

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – December 17, 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, December 17, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy
Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner King

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director
Chief Splain	Police Chief
Jon Lichtenstein (In place of Robert Scott)	Solicitor
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

Mr. Garson chaired the meeting until Mr. Knapp's arrival.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting. Ms. McKenzie seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Lichtenstein had nothing to report.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Grady said the Township would be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on December 30th with all the proper COVID protocols. Mr. Grady said the County was offering two COVID testing sites in Upland and Darby. The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce was sponsoring a "Keep the Cheer Here" campaign to encourage people to shop safely in Delaware County. A local family, the Henrys, is collecting food donations for the Media Food Bank. South Media Fire Company would be holding a Santa float and drive-by on December 22nd.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

Bullens Property- Mr. Garson, and Mr. Grady both said the closing on December 18th is still scheduled.

Furness Cameras- Mr. Garson was happy to share that the cameras have showed the park and trails are being highly used. Mr. Garson also said vandalism incidents have ceased since the cameras have been installed. Mr. Garson reported that one camera was struck and split in half, and they proceeded to take the memory chip as well. Chief Splain shared options of how they can protect the cameras in the future. Chief Splain also said he will have a cost analysis for the vandalized camera and more information for the January meeting. Ms. McKenzie suggested another discussion once the cost analysis is done.

Mr. Knapp arrived at this point.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Ms. King arrived at this point.

Resolution Recycling Fee 2020-19 – Ms. McKenzie said the fee increased for residential properties. She said the fee will be \$83.50 per residence for 2021. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pass the resolution, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Resolution Sewer Fee 2020-19 - Ms. McKenzie said the fee increased due to CDCA and DELCORA's rates increasing. She said the fee is \$579 per unit for 2021. Ms. McKenzie made a adopt motion to pass the resolution, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

2021 Budget – Ms. McKenzie noted no major changes to the budget. She mentioned that the NPAA baseball and basketball had asked for less money, and NPAA Soccer had asked for an additional amount. Wrestling would not be having a 2021 season, so no funding was needed for them. Ms. McKenzie proposed to use the extra \$2300 of funds from the sports budget to put towards the lower Summit Field. Mr. Molloy asked if it would be possible to allocate this to Helen Kate Furness Library. Ms. McKenzie understood and agreed with Mr. Molloy about the library contribution being less than others in Delaware County, but she noted the Township had made some significant increases in the last few years. After some discussion Mr. Molloy agreed it would make sense to transfer to the Parks Capital. Ms. McKenzie reported on the general fund budget a 2.63 % tax increase, which will go towards the purchase of two police cars, several pedestrian improvement projects, contractual salary increases for the two unions, structural repairs at the Public Works Garage, traffic calming improvements, among other expenses, and all of this is with lower revenues from several sources and no decrease in services to the public during this time. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to adopt Ordinance 824 for the 2021 Budget.

General Government	\$829,021	
Police	\$2,773,299	
Public Safety	\$542,654	
Public Works	\$1,513,074	
Culture and Recreation	\$209,955	
Debt Service	\$560,104	
Miscellaneous	\$1,214,094	
Total		\$7,642,201

Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. Mr. Knapp thanked the Board and administration for their hard work with the budget. Mr. Grady made a report on the 2021 Motor License Budget, which had no surplus or deficit. Mr. Grady reported on the Grants funds which included seven projects in 2021.

Bills List – A/P Procurement Card: There was a charge for All Power Generator for the generator at the Township Building. B&L Disposal and BFI had the normal monthly charges. General Sewer Service had a charge for videoing the line on Pine Ridge Road. On the AP Bills List, the hydrant fees were noted as being high for rental of the hydrant, but this is a charge that is out of the Township's control. Duke's Root Control was used for the sewer evaluation in the 7th Ward. There were Use and Occupancy charges for Linn Architects' inspections. Michael Baker International had its final billing for the East Possum Hollow Sidewalk design. For the Interim Bills List, there were two months of charges for the Catania billing, with the road charges coming out of the Liquid Fuels Fund. Salt was purchased. The Township has agreed to pay Marino for half of the total outstanding balance. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the Warrant list:

-A/P Procurement in the final amount of \$48,094.53

-A/P Bills List in the final amount of \$58,365.60

-A/P Interim Fund \$209,409.32

Mr. Knapp second the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Road Resurfacing – Mr. O'Connor said to send any considerations for road resurfacing to Mr. Catania, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Grady.

Leaf Collection – Mr. Grady said the leaf collection will finish up this week and maybe into the beginning of next week, as the snowstorm slowed the collection pickup. Mr. Grady and Mr. O'Connor extended a thank you to the public works department for their hard work during the snowstorm.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

CDBG Resolution 2020-23 – Ms. King discussed the resolution which included an itemized list for Hepford park as the primary application and the secondary project would be the Garden City Manor sewer assessment. Ms. King made a motion for the CDBG Resolution 2020-23. Mr. Molloy seconded it, and the motion passed 7-0.

EAC – Recycling Audit – Ms. King said the EAC had recently performed an audit of the recycling program and would discuss further at an upcoming EAC meeting.

902 Recycling Grant – Ms. King said the 902 Recycling Grant is due by January 29. The grant will be used for purchasing additional recycling cans and education materials.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Status of Media Walk development at 310 Wallingford Avenue – Mr. Cooper said site work is continuing at this location. The storm drains have been installed on Wallingford Avenue and have seemed to help with the heavy rain lately. The Township will continue to monitor and inspect the drainage as work continues.

Escrow Release Request for Media Walk- Mr. Catania said the partial release has been inspected and recommended for approval. Mr. Cooper made a motion for the Progressive New Homes Escrow Release Number 3 in the amount of \$59,336.40. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, and it passed 7-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Moore Road Revised Reimbursement Agreement- Mr. Molloy said the Moore Road project needed more funds and PENNDOT has secured those funds. Solicitor Scott had no objections to the revised agreement. Mr. Molloy made a motion to revise the reimbursement agreement between Nether Providence Township and PENNDOT in the amount of \$1,210,080.00. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Signing Resolution- Mr. Molloy said the signing authorization needs to be passed to Township Manager Grady for grant contracts involving the Commonwealth. Mr. Molloy made a motion for Resolution NO. 2020-24 to authorize the Township Manager to sign grants agreements with the Commonwealth. Mr. Knapp seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

East Rose Valley Walkway Project- Mr. Catania said that comments from affected residents from the last public meeting have been taken into consideration. Mr. Catania also said he promised residents we would have a follow up meeting after attempting to address the concerns. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Molloy proposed to have a Zoom community meeting for affected residents. A letter would be mailed out with the Zoom link once a date and time were set.

DELCORA/AQUA SALE- Mr. Molloy shared a letter the Township received from Gannett Fleming Inc., for approving the Act 537 Plan from Aqua, which included a statement that the Township would need to find a new sewage disposal plan if the Act 537 plan were not approved. There were discussions on how to reply to the letter. Mr. Molloy suggested sending the letter to the Planning Commission for their review. Mr. Catania suspects the sale will be resolved in the courts. After further discussion, the Board agreed not to send to the Planning Commission, but asked Mr. Lichtenstein to ask Solicitor Scott to look at the plan and letter again and inform the Board of any new findings.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Sale of Police Vehicle- Chief Splain said the Township recently purchased a new police vehicle, and an old one would be put up for sale. Prospect Park Borough reached out with interest in purchasing the police vehicle. Chief Splain said an offer had been made to Prospect Park, and he was waiting to hear back. Mr. Knapp made a motion for Resolution No 2020-25. Mr. Molly seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Oakland/Moylan Stop sign Ordinance- Mr. Knapp made a motion to adopt Ordinance 825 to install a stop sign on Oakland Avenue at Moylan Avenue. Mr. Garson seconded it, and the motion passed 7-0.

Insurance Deductibles for fire companies- Mr. Grady said the Board of Commissioners had come up with an informal policy several years ago that if there were a property-damage incident that did not involve responding to a fire call and could have been prevented, then the fire company would be responsible for covering the deductible. Mr. Grady said this had not been formalized and suggested that if the Board were to continue with this policy, then it should be formalized. He said there was an incident recently where a volunteer backed into another vehicle while preparing to respond to a call, and he asked if the Board would consider paying the deductible in this situation. The Board agreed to pay the deductible.

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting would be on January 14th. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.