

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP –April 8, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 8th, 2021. Executive Session was held after the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner King

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Mr. Knapp chaired the meeting. There were 7 members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve Minutes from March 11, 2021. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Dean Dennis of Emerald Lane. Mr. Dennis called in via Zoom to discuss surveillance cameras. He said he would like to express concern for communities of color with regard to cameras. He recommended an open and honest feedback policy. He cautioned against intrusion and abuse of government. He encouraged a community board that could have access to logs and data reviews. The community board would know who it is shared with. He said it is important to understand how the data is stored, accessed, modified, shared, and recorded.

Mr. Knapp stated to Mr. Dennis that he understands the concerns, and they will look to address them as they discuss the issue. He said a decision will not be rushed.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott arrived later in the meeting.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania reported they received five bids for the Gouley Park Streambank restoration grant and, two bids for the Community Development Block Grant.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Covanta/ Zero Waste Resolution- Mr. Knapp gave a summary of the EAC resolution. He said the Board wants to be supportive of the People of Chester with the goal of being environmentally friendlier and healthier. He said Board's concerns are: 1) Making a demand of a County Board to take action and 2) Making a statement and passing a Resolution that impacts the health and safety of Nether Providence Township without coming across as preaching to Chester.

Public Comment:

Frazier Blaylock- She said she is a representative of Covanta Energy. She said there are only two things to do with trash: put it into landfills or burn it. She said the Company is dedicated to the highest environmental standards. They are at 90% or better with EPA standards. Regarding the Chester facility she stated there are benefits in addition to helping manage the waste. She said she believes it is more beneficial to burn the trash than to send it to a landfill.

Carol Fanconi of 103 Quaint Road - She stated that the Chester incinerator is the oldest and most polluted incinerator in the nation. She said most incinerators have a life span of 20 years and the Chester one is 30 years old. She said the Covanta facility is causing health issues for the people of Chester and Nether Providence. She noted that her asthma has increased since moving to Nether Providence. She thanked the EAC Board, and she said she liked the Resolution the EAC drafted.

Carr Everbach of 212 Dogwood - He said that he brought a few people to answer the questions that the Board had asked at the last meeting regarding how the Chester government feels about the issue.

Christopher Mella – He said he is a Sociology professor at the University of Buffalo, and he has studied Chester politics. He stated the people of Chester have a long, contentious history with the Chester government and Delaware County. He stated the local government does not always speak on behalf of the people involved. He encouraged the Board to see the grassroots political groups for an authentic understanding of the politics.

Will Jones, a Chester Resident - He said he feels that Chester residents are being poisoned for profit. He stated there are medical issues in the Chester Community. He said Mayor Kirkland does not represent a majority of the Chester residents. He said he hopes Mayor Kirkland is the last mayor to support Covanta.

Stefan Root, a Chester Resident: He thanked the EAC for considering Mayor Kirkland's request, even though he opposes it. He said he wants the Covanta facility to leave Chester, even though the Chester budget is struggling. He noted many other communities in Delaware County are being forced to make similar decisions.

Nancy Adams 606 Morris Lane - She said she and her granddaughter developed Asthma issues after moving to Nether Providence. She said she shared an article with the Commissioners about the health problems related to incineration. She expressed health concerns for all of Chester and Nether Providence residents. She encouraged and urged the Board to sign the Resolution made by the EAC.

Mr. Knapp said the Board would pause Public Comment to discuss the Resolution and then would get back to Public Comment. Mr. Molloy said the EAC has done an excellent job with the resolution. He said he supports the resolution. Ms. McKenzie wanted to make sure there is a good solution for the waste, but she supports the resolution. Mr. Cooper said, in his role as an Emergency Room Physician in Chester, that his hospital has more pulmonary issues than other hospitals that are farther from Chester. Mr. Knapp said he supports the resolution, though he does still have concerns about telling another government to do. Mr. Garson said he supports the resolution, but he noted that Nether Providence technically does not have jurisdiction over the issue. Mr. Cooper suggested a few edits, which mainly addressed a desire to have a collaborative effort with Delaware County. These changes were discussed and would be made before the next meeting. The Board agreed to vote on the resolution at the next meeting after the edits were made.

Ken Rose, representing the Bowling Green Neighborhood – He said he sent a letter to the Commissioners on behalf of the neighborhood. He stated we are all part of the waste problem, and we all need to be part of the solution, which included waste reduction programs. He urged starting a program soon since it will take a long time to implement a zero-waste strategy.

Cameras in Parks- Chief shared quotes and estimates he got from companies. Chief Splain said the cameras can be moved around from park to park and would likely stay in place for at least 90 days at a time. The Commissioners discussed more durable backboards, due to the public safety issue. Ms. McKenzie noted several backboards had been replaced over the years due to vandalism. Mr. Molloy shared concerns he had and asked if there were any other options to improve safety without cameras. He is skeptical that a camera would deter any violence in the heat of the moment. Solicitor Scott suggested reviewing Media Borough's policies with cameras. Chief Splain has contacted several leaders in South Media to talk about how they want to utilize cameras. Mr. Cooper asked about the Civil Service Commission as a possible oversight group. Solicitor Scott said he would have concerns with expanding the role, since their role is specific to police officer employment. Mr. Knapp asked for this to be added into the 2022 Budget and to start looking into a policy regarding the cameras.

Fire Tax Credits- Mr. Grady shared a list of firefighters who have paid their 2020 and 2021 taxes and are eligible for the rebate. Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the Fire Tax Credits. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Trailer Parking- Mr. Knapp said there is an ordinance for consideration to ban trailer parking on Township roads. Mr. Knapp suggested wording for a grace period or a two-day allowance for the parking.

Rental Inspections- Mr. Knapp said the Township had paused rental inspections during COVID. The Board decided it is comfortable with Township resuming inspections with safety procedures in place.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

Resolution 2021-8 DNCR Grant - For Martha Burton Park - Mr. Grady mentioned he had a meeting with the Township Engineer, a landscape architect, and a few South Media Residents. Mr. Catania completed a cost estimate for the Martha Burton Park Rehabilitation. The Grant is a 50% Match Program. Mr. Garson moved to approve Resolution 2021-8 to submit a grant application to the DCNR for Rehabilitation of Martha Burton Park. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Open- Mr. Garson asked the Board if they were in agreement with applying for this grant for Hepford Park. All Board members were in agreement, and Mr. Garson noted further details would be provided at a future meeting.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

FEMA/PEMA Grant- Ms. McKenzie said the Township has an agreement of sale for 1012 Glen Road to the Township, with a contingency that the PEMA agreement be counter-executed by the State. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the agreement of sale. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Police Pension Restatement- Ms. McKenzie shared the updated information from FOP attorney. She reported they are waiting review from the actuarial firm in response to the FOP attorney’s requests.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Status of Media Walk development at 310 Wallingford Avenue – Mr. Cooper shared that work continues at the Media Walk site, some clearing has taken place, and one house has been constructed.

April Zoning Meeting- Mr. Cooper read the agenda for the April Zoning Hearing Board meeting, which included three residential areas: 206 Turner Road, 309 Henry Lane, and 913 Winding Lane.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O’Connor

Ms. McKenzie left the meeting at this time.

Road Resurfacing Aqua Road Bids Received- Mr. O’Connor reported six bids were received for Phase I of the Road Program. Mr. Grady shared the bids; the bids were all within budget. The lowest bid was from Glasgow Inc. of \$272,849.75. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to accept the lowest bid. Mr. Knapp seconded, which passed 5-0.

The Commissioners selected the roads for resurfacing for Phase II based off the available funds:

Ryanard Rd	Chestnut Pkwy to Maple
Blakeley Rd	Chestnut to Ridley
Ryanard Rd	Chestnut to Ridley
S Ridley Creek Road	Rose Valley Rd to Manchester
Sykes Ln	Avondale to Cul-de-Sac
Westminster Dr	Sharlow Dr to Michaels La
Westminster Spur	Westminster to end
Arthur Ct	Brent to end
Canterbury Dr	Governors to spur
Canterbury Dr	Lombardy to Stanford
Pine Ridge Rd	#724 to Hemlock
Sheffield Drive	Morris to Georgetown

Alternates

Ash Rd	#115 to Blakeley
Blakeley Rd	Maple to Beech
Ridley Dr	Ryanard to end

Yard Waste- Mr. O’Connor shared the information that the Public Works Department added additional Pick-up dates for April, May, and June.

2019 Road Program Payment- Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the joint check agreement between Sucher and Sons and Aegis Bonding. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Micah Knapp

2021 Summer Camp Registration Open- Mr. Knapp shared the camp flyer from the Township website. He said registration is now open.

PHS Tree Planting Ceremony- Mr. Knapp said there would be a tree planting event at Hepford Park on April 24th.

Lapidea Hills Update- Mr. Cooper said he has had further discussions with the Country Club and the neighbors. He then shared the agreed upon work, which includes stop signs, planters, and signage.

Porta-Potties in Parks- Mr. Grady shared residents have asked to have porta-potties at several parks for sports and park use. Mr. Knapp moved to authorize Township Administration to enter a contract for porta-potties up \$2,500.00. Mr. Garson seconded, which passed 4-1. Mr. Molloy voted against it, as he felt there should be shared responsibility from the athletic associations.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project- Mr. Molloy reported the project needs more funding than the grant award allows. Funds would need to come from the Township's General Fund and/or PennDOT. Mr. Molloy said the Township has been asked to contribute additional funding to show its commitment to the project, and PennDOT may be able to provide the additional \$280,000 to meet the funding shortfall. Mr. Molloy made a motion to authorize the Township to use \$22,000.00 for the East Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project contingent on PennDOT paying the rest. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Watershed Restoration Protection Program Open- The Board asked Mr. Catania to do cost estimates for the projects shown in the pollutant reduction program.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – Mr. Grady shared the Delco.pa.gov website that had information on COVID-19 vaccine locations as they are increasing the distribution of vaccines and that as of April 19th all people will be eligible for vaccines. He shared the Delco Rental Assistance Program, and more information could be found at Delco.pa.gov. Delaware County has a homebound vaccination program. He shared the Red Cross blood drive at the Township Building on April 1st was a success, and another one will happen in August. Kevin Henry sent an email on behalf of the Media Food Bank with items that are needed. He said the Citizens Against Trash group will host a clean-up near the Blue route on April 10th. A shredding/ e-waste event at Gouley Park will happen on July 17th. He said the DELCORA annual sewer report is available at the Township offices.

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting would be on April 22nd. The meeting was adjourned around 10:20 PM.