$20.71. Ms. Phipps thanked the Township for its time and support of the library. Mr. Molloy asked about upcoming fundraisers in 2021 and how they would happen. Ms. Phipps said they expect to receive a fair amount of contributions from the annual appeal campaign, which is not in-person. Mr. Knapp thanked the library representatives for their time and benefit to the community.

Garden City Fire Company

Mr. Lou DiDomenico spoke on behalf of the Garden City Fire Company. Chief Pat O'Rourke also dialed in. Mr. DiDomenico thanked Mr. Cooper for meeting with the fire companies early in the pandemic to share valuable information about COVID and its potential impacts. Mr. DiDomenico said they have been doing their best to keep members engaged, and membership has stayed strong. They lost revenue since they could not do hall rentals, as well as the inability to hold their two regular "tag" days. They are down about \$18,000 - \$20,000. Mr. DiDomenico said many of the line items have not changed. He said they were awarded \$273,000 for air packs, and that is to be shared with South Media Fire Company. He is expecting about \$10,000 more in additional repair funds. Ms. McKenzie asked about the Fire Relief Fund Balance since it is at about \$62,000. Mr. DiDomenico said it is audited by the State, and the expenses are used for truck repairs, truck purchases, and air packs. They like to keep funding available in case they cannot get grants or if unexpected expenses come up. They are not requesting additional funds above the 2020 allocation. Mr. Knapp, Ms. McKenzie, and Mr. Cooper thanked them for their leadership and their work in the community.

South Media Fire Company

Mr. Robert Hopkins, Mr. Max Hopkins, Ms. Linda Lawson, and Ms. Yarborough were present. Mr. Robert Hopkins said the fire company is not seeking additional funding above 2020's allocation. He said it was challenging for the membership at the start of COVID, since members could not easily come in for training. He thanked Ms. Lawson for her assistance in discovering the theft of funds in 2019. He said South Media Fire lost its 501(c)(3) status, but she helped them restore that once she began volunteering. He said they received a Delco Strong Grant from Delaware County. He said the 1995 Squad Truck is nearing the end of its life and has incurred repair costs. He said the generator will need to be replaced at some point in the near future. Ms. McKenzie noted that the Fire Relief Funds balance was very high, and just wanted to make sure that the Fire Company was spending as much as it can. She suggested that Mr. Fiorenza or Mr. Grady also work with the Fire Company in reviewing the expenses. Mr. Robert Hopkins was receptive of that idea. Mr. DiDomenico added that Garden City's relief balance was actually higher than reported as some funds were in investments.

Leiper House

Mr. Grady presented the Leiper House's request and said it is staying at the same amount of \$6,000. He noted that Ms. Angela Hewett has been doing an excellent job managing the Leiper House.

Adjournment

Mr. Fiorenza noted that the budget process is coming along, and the Township is still waiting on numbers, including the assessment number. Mr. Grady noted that several local Finance Directors would be meeting to discuss relevant issues, including the reassessment and the COVID impacts.

The meeting was adjourned around 9 PM.