

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 14, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 14, 2021. Workshop meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner King
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Knapp

Mr. Garson chaired the meeting. Mr. Garson stated Executive Session will be held after the Public Meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September 23, 2021 Minutes- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 Board meeting. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

Proclamation- 10/28 -Hope for Hallie Teen Mental Health Awareness Day- Mr. Garson read off a proclamation declaring October 28th the Hope for Hallie Teen Mental Health Awareness Day. He thanked the organization for their dedication to bringing awareness to teen mental health issues.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania had nothing to report.

Ms. McKenzie arrived.

Budget Request Garden City Fire Company- Mr. Lou Didomenico, the President of Garden City Fire Company Board, presented Garden City Fire Company's budget request. Chief Pat O'Rourke also was present. Mr. Didomenico asked for an increase for two items: first, preventive maintenance due to increases from vendors increasing their rates. Second, increased truck maintenance by \$3,000 based on the recent history of expenses. He said Garden City Fire Company and South Media Fire Company received a grant for new air packs. Also, they spent \$75,000 out of the fire relief association funds for other items not covered under the grants. He said the company also received a SAFER grant, which deals with retention and recruitment. Mr. Molloy said the Board would like to help with the recruitment issues, which is a nationwide issue. Mr. Garson thanked Mr. Didomenico and Mr. O'Rourke for their efforts.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Matthew Garson (in Micah Knapp's absence)

Marijuana decriminalization- Mr. Garson shared the draft ordinance for changing the charge for small amounts of marijuana possession. He asked the Board to read over the draft and be ready to vote at the next meeting.

Two- hour parking on Byre Lane- Mr. Garson reported residents on Byre Lane, which is behind Strath Haven High School, have been parking on the street while at school. He shared options available: no parking, two-hour limit, or prohibit parking during school hours. The Board asked that Mr. Knapp reach out to the residents on that street and see what they would prefer.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Garson

Mr. Garson had nothing to report.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Max Cooper

Linn Inspections Agreement- Update for 2022- Mr. Cooper reported that Linn Architects, which does the code inspection services in the Township, has asked to increase their rate to 50% of the permit fee revenue. He noted this is in alignment with surrounding municipalities that use Linn as well. Mr. Cooper made a motion to increase payment to Linn Inspections from 40% to 50% of permit fees. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Marijuana Sales- Zoning locations- Mr. Cooper shared the industrial zoning map. There was discussion about locations for marijuana sales and zoning locations within the Township. Mr. Garson asked Solicitor Scott to begin drafting an ordinance for marijuana sales in industrial zoned areas only.

U & O Updates in Code- Mr. Cooper asked Mr. Scott to explore updating the use and occupancy codes to reflect what the inspectors are enforcing. The Township's inspectors are enforcing safer policies than what is specified in the Township's online code.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Police Pension Restatement- Ms. McKenzie said this will be finalized shortly.

ARA Funds- Ms. McKenzie said Mr. Grady and Mr. Catania are still working on the list of stormwater management projects to submit to the Board.

Rate Stabilization Balance from Insurance Trust- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to apply the rate stabilization for Delaware Valley Insurance Trust in the amount of \$5,621.00, the Delaware Valley Health Trust in the amount of \$80,602.00, and the Delaware Valley Workers Compensation Trust in the amount of \$824.00 for the 2022 premium. These are funds provided from the insurance trusts to offset premium rates. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Pension State Aid- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the pension state aid distribution for the police pension plan in the amount of \$146,838.56, for the non-uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$64,241.87 for a total state aid distribution of \$211,080.43. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Recycling Contracts- Ms. McKenzie reported the Township is waiting to hear back from B&L Disposal. The Board has approved the contract extension for 2022, and B&L needs to concur, or the Township will need to go out to bid for recycling collection.

Bungalow Rental Agreement- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to accept the new rental agreement for the Township Bungalow in the amount of \$1,200.00 per month. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Budget Review- Ms. McKenzie reported several line items noting the budget review is in rough draft at this point. She highlighted the repairs needed at the Public Works Garage and the Township Building servers. She noted the Township was on budget for the year and suggested using modest surpluses for the repairs. She highlighted Gouley Park updates and Providence Road grants. She suggested budgeting \$75,000.00 for the TA Set Aside Providence Road grant, and if the grant is not awarded, then the funds can go towards updating the comprehensive plan. Mr. Cooper asked about the possibility of bringing an outside organization in to help the fire departments and library plan for future budgets. The Board discussed and decided to follow up in more detail with the organizations.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Stephanie King

Halloween Competition – Ms. King said the Township would be holding a Halloween decorating competition again this year. Residents that are interested in participating can send a notice to Mona Price at mprice@netherprovidence.org. Judging will take place the last week of October, and there is still time to sign up.

Leaf Collection Schedule- Ms. King reported the schedule:

- 10/18, 11/8, 11/29, & 12/13 Wards 2,3,4
- 10/25, 11/15, 12/6, 12/13 Wards 1, 5, 6, 7
- There will be a final pass through all of the wards the week of the 13th.

She said leaves must be out by Monday at 7 AM the week of your ward's collection.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Streetlight Additions- Considerations- Mr. O'Connor said he is still in communication with a new family that moved in at the intersection where the light would be placed. He said he would have an update soon.

Highway Report- Mr. O'Connor read the August highway report. He said Public Works performed a number of tasks including recycling center maintenance, cleaning of inlets and culverts, pothole repairs, and vehicle maintenance.

Alternate SEO Appointment- Mr. O'Connor said the Department of Environmental Protection requires that municipalities have a primary and alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Mark Bryan is the current SEO. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-29 appointing Mike Ciocco as the alternate SEO, and to maintain Mark Bryan as the primary SEO. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPEORT – Martin Molloy

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project- Mr. Grady reported a last-minute update. He said Road-Con, the contractor, told the Township they would be pushing the start date for this project until spring, which they are permitted to do under the PennDOT contract. Mr. Grady asked Road-Con to reconsider as the Township had communicated the start date to the residents and schools as the week of October 11th. The Township is waiting to hear back from the company about reconsideration.

Act 537 Plan- DELCORA- The Central Delaware County Authority, which handles the sewage treatment for many municipalities in the region, including Nether Providence, has drafted a plan to divert sewage to a plant in Chester. Mr. Molloy reported DELCORA has asked for public comments on this. Mr. Silverstein, as a Planning Commission member, shared his thoughts in a letter to the Board. Mr. Molloy asked the Board to read through it. Mr. Silverstein had a couple of concerns, including the environmental justice impact to Chester City with such a change. Mr. Molloy said he would help Mr. Grady and Mr. Catania write a draft to bring to the next Board meeting and then submit it to DELCORA by the end of October.

TA Set Aside- Resolution 2021-28- Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve the submission of the Walkable Wallingford - Providence Road Sidewalk Improvements for the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program proposal in the amount of \$1,251,781.00. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

PennDOT Multimodal Grant Opportunity- Mr. Molloy shared information on the grant opportunity. After discussion and concerns about the potential costs of a match, the Board agreed to pass on the opportunity for this year. The grant usually opens each year.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT -

Mr. Grady said there is information on the Delaware County website for vaccination options. He said there would be a vaccine booster clinic for first responders on October 16th in Aston from 10 AM – 2 PM. He noted there are flu shot clinics scheduled at Middletown Fire Company on October 15th and at Broomall Fire Company on October 21st. He said the American Red Cross would be holding a blood drive at the Township Building on December 29th. He said the voter registration deadline is October 22nd. The last Delaware County Household Hazardous Waste Event of the year is scheduled for October 16th at Upper Chichester, and you must register in advance. He thanked Maureen Feyas for her hard work in organizing Family Fun Day, Darryl Dixon and Public Works for their efforts in setting up for the event, Chief Splain and the police officers for their attendance, and all of the staff who helped out including Anne Marie Cooke, Mona Price, and Jack Gresch. He thanked each of the individual donors and said they are listed on the website.

Mr. Garson said the next meeting would be the Budget meeting on October 21st. The meeting was adjourned around 8:36 PM.