

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 7, 2021**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Dave Grady	Township Manager
David Fiorenza	Finance Director

Commissioner O'Connor was excused.

Mr. Garson chaired meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance took place, and then a moment of silence was observed for the passing Commissioner Robert O'Connor's mother.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There was no public comment.

### **NPAA**

Mr. Ron Anderson represented the Nether Providence Athletic Association. He provided soccer's report, since a representative of soccer could not attend. He noted several of soccer's accomplishments, and he said participation numbers have increased. They are trying to repair the fields and need more coaches. They applied for a grant to improve the soccer fields at Houston Park. Soccer is requesting \$3,000. He said wrestling may not have a season this year since they cannot practice indoors, but they're doing the best they can to maintain interest in the program. Ms. Sarah Kelly represented basketball. She said their main difficulty is not being able to have an indoor program at the school district, and the concern is losing participants to neighboring leagues who are playing indoors. She asked the Commissioners for any assistance in applying pressure to the school board. Mr. Garson said he would reach out to his contacts on the school board to discuss. Basketball is requesting \$4,300. Mr. Michael Keller represented baseball and softball. He explained that it was a challenging year, but he was happy that baseball and softball were able to hold fairly normal seasons, and numbers actually increased over 2019's numbers. Their Buddy Ball program was successful, and they hope to bring it back. Baseball is requesting \$5,000. Mr. Anderson thanked the Board for their consideration and assistance. Mr. Molloy asked Ms. Kelly if basketball had put lights in the budget for outdoor basketball. He also asked about baseball and softball's Buddy Ball Program and their costs. Mr. Keller did not know exact numbers, but he said it is not expensive.

### **Helen Kate Furness Library**

Ms. Jessica Brill, president of the Helen Kate Furness Library, said she was excited to have the library open. She thanked the Township for its assistance with recent facility work, including drainage improvements at the library. She said the year has been successful despite the COVID challenges. The new library director, Leah Kulikowski, has been a breath of fresh air to the library. Ms. Brill covered some of the recent upgrades that were made. They're also working on their DEI initiatives. Their circulation numbers should be fairly close to their pre-pandemic numbers. Ms. Kelly Kaminski, the Treasurer, spoke about their financial situation. They've taken steps to reduce their operating costs to reflect the lower revenues that have come in. Ms. Jennifer Zwitch covered their fundraising efforts and discussed the adjustments they had to make to deal with the lack of in-person fundraising. Ms. Kaminski said that the auto-renewal process has reduced the late fee revenue that they had historically relied upon. She said the

library's request is for \$152,500, which would be an increase of \$20,000 over the 2021 funding. This additional funding would bring a librarian to full-time status, and it would allow them to expand their hours to the public. They've had a difficult time relying on volunteers to provide their staffing. Their annual cleaning costs and their collection costs have increased as well. Additionally, the state has requirements regarding how many hours the library must be open each week. She noted they have been operating at a deficit for the last several years, and they want to recover from that.

### **South Media Fire Company**

Mr. Robert Hopkins, Mr. Max Hopkins, and Ms. Linda Lawson were present. Chief Max Hopkins said they have increased their volunteer staffing during the year, despite the pandemic. They have 27 members that they consider active. Mr. Rob Hopkins, the South Media Fire Company President, covered the fire company's financial situation. He said the two main cost drivers were building maintenance and truck maintenance. He noted a new roof was needed since it was 17 years old and beyond the expected 10-year life. He thanked Ms. Linda Lawson, as the new treasurer, for her work in finding grants and identifying funding opportunities. He also said a new generator was needed, as the old one was 50 or 60 years old and was failing. They are asking for a \$7,000 increase in 2022 to \$70,000 to help cover the capital expenses. Mr. Hopkins said they have been increasing their fundraising efforts, including by starting a monthly "Food Truck Friday." He said they would be throwing an event in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

General Discussion – the Board discussed seeing how other municipalities are going to use American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Mr. Knapp noted the funds were a short-term benefit and would not be a long-term revenue source.

Mr. Molloy asked if the Township could work with NPAA and the school district to figure out options for wrestling and basketball.

Ms. McKenzie had to leave at this point.

### **Leiper House**

Mr. Grady presented the Leiper House's request and said it is staying at the same amount of \$6,000. He said they had to do several capital repairs, including repairing the water filtration system and window work. He noted that Ms. Angela Hewett has been doing an excellent job managing the Leiper House.

**Preliminary Budget Review-** discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**Dodge Charger Sale-** Mr. Grady said the high bidder, in the amount of \$14,000, defaulted, so the bid would proceed to the second highest bidder. Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the second highest bid of \$13,800 for the police Dodge Charger. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution 2021-25 Fire Relief Distribution –** Mr. Grady said this resolution was called to a vote and discussed at the September 23, 2021 meeting, but the final vote was not taken. Mr. Knapp made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-25 to distribute the Fire Relief Aid in the amount of \$43,320.13 to Garden City Fire Company and \$43,320.12 to South Media Fire Company. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.