

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 22, 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 22, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner McKenzie (arrived during Infrastructure Report)
Commissioner King
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director
Chief Splain	Police Chief
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

Mr. Knapp chaired meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 6-0 (Ms. McKenzie had not yet arrived.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Mr. Catania noted he had begun preparing plans for the East Country Club drainage issue for the neighbors. He was going to seek estimates from contractors. His other items would be covered later in the meeting.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

DVRPC Regional Trails Program and PECO Green Region – Mr. Garson noted there were a few potential opportunities for the DVRPC and PECO Green Region grants, but after speaking with representatives from the two programs, the opportunities did not align with the stated goals of the two programs. He noted the Township will keep an eye out for future grant opportunities for places such as Martha Burton Park.

Furness Park Extra Work – Mr. Garson said most of the work has been completed at Furness Park, and soon, the funding reimbursements will be submitted. The additional work at Furness could either be funded through the leftover grant funding, or the leftover grant funding could go towards reimbursing the Township for engineering costs that have already been incurred. The extra work could be paid for from the Parks Capital Fund balance.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

The Halloween Decoration Competition – Ms. King noted that the Halloween Decorating Competition was ongoing and judging would take place the week of October 26th.

Halloween – Ms. King said that the Township would not be regulating Halloween, and she said residents should follow the CDC, State, and County guidelines. She said that residents should respect the decisions of others.

Leaf Collection – Ms. King said that leaf collection has begun. There is no set schedule, but they will come by about once a week.

Library Board Representative – Ms. King said that the Helen Kate Furness Library needs a new representative, and more information would be coming in the upcoming weeks.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Media Walk Subdivision – Mr. Cooper said there have been reported stormwater runoff issues, which the Delaware County Conservation District and Township Engineer have been in contact with the site contractor and have required them to come into compliance.

Escrow Release for Media Walk – Mr. Cooper noted that the developer has made a request for an escrow release, and Mr. Catania reviewed and recommended it be approved. Mr. Cooper made a motion to release an escrow in the amount of \$133,352.65, as recommended by the Township Engineer, which Mr. O'Connor seconded. The motion passed 5-0, as Mr. Knapp had stepped away briefly.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Mr. Knapp returned.

Public Works Report – Mr. O'Connor read the Public Works report and highlighted several of the projects Public Works had completed within the past month.

Pine Road Sewer Line Issue – Mr. O'Connor noted there was a sewer line break on Pine Road. Mr. Molloy asked how this would compare to past expenses. He asked that a history of sewer repair expenses be prepared, as a comparison point.

Sucher & Sons Payment – Mr. Scott noted that Sucher's bonding company wanted the Township to pay them, but Sucher wanted the Township to pay the supplier, Allan Myers, directly. This was because Sucher had been behind on paying the supplier. Mr. Scott told Sucher, the bonding company, and supplier to come to an agreement. An agreement was formed, but the Township had not received the maintenance bond yet. Mr. Scott recommended paying Sucher and the supplier jointly but withhold the retainage until the maintenance bond was given. Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the joint check agreement, conditioned upon receipt of the maintenance bond or withholding the retainage, and Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion, and the motion passed 6-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Springhaven Traffic Calming – Mr. Molloy said that the neighborhood was opposed to the speed humps, but the other visual elements would be helpful in slowing traffic. Mr. Cooper added that the Springhaven Club and the Township had discussed making the entrance off Springhaven Road one-way, which would still allow first responders to enter but would prevent people from leaving the Club into the neighborhood. He said the Club ultimately decided against that, though, because of concerns of changing traffic patterns at the other exit of the Club. Mr. Molloy said for Surrey Lane, the residents were interested in funding the calming measures, but he noted a document should be drafted to outline how this process would work. Mr. Scott said he had concerns about this, and he said it will be important that the Board have the ultimate decision-making authority for the traffic calming measures, and that the Township reserve the right to remove those measures at any time if deemed necessary. Mr. Grady and Mr. Scott would begin drafting a document.

East Rose Valley Road Sidewalk – Mr. Molloy said that the engineering design is continuing. A public meeting was held in September to collect residents' concerns.

Ms. McKenzie arrived at this time.

Pollutant Reduction Plan – Mr. Catania noted that a pollutant reduction plan has been prepared for the Township, which will address sedimentation removal. He gave a brief overview of the plan, noting about 400 tons of sediment are going into the streams each year, and 10% of that will need to be reduced. He said there are several potential projects which could begin meeting those requirements. He said the Township would seek public comments for this plan. Ms. Kristen Chorney of Catania Engineering was in attendance, and she said this meeting was a good opportunity to address questions or comments from the Commissioners or the public. Mr. Molloy asked how the projects were identified. Mr. Knapp asked if the proposed projects could be used as a basis for future grant applications, and Mr. Grady said the first draft from prior years was used as a guide, and this final plan would be used for future applications. Ms. Chorney said the goal was to pick projects based on the efficiency, meaning lowest cost and highest sediment reduction. Mr. Catania said the projects could be on public or private lands, but the landowner would need to maintain the project. No one had called into the Zoom call to offer public comment on the plan. The Board thanked Ms. Chorney and Mr. Catania for preparing the plan.

Sewer Study – Mr. Molloy said the Dukes Root Control Inc. initial sewer study in the 7th Ward was nearing completion. Mr. Catania discussed initial results that were available, and a map with the results was shown. He said one area of concern was around Morris Lane, Christian Lane, and Sheffield Drive. Mr. Catania said he would be meeting with the Duke's representative the following week.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Use of Force and 8 Can't Wait Document – Mr. Knapp said the Use of Force Document and the 8 Can't Wait Document had been posted on the Township's website in an effort to show transparency as well as the Police Department's success in being current with best practices.

Police Durango – Chief Splain noted that the new Dodge Durango would be arriving this week, and it would replace Car 6, which would soon be placed on GovDeals for auction.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Police Pension Restatement – Ms. McKenzie said the Township's labor counsel and Police counsel have been working together to finalize an agreement for the pension restatement.

Budget and Timeline – Ms. McKenzie said the only major changes were the healthcare costs. The current projected budget increase was 4.96%, but this would be reduced further. Ms. McKenzie said the meeting on October 29th was going to be cancelled since it was not needed as no new information would be made available from other sources, such as the County. Mr. Fiorenza and Mr. Grady covered the Liquid Fuels Budget, and Mr. Grady said the State funding amount for 2021 was already determined to be \$390,000, and this is lower since people have been driving less and paying less in gas taxes. Mr. Grady noted some of the other expenditures were for salt purchases, street lighting utilities, and road resurfacing.

2021 Delaware Valley Trust Rate Stabilizations – Ms. McKenzie made a motion to apply the Delaware Valley Health Trust rate stabilization amount in the amount of \$108,806, and Mr. Knapp seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to apply the fully available Delaware Valley Property and Liability Trust rate stabilization amount, and Mr. Knapp seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Bills List – Ms. McKenzie noted there were amendments needed to the bills list from September as the report was not run correctly, so some of the items would be redundant.

Ms. McKenzie discussed several items, including police uniform purchases, which had exceeded the budgeted amount but that was because two sets of uniforms were purchased, as last year was under budget from a timing issue with ordering. She said there were expenses related to the basketball court at Sapovits. She also noted traffic control expenses, heating repair expenses for the Township Building, life insurance charges paid for by employees, grant-reimbursed expenses, and quarterly payments to the funded organizations. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the AP Bills list in the amount of \$69,206.99 for August 2020, the A/P Procurement Card List of \$60,359.58 for September 2020, the A/P Interim Funds in the amount of \$27,851.02, the secondary A/P Interims Bills list in the amount of \$6,825.00, the A/P Bills list in the amount of \$882,592.91 for October 2020, and the ACH payments for the MMOs in the amounts of \$68,933.66 for State Aid and \$114,586.34 in Township contribution for the Non-Uniform fund, and \$147,715.00 in State Aid and \$414,044.00 for the Township contribution in the Police Pension Fund. Mr. Knapp seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT –

Mr. Grady said the American Red Cross Blood Drive on October 7th at the Township Building was very successful, which included 65 pints of blood. Mr. Knapp said he was there, and it was very safe. Mr. Grady said the ballot box was installed at the Furness Library. He said the Voter Services Centers in Media, Chester, and Upper Darby were opened and to call 610-891-VOTE with any questions. He said the County has scheduled free Public Flu Shot Clinics on October 19, 23, 26, 28, and 30. He said Aqua would be doing work in the area of Walker Lane, Moylan Avenue, and Fildes Lane in the coming weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.