

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – December 2, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at the Township Building and live-streamed on YouTube.

### ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner Garson  
Commissioner Knapp  
Commissioner McKenzie  
Commissioner Molloy

### ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady Township Manager

Commissioners O'Connor and King were excused.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There was no public comment.

**2022 Budget Review** – Ms. McKenzie explained that several minor changes were made to the General Fund budget, which included an increase of \$2,500 to the library contribution. She said the Township had received \$1.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding and was permitted to contribute some of the funding to the library and fire companies. The Board discussed providing \$25,000 in ARPA funding to the library and \$15,000 in ARPA funding to both fire companies. Mr. Garson said most of the funding will go towards stormwater and sewer projects, but he said once the projects have been determined, more funding may be available to go towards the library and fire companies. Mr. Molloy said it would be important to determine if one fire company should receive more ARPA funding than the other, as one is much larger in membership and operations. Ms. McKenzie said an update was made to the police salaries, and the current projected tax increase was 3.47%.

Real estate transfer taxes were increased to \$430,000, even though this year's totals were much higher. 2021 was an anomaly due to the booming real estate market. Mr. Grady said the cable franchise fee was reduced based on recent trending. It was noted that revenue for the sale of police vehicles was a new revenue line item, as it had previously been netted against the expenses. Mr. Knapp asked about the sewer transfer which Mr. Grady explained is to reimburse the general fund for sewer-related expenses, including salaries, benefits, and equipment. No other revenue adjustments were made.

The Board moved to general fund expenses. Mr. Knapp asked about the finance and accounting services. Mr. Grady said the former Finance Director salary would cover the cost of an outside accounting consultant. There was a question about hiring an additional person and if the budget provided that flexibility. Mr. Grady said there was not currently anything in the budget. Ms. McKenzie recommended that the staff determine what needs are needed in 2022 once the consulting firm has been in place. Ms. McKenzie said there may be a modest surplus in 2021 that could be used for any unexpected grant expenses in 2022, as there are several projects that will take place. There is currently funding in the budget to cover expenses for the Gouley Park playground project, and the three sidewalk projects, along with any audit needs for the grants projects. Mr. Molloy suggested adding \$500 to \$1000 in IT upgrades. The police healthcare trust is providing a two-month premium reduction for 2022 only, so that is being reduced from the current budget. There is a line item for the purchase of two police vehicles, and no drug-forfeiture funds were included. Mr. Molloy asked about the possibility of outsourcing yard waste collection. Mr. Grady said they have obtained information about how much Swarthmore spends, and the Township would need to have more in-depth conversations with haulers about how it would be handled before a cost could be determined. Ms. McKenzie noted the vehicle replacement schedule was updated, and one new Public

Works vehicle would be purchased. Mr. Knapp said road resurfacing is usually paid out of Liquid Fuels funds, and ARPA funds cannot be used for road repairs. Mr. Molloy said the Township should explore the use of seasonal employees more to deal with fluctuations in overtime costs. Mr. Knapp noted that the grants funds transfers had been consolidated into one transfer line item. Mr. Grady said the minimum municipal obligation for the pensions had dropped over \$100,000 due to positive returns and the expiration of the amortization of an employee disability. Mr. Knapp asked about the fund balance. Mr. Grady said the new accounting firm will help determine the exact amounts, but it is estimated that the fund balance is around \$700,000. This is just under 10% of expenditures, which is in line with recommended government finance practices.

**Sewer Fund** – Mr. Grady said the sewer fund is currently expecting a rate increase of close to 12% due to increased costs from the Central Delaware County Authority (CDCA), which increased 12.5% and DELCORA, which increased 20%. CDCA and DELCORA provide the sewage treatment. The rate would be around \$648.

**Liquid Fuels Fund** – Mr. Grady said the Township is projected to receive around \$379,000 in 2022. The expenses usually reflect spending this amount on road resurfacing, repairs, and road equipment.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting was the workshop meeting and CDBG hearing scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.