

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – April 9, 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, April 9, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner O’Connor
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Sullivan
Commissioner Spangler

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Cummings Township Manager
Dave Grady Assistant Township Manager
Bob Scott Township Solicitor
Charles Catania Township Engineer
David Splain Chief of Police

Public Comment – Mr. Knapp asked for public comment noting there is a 30 second delay from YouTube. There were no public comments.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions – Mr. Knapp noted there is 1 opening on EAC and asked anyone interested to submit their name.

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Catania stated he submitted the list including the Aqua roads and noted the Sucher retainage from last year. He stated we would need an extra \$89,000 to complete all the non-Aqua roads as we needed an extra \$90,000 to complete the Aqua roads. Mr. Sullivan stated we have \$150,000 so we can only resurface half of the roads. After discussion, it was agreed to do the upper portion of Avondale Road for \$46,000. Mr. Sullivan moved to advertise to receive bids for the Aqua Roads (Locust Lane, Grandview and Pine Ridge Roads) and Avondale Road with the Alternate bid to do 1 lane of the lower part of Avondale Road. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

Solicitor’s Report – Mr. Scott stated they had a virtual meeting with Verizon and hoping to settle the franchise agreement shortly.

Building and Zoning Committee (Max Cooper) –

Ryanard Road (splitting vacant lot with 803 Pine Road) – Mr. Cooper summarized noting this is a subdivision of one lot to be split between adjacent property owners with no new construction. He noted we are still waiting for the County Planning comments but our planning commission recommended approve. Mr. Cooper then moved to grant Preliminary/Final Subdivision Approval to the plans titled, “Morris and Lanza” consisting of 1 sheet dated 9/14/2019 drawn by Catania Engineering Associates, subject to a revised plan complying with the February 20, 2020 comments of the Alternate Township Engineer (attached) and the applicants accepting the conditions of approval. He noted in granting the approval, the following 6 waivers are also granted:

1. Section 289-2 from having to file just a preliminary plan
2. Section 289-22D from having to file E & S and landscape plans
3. Section 289-10 from having to install curbs or stabilized shoulders

4. Section 289-11 from installing Shade Trees
5. Section 289-22C from having to show improvements and sanitary and storm sewers within 500 feet
6. Section 289-9 from having to install sidewalks or payment in lieu of installation

Mr. Knapp seconded the motion. Mr. Sullivan asked why no sidewalk or payment in lieu was included. Mr. Cummings stated there is a sidewalk on the opposite side and our planning commission felt it would be too burdensome as no new construction is proposed. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Permit review and inspections – Mr. Cooper stated Linn Associates is still doing inspections but just not doing interior inspections.

Amendments to storm water management regulations – Mr. Cooper stated we are just to review the regulation and to get back with recommendations. Mr. Knapp stated we should put the recommendation in the ordinance form.

Zoning Hearing Board and Parks Committee change of meeting start time to 7 PM – Mr. Scott noted we need to advertise the changes but can do in one advertisement. Mr. Cooper moved to advertise the time changes. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

Community Enhancement Committee (Scott Spangler) –

Community Cleanup Day – Mr. Spangler noted this is being postponed due to the Corona virus.

Internet Connectivity funding – Mr. Spangler noted Comcast Essential is providing internet service at \$9.95 per month. Mr. Knapp stated he wants to look at the short and long term for providing internet to residents that Comcast will provide two free months to qualifying residents. He noted the school district has a program and he would like to see providing permanent internet in the long term. Mr. Cooper asked if anyone heard of access issues. Ms. McKenzie stated the school district is providing service to 60 to 70 families. Mr. Knapp noted the school district has a heat map. He also thought the east side of Bullens Lane would be a good location to provide service.

Finance and Administration (Kaitlin McKenzie)

Police Pension restatement ordinance adding DROP – Ms. McKenzie stated we sent the draft ordinance to the FOP but have not heard back. After discussion, the Board agreed to wait until the April 23 meeting to authorize advertising for consideration at the May 14 meeting.

Sale of 2017 Cub Cadet mower on GovDeals – Ms. McKenzie stated it was originally listed for \$4,500 and did not sell. She noted we relisted it for \$3,500 and it again did not sell. After discussion it was agreed to hold off selling the mower for the time being.

Agenda software – Mr. Grady stated the software cost \$7,000 and funding is available, we should wait until staffing is settled.

Pension investment allocation - Ms. McKenzie noted the advisors ask us to review the allocation annually. After discussion it was agreed to keep the allocation the same.

Infrastructure Committee (Matt Sullivan) –

Moore Road sidewalk construction – Mr. Sullivan said the contractor asked for a waiver from DCED to continue working and the request is still pending so we can revisit when they hear from DCED. Mr. Grady noted their warning signs blew over, but our public works employees fixed them.

Parks and Open Space (Matt Garson) –

Summit School asbestos and demolition schedule – Mr. Garson noted that construction is on hold but said people have been breaking into the building. Chief Splain stated some have been caught and citations issued. After discussion, the Board agreed to allow asbestos remediation to continue. Mr. Cooper noted remediation is an exception to the work stoppage and Ms. McKenzie stated the neighbors want the building down.

Furness Park improvements project (easement to Knoll Road) – Mr. Garson explained there are 2 options, one is the link and one is the loop. He noted the bids exceeded funding, so the Parks Commission was asked to review the options and to discuss the easement with the one neighbor. Mr. Garson said he recommends going with the loop noting the link requires the easement and includes a crosswalk on Turner Road. Mr. Knapp stated he would like to proceed to get the transit connector and have time to obtain additional funding. After discussion, Mr. Garson moved to pursue Option 1 (loop option) at a cost of \$180,000 including tree and bamboo removal. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0. Mr. Catania asked about awarding the bid. After discussion, the contractor is to be contacted on downsizing the project and an award can be made at the next meeting.

DCNR recreation and conservation grants (due by April 22) – Mr. Garson noted we have the RACP grant which will allow for a restroom and snack bar so he thinks it would be good to apply for playground equipment at Summit. He noted the grant requires a 50% match, but we may be able to use in-house labor as part of the match. Mr. Sullivan stated that would be a good project, but we need to get the cost. Mr. Garson said he feels a minimum of \$100k would work. Mr. Grady noted that any match would probably be due next year and you have 3 years to complete the work. Mr. Catania stated he found a substantial playground package at a cost of \$141k. After discussion, the Board agreed to make application for playground equipment at Summit at a total project cost of \$151K. Mr. Garson so moved. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0. Mr. Knapp suggested we discuss finalizing the easement with the residents and he thanked them for their willingness to grant the easement. Mr. Garson noted we also have to get a DEP permit for the stream crossing.

Utilization of lights by NPAA Baseball at Urban Fields – Mr. Garson noted the lights are up and we have a draft agreement for use, but there is no baseball now.

Public Safety Committee (Micah Knapp) –

Info on Coronavirus – Mr. Knapp stated information is on the County website and at Health.Pa.Gov. and if you have symptoms you should call 1-800-PAHealth. He noted cases in Nether Providence are significantly up from 34 to 58 cases today and we are not sure of the reason. He said there are over 1,200 cases in Delaware County and asked Mr. Cooper to speak on social distancing and testing. Mr. Cooper said he looked at the numbers and 80% of the cases are senior citizens so he suspects they are from a close senior setting such as a nursing home. Mr. Cooper stated they have done a lot of testing at Crozer Medical Center but temporarily ran out. He stated he believes testing is widespread available and the state is requiring universal masking, noting the mask prevents contagious people from spreading the disease. Mr. Knapp noted the social distancing may have grey areas and cited kids playing outside and other residents complaining about that. Mr. Dixon noted residents still have issues with the closing down of the basketball courts and he has been hearing it all the time. Mr. Knapp stated to have any of those complaining to contact him. There was additional discussion on this issue. Mr. Cooper noted this was for the safety of the community

Food Insecurity/WSSD Program/Grocery Drop Off – Mr. Knapp noted the school district initiated their program 3 days a week and you can view the information on the school district website but to call or go online first to register. He said the program may continue into the summer but asked residents to not abuse the program. Mr. Knapp also noted the COSA and Community Transit program on picking up and delivering food to eligible seniors. He also noted several residents who are collecting for local food banks and to contact us if you have a need.

Adopt COVID – 19 Response Policy (per Federal Law) – Mr. Scott summarized the new law. Mr. Dixon asked is this applied to part time public works employees and Mr. Scott stated it does proportionally. Mr. Knapp moved to adopt the policy. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0

Public Works Committee (Robert O'Connor) –

Mr. O'Connor stated it was disheartening to hear of disruptions to Mr. Dixon's family

Yard waste drop off/collection - Mr. O'Connor noted there are illnesses at the public works garage so we should discontinue yard waste pick up but can continue mulch delivery. Mr. Knapp noted 3 of 9

employees are out with presumptive positives. Mr. Knapp stated yard waste collection is not essential and may take two men close together to collect. He suggested we freeze any future collection but consider some drop off allowance in the future after the shelter in place is lifted. After discussion, the Board agreed to stop yard waste collection but to notify those on the list of the discontinuance.

Manager's Report – Mr. Cummings reminded residents to submit their Census 2020 forms and the Real ID deadline has been extended to October 2021. He noted Summer Recreation Program signups began April 6 but we are not sure it will be held as schools are closed to the end of the year. He stated the County Household Hazardous Waste collection scheduled for May 2 has been cancelled and the next collection is scheduled for June 20. Mr. Cummings noted the Shredding/E-waste event on May 23 is tentative.

Adjournment - Next meeting is legislative meeting on April 23