

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – March 10, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 10th, 2022. Legislative Meeting

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

Ms. McKenzie chaired the meeting. She announced that Executive Session would be held before the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Mr. Catania said there was a sewer lateral leak behind Putnam Boulevard. The problem is being fixed and the Township is not responsible.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT- Max Cooper

Local Share Assistance Program- Mr. Cooper said this grant is very broad and can be used for nearly anything. The Board had discussed adding an elevator to the Township Building along with the lobby improvements that would be needed for it. Other ideas have included solar panels for the Township Building and the work needed at the highway garage. The grant maximum is \$1M and there is no match. Mr. Cooper made a motion to Authorize the application for local Share Assistance for ADA improvements to the Township building and garage repairs. Mr. Molloy second the motion, which passed 7-0.

County Aid- Liquid Fuels Resolution Amendment- Mr. Cooper shared each year, the Township receives funding assistance from the County for road programs. The figure had been \$18,968 for the last several years, but the County is reducing the aid across the Board. Without knowing the exact decrease, the Board passed a resolution in January for \$13,000, but the actual figure was announced at the end of February as being \$15,174. Mr. Cooper made a motion to amend the Liquid fuels road program resolution to \$15,174. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Delcora 537 Plan- Consideration of letter with Resolution- Mr. Cooper made a motion to send a letter to Delcora explaining the Board's decision to accept option two of the proposed 537 plan but with concerns that Delcora did not consider the long-term impacts to the residents of Delaware County. Concerns included incineration vs deposition alternatives and the short vs long term disruption to Chester and the surrounding communities. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0. Mr. Cooper made a motion to adopt and send a letter of consideration to the Delcora Board expressing their disapproval of the Delcora sale to Aqua. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

East Coast Greenway Connection with Eddystone- Mr. Cooper said Eddystone is doing a feasibility study to create a trail extension for the East Coast Greenway, which is a trail that will run for a majority of the east coast, from Florida to Maine. The Township is preparing to do the feasibility study with Swarthmore Borough in order to potentially

connect to the stretch in Eddystone. Mr. Cooper made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to ask Eddystone to coordinate with the Township's feasibility study. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Comprehensive Planning Update- Mr. Cooper said the comprehensive planning meeting team met earlier in the week, and they looked at upcoming tasks, which include reviewing the 2006 comprehensive plan and removing references to the other communities.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Garson

Gouley Park- Local Proposal for Mini-golf- Mr. Garson said he received a proposal from a resident to create a temporary mini-golf course at Gouley Park. Some considerations include noise/traffic, insurance, impacts to the planned playground work, and a “commercial” use in a residential setting. He suggested the resident approach the parks committee and getting their feedback.

Gouley Park Playground – Parks Commission Meeting- Mr. Garson said currently, there are two playground options for Gouley Park, and the Parks Commission is encouraging people to attend the virtual Parks Commission meeting on Monday, March 14th for feedback on the options. The information is posted on the Township website.

Houston Park – Soccer Sponsorship signs- Nether United has asked if they can begin obtaining sponsorships to reduce the cost of playing in the program. The signs would be about 6’ banners on stakes in the ground or along fences, similar to what baseball has. The executive director said the banners can easily be removed if it turns out they are detracting from the appearance of the park. They are looking for permission to do this. Mr. Grady suggested adding the issue into the field agreement as it is time to update the field agreement.

Hepford Park – Playground Acquisition - Mr. Garson said the Township obtained a quote from Recreation Resource, a COSTARS vendor, to purchase a playground for Hepford Park. He said the Township needs to move quickly with this grant program, and the cost of the playground is \$57,846. He said an additional quote from Recreation Resource was received for safety netting in the amount of \$3,785. The three-bay swing set would be \$5,661. Altogether, including freight, it would cost \$67,292. The playground budget and safety netting were budgeted at \$103,000, leaving \$35,708 for installation. Mr. Garson made a motion to purchase the playground equipment, safety netting, and swing set from Recreation resources in the amount of \$67,292. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Micah Knapp

Use of Public Works for Fire Response - Mr. Knapp said the Garden City Fire Company has asked if the Township would consider allowing two of its Public Works Department employees, who are GCFC members, to respond to fire calls within Nether Providence during normal working hours. This would not be for medical calls or mutual aid calls outside the Township. Mr. Grady talked with the insurance provider, who had no issues with it. The PWD union was supportive as well. The Public Works Director also does not have concerns. Mr. Knapp moved to approve allowing two PWD employees to respond to fire calls within Nether Providence during normal PWD working hours. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Approval of 2022-2026 Police Contract- Mr. Knapp made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police from January 1, 2022 until January 1, 2026. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Camera for Meeting Room- Ms. McKenzie said the Township Board meeting room needs a new camera, as the old one is over 15 years old and has periodically failed. The proposed new camera could be controlled remotely without a need for assistance in the back. The new camera would have high-definition capabilities. The cost will be \$4,080.91, which includes installation and training. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the purchase of a new camera from GO2 Technology in the amount of \$4,080.91. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

ARPA Meeting April 21st- Ms. McKenzie said the Township would be holding a meeting on Thursday, April 21st at 7:30 PM to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act Funding plans.

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT- Shaina Barnes

CRC Stream Cleanups in March- Ms. Barnes said the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association is seeking enthusiastic volunteers for its 24th Annual CRC Streams Cleanup on March 26, 2022, from 9:00 to 11:30 am at more than 30 sites throughout local watersheds in Delaware and Chester counties. There are two sites in Nether Providence: Leiper Park and Smedley Park. Please consider signing up if available and share with your residents. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to have Nether Providence Township be a sponsor in the amount of \$1,500.00. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O’Connor

Comprehensive Road Resurfacing Discussion- Mr. Cooper spent time explaining the Comprehensive Road Program, which he said the Township is currently on a 40-50 road resurfacing timeline, and it should be closer to 20 years. He outlined a number of options for financing, which included a loan to frontload the work. There were assumptions in creating a new, sustainable program that include possible tax increases in future years to build up the budget for routine, larger road resurfacing projects. Ms. McKenzie and Mr. Garson expressed concerns with taking on more debt. Mr. Cooper made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to pursue a loan in the amount of \$500,000.00 for five years, based on the pro forma loan documents from the Delaware Valley Regional Financing Authority. The motion carried 4-3, with Ms. McKenzie, Mr. Garson, and Mr. O’Connor dissenting.

Public Works Garage- Mechanic Bay Structure Issues- Mr. O’Connor said the two-bay wing of the Public Works Garage is in poor condition, and because it was not built to code, there are some major structural issues that, in Bob Linn’s and Charles’ opinions, is not worth repairing. Their recommendations would be to tear down the existing wing and build a new one. It is estimated that the project would cost about \$300,000, which would include about \$25,000 for design/permitting/bidding. Bob Linn’s office said they could provide the architectural design. He said this project could lend itself well to a loan as you could spread out the cost of the project over the life of the project. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to approve the \$25,000 designing and bidding for the work on the Public Works garage. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk- Mr. O’Connor said the East Possum Hollow sidewalk project would begin the week of March 21st. There will be a one-way detour in which traffic can only travel eastbound towards the train station. The Township has been coordinating with Wallingford Elementary and the school transportation office.

E Rose Valley Rd Sidewalk- Premier Contracting is the low bidder, and the project is expected to begin in mid-April. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to extend the DCED Multimodal Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth Financing Authority until June 30, 2023. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Putnam Blvd Safety concerns Discussion- Speed humps & Lighting- Mr. O’Connor said a meeting with the homeowners’ associations along Putnam Boulevard has been scheduled for April 28th.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marty Molloy

Media Walk Escrow Release #15 request- Mr. Molloy said this would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board March Agenda- Mr. Molloy said there are three cases on the agenda for March 21st. A Beatty Road residential property is requesting a setback variance, a residential property on Glenwood is seeking an impervious coverage variance for an addition, and a residential property on Springhaven Road is seeking a setback variance and the enlargement of a preexisting nonconforming structure.

Amendment to R5b zoning- Mr. Molloy said the Zoning Officer and Solicitor are preparing wording to amend the issue where the current code does not allow for townhomes in an area that primarily already has townhomes. The next step would be to send the proposed amendment to the Planning Commission for their review.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT -

Mr. Grady said there would be a CAT Club Cleanup on March 12th at Bullens Lane Park at 9:00am. He said PECO will be doing power line work around the Township, mostly in Ward 3. PECO will be sending letters to notify affected residents. If you are a Delaware County parent/caregiver whose child (ren) attend a DHS licensed Delaware County childcare program, you may be eligible for COVID-19-related support. To Learn more visit ccnpa.org/covid-support. He said the Township received DEP Recycling Program 904 Grant Funds in the amount of \$29,795.16. He thanked Assistant Finance Director, Marianne Leamy, for her hard work in preparing the information for the grant. He said the County would be removing its recycling igloo from the Township garage because the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority was struggling to find drivers to continue the program. Mr. Grady said Summer Camp registration starts March 21, and there is information on the Township website and Facebook page.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is a legislative meeting March 24th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.