

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – January 27, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Legislative Meeting

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Garson
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Molloy

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Tiffany Griffin	Township Solicitor (substituting for Robert Scott)
Charles Catania	Township Engineer
Chief Splain	Police Chief

Excused: Ms. McKenzie & Mr. Knapp

3 members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Garson chaired the meeting. He announced that Executive Session would be held after the meeting.

Approval of Minutes- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the January 13th, 2022, minutes. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Recognition: The Board recognized Ben Crawford on his achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout. The Board and all present applauded Mr. Crawford, whose family was in attendance

Appointments to Boards- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-3 for the reappointment & new appointments for the Zoning Hearing Board:
Marie McGuire has been appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board, term expires December 31, 2026. Kenneth Ezzell will be reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board, term expires December 31, 2026. Active members will continue their position as follows: Robert George term expires December 31, 2025. Adam Fernandez term expires December 31, 2025. Jeffery Sobel term expires December 31, 2025. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Shade Tree committee:

Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the appointment of ad hoc for Alex Morrison. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Nothing to report.

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

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT –Mr. Garson
DCNR Grant- Mr. Garson said we already have three existing Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grants: Gouley Park, Martha Burton, and Sapovits Park. He asked the Commissioners to think about any potential projects. Mr. Molloy asked if having three ongoing projects could hurt the Township's chances of getting a grant. Mr. Grady said he does not think that having the three existing grants will hurt us since we are making progress on those

projects. Mr. Molloy asked about possible joint projects with other neighboring communities, and Mr. Grady said that multi-municipal projects are usually favored in the grant programs.

Gouley Park-DCNR Grant- Mr. Garson said the Township is exploring playground options. There are many options available based on space and price range constraints of the grants. He said the Township's budget has \$15,000 for a structure for children aged 2- 5 years and \$90,000 for a structure for children aged 5-12 years.

Hepford Park- Mr. Garson said Representative Krueger was instrumental in the Township receiving \$148,500 through the Keystone Communities Grant program to use toward improvements at Hepford Park. He said the Commissioners need to approve a resolution and the Township would contribute about \$12,000 toward project. Mr. Garson motioned to approve Resolution 2022-4 Keystone Community Program for the Revitalization at Hepford Park and to commit \$12,000 to the program. Mr. Molloy seconded, which passed 5-0.

1012 Glen Rd – Mr. Garson noted that this was part of a FEMA/PEMA grant for the removal of a property in a flood zone. The house was in the process of being demolished when the contractor hit a sewer line, which was marked incorrectly based on a mapping issue. As such, it was not the contractor's fault, so it makes sense to grant the change order request of \$2,500, which was used to repair the sewer line. Mr. Grady said the intention is to use grant funds, if there are enough remaining funds, but if the project goes over budget, there is no mechanism for additional funds. He said the Township has been in touch with US Representative Scanlon's office, and he plans to ask for their assistance if additional funds are needed. He noted the Township is still working with the County and School District to reassess the property in order to receive a partial refund for the taxes paid. Mr. Garson motioned to approve change order in the amount of \$2,500. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE- Max. Cooper

Marijuana sales – Zoning locations. Mr. Cooper said the hearing for the zoning change would be advertised for the February 24th meeting. This zoning change would allow marijuana sales only in the industrially zoned areas of the Township.

Amendment to R5-B Zoning permits. Mr. Cooper said there is inconsistent wording in the ordinance. The existing wording permits multiple dwellings, but it also says that townhomes are not permitted, which is what currently occupies large sections of the R5-B zoned areas. It would pose a problem, for example, if the townhomes were ever destroyed, in which case a new one could not be built. Mr. Cooper asked if Mr. Bob Linn, who is on the Planning Commission and helped with the Township's zoning rewrite several years ago, had any recollection of why the zoning ordinance may have been written as it was. Mr. Grady said Mr. Linn agreed that it appeared to be a zoning inconsistency from when the zoning was developed in the 1970s. The Township Solicitor would begin working on the wording for the amendment.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Mr. Garson in Ms. McKenzie's absence

Bee, Bergvall & Co.- Mr. Garson said the Township needs to renew its agreement with the auditor, and he has recommended the Township continue its service with Bee, Bergvall, PC. He noted they prepared a proposed statement of work for \$10,475 for the 2021 financial audit and pension statements. He motioned to retain Bee Bergvall in the amount of \$10,475 for the financial audit and related fees for the pension. Mr. Molloy seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Transfer of funds to Police Forfeiture & Accreditation. Mr. Garson said a consultant will be assisting the Police Department in maintaining the accreditation status. He said that the amount of \$7,329.33 will be needed from the General Fund to help cover the \$12,500 consultant fee. It was noted that this shortfall should not be an issue in future years as it is anticipated that there will be enough drug forfeiture funds available. Mr. Garson motioned to approve the transfer, and Mr. Cooper seconded. Mr. Molloy asked if the funding could be repaid to the General Fund at some point, and Chief Splain said it was possible. All were in favor of the motion, which passed 5-0.

Mr. Molloy reviewed several items on the bills list then made a motion to accept the bills list in the amount of:

Warrant List

A/P Procurement card List	\$54,133.48
A/P Interim	\$61457.30.
A/P Bills List	\$165,568.39
A/P Procurement card	\$1,200.00

Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT REPORT- Shaina Barnes

DVRPC TOP Program- Ms. Barnes said the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Alternative program could be an eligible program for Phase II of Furness Park. It would mean more access to the train station which would mean fewer cars on the road. Township already has existing grant funding for this. Dr. Cooper asked how much time is left to use this. Mr. Grady said at least two years remain. The Board discussed the idea of shortening the approach and starting at Knoll Road but stopping at the wetland area, since that is where the project becomes expensive. Eventually, a crossing would be needed. The Board was in favor of asking the program about the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's interest in the project.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Road Resurfacing - Mr. O'Connor shared the list of roads that were placed out for bid. They included the roads that were rated as very poor and the roads where Aqua had recently performed work. He said bids would be received on February 9th.

Putnam Blvd Project- Mr. O'Connor said that Danbury Village is in favor of adding speed humps on Putnam Boulevard, and he noted he would follow up with Weston Village. He said Putnam and Saybrook are still considering the project.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT – Martin Molloy

Providence Road- Design Submission- RFP- Mr. Molloy said the Township had received proposals for the engineering design and inspection for the Providence Road sidewalk project. He said Traffic Planning and Design (TPD), Michael Baker International, & McMahon Engineering submitted bids.

TPD: \$89,550

Michael Baker International: \$91,100

McMahon Engineering: \$114,240

Mr. Molloy motioned to accept the TPD bid for the engineering design of the sidewalk on Providence Road from East Rose Valley Road to Copples Lane in the amount of \$89,550, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Cooper asked about the Engineering inspection fees. Mr. Grady and Mr. Catania felt it might be better to hold off on awarding the inspection until the design process is nearly complete. The proposals were for full-time inspection costs, but it is possible that the design process will show that part-time inspection may suffice.

DELCORA 537 Plan- Mr. Molloy thanked Mr. Cooper for working with him as well as Mr. Catania and others. He recommended the approval of the 537 Plan Resolution, which included the selection of option two in the DECLORA 537 Plan – rerouting the waste to the Western Regional Treatment Plant (WRTP) in Chester. He said it is the most cost-effective option and it addresses most of the environmental concerns. He noted that he is opposed to the potential sale of DELCORA to Aqua. He would like to approve the resolution with a conditional letter stating their concerns with the lack of transparency about the proposed expansion of the WRTP in Chester. He also wants the Board to express their opposition to the privatization of public assets to Aqua. Mr. Cooper talked about the quality-of-life issues for the citizens of Chester and different considerations that were not clarified such as sludge incineration and disposal of refuse. Mr. Molloy said he hopes the plant expansion would trigger additional permitting and modernization of the practices. It was noted that the Township may need to develop its own disposal if the 537 Plan were not passed. Mr. Garson said he wants the letter to ask questions instead of sound accusatory. Mr. Garson said he is not sure if he is opposed to the privatization since he needs more information. Mr. Cooper said he and Mr. Molloy may send letters in their own individual capacities, as long as the letters specify that they are not representing the entire Board. Mr. Molloy moved to adopt Resolution 2022-5 Resolution 537 Plan update, and Mr. Cooper seconded. The motion passed 5-0. He said the Board is approving the resolution being approved under some duress considering the limited information that DELCORA has provided. Mr. Cooper noted there would be two letters: one from the Board, and then a second from Mr. Molloy and Mr. Cooper as private citizens.

East Rose Valley Sidewalk Project – Mr. Molloy said the bids for the East Rose Valley Sidewalk project would be due on February 10th.

EAC – He said the Environmental Advisory Committee met the prior evening for 90 minutes. They are thinking of forming a sub-committee to do research about waste disposal.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT –

Covid information on delcopa.gov. There is a vaccine clinic on Jan. 31st from 10 am to 12 noon in Darby Ever Abundant Life Church. He said there are Covid testing sites at the Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital and Delco Emergency

Services in Sharon Hill. He said Senator Kane is hosting a Community Health Town Hall on Feb. 3rd from 6 PM to 8 PM. He noted the Delaware County Transportation Management Association would like to remind everyone that Senior Citizens over 65 are permitted to travel for free under all Septa transit routes. He also noted the formally issued transit ID card are no longer valid. There is a new Septa key photo id. He said there is an E-Waste Event scheduled for February 12th from 9 AM to 1PM at 101 Plush Mill Road - Gouley Park. He said the CAT Club – Citizens Against Trash – is holding a cleanup event on January 30th, depending on the weather. He said a newsletter and map would be mailed to citizens in the coming months, and a brief bulletin will be included with the tax bills.

Mr. Garson thanked Matt from Strath Haven High School for working the camera.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:45 PM.