

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 21, 2021

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at the Township Building and live-streamed on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director
Chief Splain	Police Chief

Commissioner O'Connor and Ms. King were excused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

NPAA – Wrestling – Brandon Smith represented the NPAA Wrestling Association. He explained that wrestling was unable to take place in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic, but they recently learned that they will be able to host wrestling activities at the school district. He said the interest in the program has really grown over the years, and he hopes to maintain that interest by being able to hold activities in 2022. Their financial request was for \$2,000.

2022 Budget Review

Police Section of General Fund Budget – Chief Splain praised the NPAA Wrestling Association, and he said it made many positive impacts on his sons. He said for the revenues, the amounts were lower in 2021 due to the pandemic and the courts being closed at the start of the year. The revenue is not a significant amount, so there were not many concerns. For expenses, he explained that the salaries and benefits are somewhat out of his control, and there were salaries that were not paid when officers were out for military leave or non-service-related injuries, and the one service-related injury was paid through workers compensation and Heart and Lung insurance. He spoke about the vehicle replacement schedule, and he encouraged the Board to continue following the schedule as it has worked out well. There are two cars scheduled for replacement in 2022. Mr. Molloy asked about gasoline, and Chief Splain said it is purchased through the school district at a greatly discounted rate. He said the police department fared very well in ta recent risk assessment, which the Township's insurance company performs. He said he would like to eventually purchase in-car cameras, hopefully through drug-forfeiture funds. He said there are a number of drug forfeiture cases that are still open. He said the bodycam purchases have been beneficial and may reduce potential liability issues. The Board thanked Chief Splain for his efforts.

General Fund items: Ms. McKenzie explained that the budget has not been changed significantly, and there are several items that the Township is still waiting for, such as the total real estate assessment. She said the Township is considering taking out a loan to cover repairs needed at the Public Works Department and at the Township Building. The Township received a pro forma loan statement, and the interest rate was close to 1.6%. Ms. McKenzie said the Township explored restructuring debt for savings, but the current rates did not provide a benefit. Mr. Molloy asked about providing funding with the Rescue Act Funds to the funded organizations. Ms. McKenzie said the Board should consider it, but there are infrastructure needs that would otherwise have to be funded through future tax increases. Mr. Knapp said the Township has been conservative in tax increases in recent years, closer to 2-3%, whereas increases

had been closer to 5-7% in the past. The Board discussed the importance of building up the fund balance for use in emergency situations. The general rule of thumb is to have about 10% of expenses in savings. Mr. Grady said one of the new, larger expenses will be for the Gouley Park playground project, as the Township will need to provide close to \$50,000 in a cash match for the grant. Mr. Knapp said he is hopeful the Township can complete the East Rose Valley Sidewalk Project, the East Possum Hollow Sidewalk Project, the Sapovits Park Project, the Gouley Park playground, and the Providence Road Sidewalk Project in 2022. Mr. Grady said there are still open applications for Hepford Park, Martha Burton Park, and additional work on Providence Road. Mr. Grady said \$75,000 has been added for the PennDOT TA Set Aside grant, but if that funding is not awarded, it can go towards Comprehensive Planning. Ms. McKenzie said the vehicle replacement schedule is being reviewed, and there might be an opportunity to get a leaf machine through a grant instead of purchasing in 2022. A new Public Works Vehicle is needed. The Board will continue to discuss the budget at future meetings. Mr. Cooper noted an oddity in the debt service expenses, which may be related to miscoding in the accounting. Mr. Fiorenza was going to investigate that.

State Aid Distribution- Amendment – Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve resolution 2021-27 as amended, for the distribution of state aid in the amount of \$143,918.48 to the police pension plan and \$67,161.96 to the non-uniform fund.

Township & Police Server- Mr. Knapp asked if there was consideration for a cloud server as opposed to on-site. Mr. Grady said GO2 Tech, the IT company, said they recommended, based on the current IT risk environment, that an on-site server be provided. The current servers have failed and need to be replaced. There are cloud backups. Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the purchase of the servers in the amount of \$16,730.94, and Mr. Molloy seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment

Mr. Knapp said the next meeting was the legislative meeting scheduled for October 28th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.