

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – November 19, 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, November 19, 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
Chief Splain	Police Chief
Carl Ewald	Solicitor (substituting for Robert Scott)
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

Mr. Knapp chaired meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 meeting, and Ms. McKenzie seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Mr. Catania had nothing to report.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Grady said Delaware County Council had passed a resolution requesting additional COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies from the State. Mr. Cooper covered the Chester County Health Department and Delaware County holiday guidance for gatherings and traveling. Mr. Grady said Delaware County is having a food drive on December 5th in Radnor and Haverford. The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on December 30th. The Shade Tree Committee will be hosting a tree planting at Gouley Park on November 21st. The Historical Society is selling an illustrated book and a coloring book, both of which are available for purchase at the Township Building. The Township's credit card rebate was provided in the amount of \$3,593, and Mr. Grady thanked Ms. Marianne Leamy for her hard work in trying to shift expenses to the credit card to get the rebate. South Media is holding a Food Truck Friday event on December 4th.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

HB531 – Community Solar – Mr. Garson described House Bill 531 for Community Solar. He said there was a recent bipartisan push to move the bill along, which would provide for a deregulation of community solar. Mr. Garson suggested having the Environmental Advisory Committee look at the bill.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Police Pension Restatement – Ms. McKenzie noted that the pension restatement negotiations are continuing, and the goal is to complete it before the end of 2020.

2021 Budget – Ms. McKenzie said the budget has not changed since the last meeting when it was presented. The current estimated increase is just under 4% but hoping to go lower. The Township is still waiting on the final assessment number. Mr. Knapp said getting to that increase is a strong result after such a difficult year. Mr. O'Connor agreed with Mr. Knapp, and he said the increases in the past were much higher, so he thanked the staff and Board for

the hard work. Mr. Grady noted that CDCA sewer number came in lower than expected, so that reduces the increase in the sewer rate.

Accounting Manual Policies – Ms. McKenzie said Mr. Fiorenza put together a draft manual. This is important for adopting by the end of the year as it will formalize many of the policies, and it was a recommendation from the financial auditors.

Bills List – Ms. McKenzie described several notable items in the bills list: For the AP bills list, the CDCA quarterly charge was paid, JMC Contractors was paid for the final portion of the Furness Park work, payments were made to Linn Architects for inspections of building permits. For the AP Interims: ABC Tree was paid for another tree removal behind Waterford Way on Township property, cash was seized in a drug case and had to be returned to the County, Duke's Root Control was paid for sewer line maintenance, the Rogers Group was paid for their police accreditation consulting program, TST was paid for sewer line repairs on Pine Road. For the P-Card list: B&L Disposal was paid for their normal monthly fee, BFI Republic was paid for the recycling disposal which still appears to be about \$13,000 under budget, Higgins Electric was paid for traffic light repair. An ACH payment was made to the unemployment compensation fund. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the A/P Bills list in the amount of \$550,571.87, the A/P Interims in the amount of \$304,446.11, the A/P Procurement card in the amount of \$57,491.32, and an ACH in the amount of \$8,983.17, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Road Resurfacing – Mr. O'Connor noted the 2020 road program has been completed. He said to send any requests to Mr. Catania, Mr. Dixon, or Mr. Grady for consideration for the 2021 road program.

Leaf Collection – Mr. O'Connor said leaf collection is continuing until mid-December. The crews are doing their best to get out at least once a week. Please do not mix sticks or grass clippings into the leaves.

Cub Cadet Mower – Mr. O'Connor said the Media Little League was interested in purchasing the mower. He noted that Mr. Scott suggested establishing a policy for the sale of Township property. Mr. Grady said he would work with Mr. Scott to draft a policy.

Streetlight Request – Mr. O'Connor said there was a streetlight request for the corner of Cooper Drive and Scott Lane. Mr. Grady said most requests have been handled on a case-by-case basis. He said there are not currently any streetlights on Scott. He also suggested coming up with a policy for evaluating streetlight requests. The staff would look for more information. Mr. Knapp asked if the Mr. Grady could investigate how much is being saved with the LED lights that were retrofitted a few years prior.

Monthly Highway Report – Mr. O'Connor read the October Highway Report, which included maintenance of the recycling center, cleaning of inlets and culverts, pothole repairs, and the beginning of the leaf collection program.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

CDBG Program – Ms. King suggested doing some improvements at Hepford Park, as these would be eligible under the Community Development Block Grant. She said the grant is due January 6th and a hearing would take place on December 10th. Ms. McKenzie reiterated her belief in the need to replace the fence. Ms. King showed the total proposed cost of \$248,250, which included a fence, street curbing, trees, paving removal, new path, playground upgrade, and a few other items. Mr. Knapp said a portion of the Third Ward was eligible, but that area lost eligibility due to increased incomes in the area. The Garden City Manor area in the 5th Ward is still eligible, and it is the only eligible area in the Township.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Media Walk Development Update – Mr. Cooper said construction was set to begin on the site on November 19th as a few building permit applications have been submitted.

Escrow Release for Media Walk – Mr. Cooper said Mr. Catania had reviewed the escrow release request and had recommended its approval. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the escrow release in the amount of \$134,884.55 per the recommendation of the Township Engineer, and Mr. Knapp seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Building Permit Fee – Mr. Cooper said the normal process for calculating building permit fees for new construction and additions is to include the costs of plumbing, mechanical, and electrical (MEPFs) in the starting basis of the calculation. Mr. Cooper said the Township has been covering its costs in the administering of the building permits with a modest buffer. Ms. McKenzie said it could appear that it could appear to be double counting, but the percentage for the calculation is on the lower end. Mr. Catania noted that some communities charge between 2-3% and some are even higher. There was discussion about removing the MEPFs from the calculation in the future and raising the new construction fee to 2.5%, but Ms. McKenzie suggested continuing with the current process for the time being since the total permit fee is not out of line with other communities. Mr. Knapp said it would be good to

make the process easier and more transparent in the future, but still weigh in the need for control and thoughtful planning in the future. Mr. Cooper noted there was consensus from the Board to continue with past practice.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

East Rose Valley Sidewalk Project – Mr. Molloy said that Mr. Catania’s office was continuing the final design process.

East Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project – Mr. Molloy said the construction bids process will take place soon. Mr. Knapp added that word will start going out soon to make people know that East Possum Hollow Road will be one-way from Providence Road to the train station during the construction, and traffic will travel eastbound towards the station. This will be an inconvenience but in exchange for a much-needed safety improvement with the sidewalk.

PRP – Mr. Molloy said the pollutant reduction plan draft has been sent to the DEP for their review and approval.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Mr. Knapp said there was nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.