

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP –May 13, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 13, 2021. Workshop meeting

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Garson	
Commissioner Knapp	Arrived Late
Commissioner McKenzie	Arrived Late
Commissioner O'Connor	
Commissioner Molloy	
Commissioner King	

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director
Tiffany Griffin	Solicitor (on behalf of Robert Scott)
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

EXCUSED: Commissioner Cooper, Chief Splain

Mr. Knapp chaired the meeting. There were no members of the public in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Minutes from April 8, 2021. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Minutes from April 22, 2021. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

SOLICITORS REPORT – Tiffany Griffin had nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania said his items would be covered later in the meeting.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT - Matthew Garson

Parking on Allen Street near Martha Burton- Mr. Garson stated this was for informational purposes and that discussion with the commissioners and neighbors is ongoing.

Lighting Agreement with NPAA Baseball- Mr. Garson mentioned that NPAA Baseball had installed lighting at Houston Park, and the league and Township had an agreement for a one-year trial. That time is up and the NPAA is working out a final agreement with the neighbors. They will have an agreement to bring to the Board for the next meeting.

Mr. Knapp arrived at this point.

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation – Furness Phase II Approval- Mr. Garson shared the Commonwealth of PA awarded the Township \$42,000 towards the second round of trails at Furness Park. Mr. Garson moved to approve the contract with the Commonwealth Financing Authority and Nether Providence Township for Furness Park Phase II. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Bullens Property – Varki- Resolution Acceptance- He stated the Township acquired land for open space by Bullens lane. Mr. Garson moved to Approve Resolution 2021-11 for the approval of the acceptance of a donation of a Real Estate Parcel located on Bullens Lane, Folio No. 34-00-00426-00. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Glen Road Property- Mr. Garson offered resolution 2021-12 authorizing and approving the purchase of two real estate parcels located at 1012 Glen Road, pursuant to a PEMA Grant for Flood Mitigation Purposes. Mr. Garson moved to approve Resolution 2021-12. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Stop Sign at Harvey and Pine- - Mr. Catania stated he completed the assessment, and the streets meet the requirements for a multi-way stop sign.

Stop Signs in Lapidea Hills- Mr. Knapp shared the proposed stop signs in the Lapidea Hills neighborhood. Mr. Knapp moved to approve Ordinance #827 which includes five stop signs in Lapidea Hills by Springhaven Country Club. Ms. King seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Public Comment Resolution- Mr. Knapp shared the Public Comment process that was proposed. The Commissioners asked to have time to look at it in more detail before acting. Mr. Knapp shared the highlights for the new process, which include a three-minute limit per speaker and a limitation of public comment to residents, with discretion to allow non-residents to speak. The Board decided to discuss at the May Legislative meeting.

Fire Tax Credit- Additional Approval- Mr. Knapp explained the Board approved the tax credit last month but needed to add an additional person. Mr. Knapp moved to approve resident and firefighter George Moore for the 2020 & 2021 Fire Tax Credit. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Changes to Marijuana Penalties- Mr. Knapp said this was an informational item that will be taken up at a legislative meeting. He said there is consideration for lowering the penalties from a misdemeanor to a summary offense for possession. He is seeking input from Solicitor Scott and Chief Splain. The Board would like to ask Solicitor Scott more questions.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Knapp

Status of Media Walk development at 310 Wallingford Avenue – Mr. Knapp said site work is continuing at the Media Walk development. Mr. Catania said an Escrow Release will be needed at the next Legislative meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board- Mr. Knapp stated two residential requests would go before the Zoning Hearing Board. 43 Green Valley Road is requesting a variance from Section 300-12 Side Yards and asking for relief from the 25' wide minimum side yard setback as well as the 70' total aggregate. 6 Kershaw Road is requesting a variance from Section 300-10 building area and impervious surface requirements: no more than 25% of any lot area shall be covered by impervious surfaces. They are replacing the existing patio and adding a garden shed which would result in 30.3% coverage by impervious surfaces. He shared the Zoning Meeting were on the Township website, and the meetings are public.

Ms. McKenzie arrived at this point.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Mr. Knapp

Trailer Parking- Ms. McKenzie shared that there have been locations where trailers have been parking on residential streets and creating issues for parking. Mr. Knapp Moved to advertise an ordinance that would prohibit the parking of trailers on Township roads. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

2021 Summer Camp Registration Open- Ms. King shared there are only 20 spots left for campers. She also stated Camp Counselors are needed, and more information is available on the Township website.

MTF Contract Approval- Providence Road- Ms. King made a motion to approve the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant contract with the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$250,000.00. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

PLGIT Account for Real Estate Tax Appeals- Ms. McKenzie explained that when someone appeals a real estate property assessment, they can request that a portion of their taxes be held in escrow during the appeal process. As such, a new bank account needs to be opened to hold the escrow. Ms. McKenzie made a motion for Nether Providence Township to open a new PLGIT account to hold Real Estate Tax funds for pending real estate assessment appeals. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Quaint Road- Sewer Lateral Exception Request- Ms. McKenzie said the Use and Occupancy process requires a sewer lateral inspection at the time of sale. The sellers of 100 Quaint are requesting an exception due to the cost and difficulty of doing the inspection. Ms. McKenzie said there is concern about granting the exception since the line is over 50 years old, and if the line fails, it would negatively impact the buyer. There could be environmental impacts as well. It would open the door to more exception requests, too. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to deny the exception request for an exception to the sewer lateral inspection process for 100 Quaint Road. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Munilogic Cloud Server- Ms. McKenzie shared that Munilogic, which has been the Township's property records management software for the last 10 years, has been able to host all the data on the Township's server. Munilogic is now requiring that the Township use Munilogic's cloud server. The Township no longer has the option of locally hosting the platform. Ms. McKenzie thanked Ms. Maureen Feyas for convincing Munilogic to waive the one-time \$2500 installation fee and get the monthly cost reduced. Mr. Molloy asked about security measures for the Township's information once on the Cloud server. Mr. Grady explained that GO2 Technology, the Township's tech support, has multiple measures in place to secure Township information. He said GO2 could share information with the Board about how GO2 protects the Township's information. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the switch to Munilogic's cloud server with a monthly fee of \$130.00. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Road Resurfacing- Phase II Bids- Mr. O'Connor reported that Mr. Catania vetted and recommended the Township accept the bid from Meco Constructors. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the Meco bid in the amount of \$279,294.60 for Phase II of the 2021 road resurfacing. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Streetlight Additions Criteria- Mr. O'Connor shared draft criteria, prepared by Mr. Grady, for the additions of streetlights. Criteria included cost, proximity to pedestrian generators, and the support of neighbors in the area. Mr. Knapp moved to adopt the Criteria for Streetlight Considerations, and Mr. Garson seconded, which passed 6-0. Mr. O'Connor said he had received requests from a resident on Wilder Road and a resident on Scott Lane for streetlights.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

Watershed Restoration Protection Program Open- Mr. Molloy affirmed that Mr. Catania is still preparing the estimates for the project.

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project- Funding amendment- Mr. Molloy shared that the bids for the project will be opened on June 10th.

MTF Grant Round Open- Mr. Molloy shared that the Multimodal Transportation Fund program is open through July 31st. He noted this grant program was used for Providence Road and suggested the Township apply for additional funding for the Providence Road sidewalk.

WRPP Palmers Contract Approval- Mr. Molloy said the Board of Commissioners needs to approve the Grant agreement. Mr. Molloy moved to approve the Contract between Nether Providence Township Delaware county and the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$22,000.00 for the Palmers Lane Project. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Administrative: Summer Meeting Schedule- Mr. Knapp amended the summer meeting schedule to combine the workshop and legislative sessions into one meeting on the 4th Thursdays of June, July, and August. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT -

Mr. Grady announced the week of May 9-16 is Law Enforcement Week. He thanked all the officers in the Township and encouraged others to reach out and say thank you. Mr. Grady shared that 12–15-year-olds are now eligible for COVID vaccines. He shared the locations of several vaccine pop-up sites in Delaware County. Mr. Knapp shared a flyer from the Black Clergy of Philadelphia about a vaccine event. Mr. Grady said Delaware County has a vaccine program for the homebound and to call 484-276-2100 for registration and information. Delaware County has an Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program for those affected by COVID and more information can be found at Delco-ERA.org. Mr. Grady shared an upcoming shredding and electronic recycling event July 17. Mr. Grady reported there are secure drop boxes available for the municipal primary elections, including one at the Furness Library. He shared information from PECO's Bill assistance programs can found on the PECO website. He shared the Citizens Against Trash (CAT) official adopted the Avondale Road to be included in clean ups.

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting would be the Legislative meeting on May 27th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:08 PM.