

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – September 9, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 9, 2021. Legislative meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner McKenzie	
Commissioner O'Connor	Arrived Late
Commissioner Molloy	
Commissioner Knapp	
Commissioner Cooper	
Commissioner Garson	

ALSO PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner King

Mr. Knapp chaired the meeting. Mr. Knapp stated Executive Session was held before the Public Meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

Approval of August 26, 2021 Minutes- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021 Board meeting. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 3-0. Mr. Knapp and Mr. Garson abstained as they were not present on August 26th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott shared information on 5G small cell antennas in public rights-of-way. He explained that the Township does not have much regulatory authority over the antennas, but it should require a permitting process. He has drafted an ordinance, which the Board should consider adopting before the state-required October deadline.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania reported the rebid for the demolition of property 1012 Glen Road is scheduled for September 21.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Cameras in Parks- Policy update- Mr. Molloy restated the updates he wanted to consider, including establishing a committee with resident oversight. Mr. Knapp said he liked that the policy provided a notice of the camera installations. He also asked the Board to print off and make notes of any updates the Commissioners wanted to consider. Mr. Scott noted that he was not aware of any other municipalities that had a committee monitoring cameras. Chief Splain was not aware of any other committees either. Ms. McKenzie expressed concerns about the administrative burden of an additional committee. No action was taken on the topic.

Camera Consideration- Hepford Park- Mr. Knapp shared there has been neighborhood concern with multiple graffiti incidents that happened at Hepford Park. Mr. Knapp made a motion to authorize the procurement and installation of cameras in the amount of \$2,500.00 and to authorize the five-day notice of cameras being placed in Hepford Park. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 4-1. Mr. Molloy dissented.

Speed Humps on Vernon- Mr. Knapp said the police department is conducting a traffic study on Vernon Street. Chief Splain noted that past traffic studies in 2020 did not show an issue with speed, and the issue may be related to stop sign enforcement. He said he'd have the Traffic Safety Officer perform stop sign enforcement in that area.

Marijuana Penalty reduction- Mr. Knapp said there is interest in modifying the penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana, and he noted that Delaware County's District Attorney had made modifications. Chief agreed with the idea of having a Township ordinance based on the County's marijuana penalty guidelines. Mr. Scott will have a proposed ordinance by the next legislative meeting.

Speed Reduction Request to PennDOT- Waterville Rd- Mr. Knapp said a recent speed study showed an elevated rate of speed along Waterville Road. The Board authorized a request to PennDOT for a speed reduction on Waterville Road.

Fire truck rental from Newtown Township- Mr. Knapp reported that Garden City Fire Company's ladder truck was hit by another vehicle while responding to a call in Chester City. The repair could take six months, and the ladder truck would be out of service during that time. There was discussion from the Commissioners about where the funding would come from. Mr. Fiorenza suggested using American Rescue Plan funding, which the Board agreed with. Mr. Knapp moved to authorize moving funds to Garden City Fire Department for the rental of a ladder truck, contingent upon Solicitor Scott reviewing the rental lease from New Town Township and the use of ARP funds not to exceed \$8,000.00 a month. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Commissioner O'Connor Arrived after discussion on Fire Truck rental.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Garson

Delco Greenways Program. Mr. Garson said the grant is due September 13th and the grant would be used for a feasibility study for an extension of the Leiper Smedley trail. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-22 for a planning and design grant. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-23 for a Delco Greenways Conservation grant for a property on New Jersey Avenue. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

PECO Green Region Program- Mr. Garson suggested the Township apply for this \$10,000 grant to go towards Phase II of Furness Park, since this was the grant used for Phase I. The Board was in agreement. Mr. Grady said he would have a Resolution for the next meeting.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Wireless 5G Infrastructure Zoning- Mr. Cooper made a motion to authorize advertisement of an ordinance to allow for and regulate small wireless facilities within the public rights-of-way in the Township. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Media Walk Escrow Release- Mr. Cooper made a motion to release an escrow for Media walk in the amount of \$9,496.53. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Marijuana Sales- Zoning locations- Mr. Cooper shared information about CBD oil and kratom, the latter of which can be dangerous. Ms. McKenzie suggested a discussion be held since Media now has a CBD and kratom dispensary and to see if other zoning changes could be made. There was concern about a marijuana dispensary ever coming into the Township and being established near a school.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Micah Knapp (in Stephanie King's absence)

Family Fun Day- Mr. Knapp shared the flyer for the Township Family Fun Day on Saturday October 2nd at Strath Haven Middle School. He said volunteers are needed. He asked Commissioners to share with residents. Mr. Cooper suggested a pop-up vaccine clinic. Mr. Grady said Township administration is working on bringing in a pharmacy to do that.

Bungalow at Houston Park- Mr. Knapp shared families are interested in renting the Bungalow. He also noted that NPAA soccer and baseball are interested in renting for office space. Ms. McKenzie and Mr. Knapp shared concerns about the safety and liability of renting to a youth sports organization when the property has bedroom areas. There also was concern about having an empty building for large portions of the day. The Board asked Mr. Grady to investigate market price for rent, then proceed with finding a residential rental.

Halloween Competition - Mr. Knapp said the Township would be holding a Halloween decorating competition again this year. If you're interested in participating, send a notice to Mona Price at mprice@netherprovidence.org. Judging will take place the last week of October.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Police Pension Restatement- Ms. McKenzie said the Board has authorized the advertisement of the pension restatement ordinance but is waiting on final agreement with the police union.

ARA Funds- Ms. McKenzie said Mr. Grady and Mr. Catania are still working on the list of projects to submit to the Board.

Budget Schedule- Ms. McKenzie asked the Board to hold the dates for the upcoming budget meetings, which include most Thursdays in October and November.

Accident and Illness Prevention Policy- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to adopt the Accident and Illness Prevention Manual. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Recycling Contracts- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to extend the contracts with B&L and Republic for another year. Mr. Garson Seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

2022 MMO and Assumptions Review- Ms. McKenzie said Mockenhaupt Benefits Group, the Township's actuary, performed a study about changing the assumptions. Mr. Molloy asked about the impact of the assumption changes, and to see if they were more aggressive or conservative. Mr. Grady said the assumption changes are more conservative, including a reduction in the assumed rate of return. Mr. Fiorenza explained this is a good time to make the changes in the assumptions since the market is doing well. The assumption changes would be discussed and approved at the next meeting along with the 2022 minimum municipal obligation.

AGENDA ADDITION – Approval of Sale of Two Police Vehicles: - Ms. McKenzie made a motion to add approval of the sale of two vehicles to the agenda. The item needed to be added after the agenda was posted because the auction ended the prior evening. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to accept the highest bid for the 2015 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$12,550.00 and the 2016 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$14,000.00. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Ms. McKenzie left at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Streetlight Additions- Considerations- Mr. O'Connor made a motion to authorize the addition of a streetlight at the intersection of Scott Lane and Cooper Drive. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Leaf Collection Schedule- He said residents could visit the Township's website for the new leaf collection schedule. This will be the first year where a defined schedule is in place. He asked for the residents' patience as the new program is started.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project- Mr. Molloy said the Township is waiting on the exact start date, which will be at some point in the fall.

Act 537 Plan- DELCORA- The Central Delaware County Authority, which handles the sewage treatment for many municipalities in the region, including Nether Providence, has drafted a plan to divert sewage to a plant in Chester. This will include the construction of a several mile-long tunnel and will cost over \$400 million. However, this is expected to be a savings over the option of continuing to send sewage to the Philadelphia water treatment plant, at a cost of over \$600 million. The plan had four options, and DELCORA is proposing the second option, which is the tunnel construction. The Act 537 Plan will be reviewed by the Township's Planning Commission in October.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT -

Mr. Grady said there is information on the Delaware County website for vaccination options. He said the Leiper House has reopened and is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 PM to 4 PM. He said the County Offices of Services for the Aging is celebrating senior month in September. He said South Media Fire Company would be holding its Food Truck Friday on September 10th.

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting would be the legislative meeting on September 23rd. The meeting was adjourned around 9:50 PM.