

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – December 10, 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 10, 2020 via Zoom call and shown on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Mr. Knapp chaired meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

PY 2021 Community Development Block Grant – Mr. Knapp called for public comment, but there was no one on the line. It was noted that it would be discussed further under the Community Enhancement section.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions – Mr. Knapp made a motion to reappoint Adam Fernandez and Robert George to the Zoning Hearing Board for another 5-year term. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. Mr. Knapp made a motion to reappoint John Poe Leggette and Melissa Logan to the Planning Commission for another 4-year term. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Mr. Catania said he had received quotes from three companies, Extreme Landscaping (\$22,506), MOR Construction (\$39,000), and Downend Landscaping (\$73,350). He also noted that CDCA was offering to do smoke testing in a portion of the Township where the sewers flow into Rose Valley. The smoke testing would help identify inflow and infiltration issues. Mr. Molloy asked if the Township should set money aside to address any issues that are found. Mr. Grady said the Township could apply for grant funding, or, depending on the estimated cost, use some of the fund balance. Mr. Catania discussed the recent study from Duke's Root Control in sections of the 7th Ward, which identified several areas for improvement, including 11 manholes. Mr. Molloy suggested having the line video inspected. Mr. Catania would coordinate with a video contractor.

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. Knapp said he would be scheduling his donation. 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. Garden City Fire Company, on December 12th and 13th, and South Media Fire Company, on December 22nd, would be holding

a Santa float and drive-by. Mr. Grady congratulated Mr. Fiorenza who had been appointed to the board of the PA Government Finance Officers Association.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Resetting the Millage after Reassessment – Resolution 2020-18 – Ms. McKenzie explained that the Township would need to reset the millage after the reassessment to account for the assessment values, and the millage would need to be revenue neutral in the reset. The 2021 revenue-neutral real property tax rate became 3.0269 mills. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pass resolution 2020-18, and Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Recycling and Sewer Fee – Ms. McKenzie said these fees would be approved at the next meeting as some slight adjustments were still being made.

Budget Review – Ms. McKenzie said there had not been any changes, except for a workers compensation number update. The budget would be passed on December 17th.

Accounting Manual and Policies – Ms. McKenzie explained that Mr. Fiorenza, as the new Finance Director, began working on this as one of his first tasks. Mr. Scott had reviewed it. Ms. McKenzie said she was happy it was completed, and she made a motion to adopt the Accounting Manual and Policies, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Resolution 2020-21 – Ms. McKenzie said that a resolution would be needed to appoint Mr. Grady as the new ICMA Plan Coordinator. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pass the resolution, and Mr. Knapp seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

Resolution 2020-22 – Mr. Garson explained that the Township was being donated the land at the corner of Bullens Lane from the Delaware County Investment Corporation, and the Township would need a motion of acceptance. Mr. Garson made a motion to accept the land from Delaware County Investment Corporation, and Mr. Knapp seconded. 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. O’Connor said leaf collection would continue through mid-December, and he reminded everyone to keep leaves at the curb and not in the street. He also congratulated Mr. Fiorenza on his appointment to the GFOA board.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

Media-Smedley Trail Connector – Ms. King said Delaware County Planning Department created a feasibility study for the Media-Smedley Connector Trail. This trail, which was identified in the County’s Open Space, Recreation, and Greenway Plan, will serve as a major east-west connection in the countywide trail network. It has the potential to directly link three county parks, multiple local parks, and five municipalities, including Nether Providence. As the plan currently shows, the route would go through Surrey Road and the Chesley office park. She said there is an option for the route to go behind the buildings in the office park or to go along Chesley Drive. Delaware County recently approved the plan, and the Planning Department will soon be asking the Township to approve the plan. This plan does not obligate the Township to anything, but it will help with future grant applications for these projects.

CDBG Resolution 2020-23 – The Community Development Block Grant application is due to Delaware County on January 6th. She said a public hearing was held at the beginning of this meeting for public comment, and the ideas have been shown at past meetings. She showed the proposed costs for Hepford Park’s revitalization. She also showed ideas for the alternate project, which included a sewer line assessment and rehabilitation in parts of Garden City and storm sewer extensions into Hepford Park.

EAC – Recycling Audit – Ms. King said three members of the Environmental Advisory Committee went up to Republic’s facility and watched an audit of the materials that were collected on a given day in a portion of the Township. The goal was to see what items are being recycled, both correctly and incorrectly. From this, the EAC is going to create information to distribute to improve people’s recycling habits.

902 Recycling Grant – Ms. King said there is a grant program through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that will pay for up to 90% of items associated with recycling costs. Examples include recycling bins, leaf machines, and educational materials. Mr. Cooper asked about purchasing recycling cans. Mr. Grady said he would investigate it.

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. There have been complaints about stormwater runoff, and the Township Engineer met with the contractors and the Delaware County Conservation District last week to determine if the contractors are in compliance. Mr. Catania said the storm drains had been added, and he believed this addressed the recent complaints. Mr. Catania said the developer asked if Anderson Street could be used to remove the tire debris that had accumulated at the site. There was no opposition.

December ZHB Cases – Mr. Cooper said there is only one case for December, and it is for 202 Highland Avenue, requesting an exception from Section 300-128.1 and Section 300-129A of the Township Code in order to construct a 720 square foot garage in the front yard.

SHHS – Mezzanine Project – Request to Pay Only Actual Inspection Costs – Mr. Cooper said the School District is getting ready to do a project where they will install a mezzanine in the high school. The School District has asked that the fees be waived except for actual inspection costs. He said that in the past, the Township has allowed them to pay for the inspection costs only. He explained there are pros and cons. The pro is that the Township is assisting the school district, who also has taxpayers in Nether Providence. The con is that there are other costs that are only borne by Nether Providence, and not Swarthmore, Rose Valley or Rutledge, which include Township Administrative staff, the cost of the fire marshal's efforts, any additional efforts by the Police Department to cover the site during construction activities, and wear and tear of construction on Township roadways. Mr. Knapp and Mr. Garson expressed support. Mr. Molloy said he recalls past discussions from the Summit Committee where people expressed concerns about a lack of community meeting space, which was in part due to the costs of insurance that the school district wanted to pass along. Mr. Garson noted that many of the Township's costs are fixed. Mr. Grady added that the school district has given back by allowing the Township to use the school parking lot for Family Fun Day and Nether Providence Elementary for the Summer Camp. Mr. Cooper made a motion to waive the fees except for actual inspection costs, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

WRPP Resolution Revision – Mr. Molloy said the DCED has noticed that the resolution that the Township passed for the Watershed Restoration Protection Program grant had Gary Cummings, as the Manager at the time of the resolution, but they have asked us to update it for the system as he would no longer be a signatory. He said the Township applied to the WRPP Program for flooding improvements along Palmers Lane, and no funding has been awarded yet. Mr. Molloy made a motion to pass a resolution for the Township to apply for WRPP Funding and to have David Grady, as Township Manager, and Micah Knapp, as President, sign all documents and agreements. Ms. McKenzie seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Moore Road – Marino Request for Payment – Mr. Molloy said the Marino Corporation, the contractor who did the work on Moore Road, was asking if the Township would consider paying them for the \$156,000 that is owed to them. The agreement is written so that the Township does not have to pay the contractor until receipt of the grant funds from the State. Mr. Molloy said Marino completed their work a few months ago, and the State has been slow to allocate the funds. He said Mr. Grady outlined three options: 1) stick to the contract and pay nothing to the contractor at this point 2) split the payment, or 3) pay the balance when the Township receives the money from PennDOT. Mr. Molloy noted that the Township's cash flow could support any of the options. Mr. Scott had no concerns with splitting the payment, and he said the Township will be obligated to pay the contractor. Mr. Molloy made a motion to pay the Marino Corporation no more than half of the balance of the invoice that has been approved by the inspection engineer. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Community Group Meeting with Chief Splain – Mr. Knapp said Chief Splain held a meeting with a community group on November 11th and discussed police training and reform.

Meeting Schedule for 2021 – Mr. Knapp said the 2021 meeting schedule has been drafted. There was discussion about how far into 2021 the virtual meetings will continue. Mr. Knapp made a motion to pass the 2021 meeting schedule, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 7-0. Mr. Knapp made a motion to continue the virtual meetings through the first quarter of 2021, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting is the legislative session on December 17th. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM. A brief executive session was held after the meeting.