

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – February 24, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Legislative Meeting

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Robert Scott	Township Solicitor
Charles Catania	Township Engineer
Chief Splain	Police Chief

No 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 moved to approve February 10, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Nothing to report

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT- Max Cooper

Local Share Assistance Program- Mr. Cooper said the grant is due March 15th. He said the grant opportunity has no match and is very broad. It can be used for acquisition, demolition, infrastructure, purchase of vehicles/equipment, planning/engineering planning projects. He asked the Board to consider projects.

DCED's WRPP, GTRP Programs open- Mr. Cooper said these grant opportunities are for the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program, which has been used for Furness Park trails in the past, and the Watershed Restoration Program They're due May 31st and have a 15% match and ARPA funds could be used as a match.

Delcora 537 Plan- Consideration of letter with Resolution- Ms. McKenzie said she just received County feedback to possibly add into the letter. She said she will have it ready for the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Garson

DNCR Grant Round Open for 2022- Mr. Garson said the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant program is open until April 6th and there is a 50% match and can be used for planning and development of parks, land conservation/watershed protection, watershed restoration, trails, and recreational projects.

TOP Program- Furness Park Trail-Resolution- Mr. Garson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-7 authorizing the Township to apply for DVRCP grant for Phase II of Furness Park. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Penn St-One way- Mr. Knapp said that the Township has begun receiving feedback on the idea of making Penn Street a one-way road. He noted the response has been mixed so far. He said Township will keep tallying responses.

Approval of Police Chief's contract extension- Mr. Knapp made a motion to Approve of Police Chief Splain's Contract extension. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Single Audit- Moore Road sidewalk- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve Bee Bergvall & Co. to perform a single audit related to the federal funds received for the Moore Road Project in 2020. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Bills List- Ms. McKenzie highlighted several items in the bills list, and then she made a motion to approve the Bills list in the amount of:

P card- \$45,166.65
A/P Interim Bills- \$7,260.00
A/P Interim Funds - \$1,704,022.74
A/P Bills- \$124,033.32

Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Township Taxes Typo- Mr. Garson informed the public that two typos have been brought to the Tax Collector's attention. First, the millage rate printed on the tax bills is last year's rate. Second, the overdue dates printed are a year ahead, as it should say bills will go to collections on February 28, 2023. The amounts for residents' taxes are correct. If you would like a new tax bill printed with the correct information, please email Kris Laubscher at taxcollector@netherprovidence.org.

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT- Shaina Barnes

CRC Stream Cleanups in March- Leiper Park and Smedley Park- Ms. Barnes said the Chester Ridley Crum Watershed (CRC) stream cleanups will be on March 26th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM, and volunteers are needed.

CAT Group Clean ups Completed- Ms. Barnes Thanked the CAT Club for their work on February 12th & 21st.

EAC Update- Mr. Molloy said the EAC is excited for the sub-committee to form which will address the waste and recycling on a Township level. He said Mr. Bill Silverstein, of the EAC, is seeking a position as a Board member for the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority or as a member of the Zero Waste advisory group. Additionally, he said the EAC had discussed the importance of native plants and how more community education on native plants could help.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O'Connor

Comprehensive Road Resurfacing Discussion- Mr. Cooper provided an overview of an Excel document that he and Mr. Grady created, and the purpose was to show a roughly five-year plan to create a road resurfacing plan. He said the current road resurfacing replacement schedule is roughly 40-50 years, whereas a good practice is to have the roads repaved every 15-20 years. In order to do so, the Township would need to be budgeting approximately \$540,000 each year into the future, which is much higher than the roughly \$200,000 that has been used from Liquid Fuels. There was a significant amount of discussion regarding the benefits of taking out a loan to frontload the work. Mr. Cooper said he feels that the Township should take advantage of the low interest rates for a loan in order to do upfront work before the projected high rate of inflation makes the paving costs increase significantly in the coming years. Mr. Cooper made a motion to authorize the Township manger to explore the cost of a five-year loan with the Delaware Valley Regional Financing Authority. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk- Mr. O'Connor said the E. Possum Hollow sidewalk project would begin the week of March 21st. Chief asked the Board to authorize making Kershaw Road, in between Possum Hollow and Brookhaven Road, a no parking zone from 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. The Board was in agreement.

E Rose Valley Rd Sidewalk- He said the sidewalk project will start in mid-April. Premier Concrete will be doing the sidewalk, and more information will be shared as it is made available.

Putnam Blvd Safety concerns Discussion- Speed humps & Lighting- Mr. O'Connor thanked Chief and the township Engineer for their help with the concerns. He is still talking and working with residents to find a solution.

Highway Report- Mr. O'Connor read the highway report. He said the work performed included their normal operations and other items such as:

- Cut tree that was hanging in Furness Park per neighbor's request.
- Completed Christmas tree pick up.

- Started sewer cleaning throughout the Township.
- Began turning the mulched leaves for mulch sales which should be ready in mid-March.
- Installed '2 hour' parking signs on Byre Lane.

Mr. O'Connor thanked Mr. Darryl Dixon and the Public Works Department for their hard work.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marty Molloy

Marijuana Sales- Zoning locations- Public Hearing- Mr. Molloy reported there was no public comment for this topic's hearing.

Marijuana Sales- Zoning Locations- Mr. Molloy made a motion to adopt Ordinance 83, which establishes certain definitions and further regulates the location of medical marijuana dispensaries, medical marijuana growers/processors, significant tobacco retailers and vape shops as permitted uses in the I industrial district. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Amendment to R5b zoning- Mr. Molloy said the Zoning officer is amending wording in the R5b zoning district so that townhomes would be listed as permitted structures since there are currently many townhomes that have existed in the zoning district. Mr. Scott said he is working on the wording now.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT -

Mr. Grady said Delaware County is continuing to offer vaccinations and testing options, and he said people can visit delcopa.gov/covid for more information. PECO will be doing Power Line Work around the Township mostly in South Media and Ward 3. PECO will be sending letters to notify affected residents. Bill Silverstein from the EAC has asked to be Nether Providence representative to the Zero Waste Advisory Committee. The Board supports the decision. If you are a Delaware County parent/caregiver whose children attend a DHS licensed Delaware County childcare program. You may be eligible. To Learn more visit ccnpa.org/covid-support

Mr. Garson said the next meeting is a legislative meeting March 10th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.