

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – September 29, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at the Township Building and live-streamed on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner O' Connor

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady Township Manager

Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Knapp, and Commissioner Molloy were excused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

Resolution for Pension- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve Pension State Aid Distribution resolution 2022-22. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

2023 Budget Review

General Fund items: Ms. McKenzie asked Mr. Grady to review the draft of the 2023 General Fund budget. Beginning with the revenues, the real estate market is expected to cool dramatically, but housing prices in the Township are expected to stay high. For 2022, the Township is expected to exceed the budgeted \$445,000, but not significantly. The 2022 budgeted number will not change for 2023. He noted that the cable franchise fees have been declining each quarter, and he was recommending a budgeted decrease of \$15,000 from the prior year. He said the local services tax, which is being collected by Berkheimer now, has been coming in slower than expected, but the figure for 2023 will not change. The State Pension Aid has been increased by \$10,000 to account for the higher figure that was received in 2022, due to the population increase in the Township. The fire relief spending is going to hold steady at \$85,000, and this is a pass-through amount to the fire companies. He said the recycling revenue will increase due to the increased cost of recycling collection, as B&L's bid was almost 30% higher than last year's and recycling disposal costs at Republic have increased from \$30/ton to over \$110/ton. This revenue increase is offset by an equal expense increase. Mr. Grady said the sewer fund transfer may increase slightly as the sewer fund budget is finalized. This transfer covers the expenses that come out of the General Fund, such as Public Works salary, the sewer truck, and insurance.

Mr. Grady moved onto the expenses. He said that administrative salaries are projected at a \$9,600 increase. He said health insurance costs for Administration and Non-union management are expected to increase 20%, but this number will be known in October. There is no increase for police healthcare and there is an estimated 20% increase for Public Works at \$48,737. He said the Police Union Salaries increased by \$188,265 based on a contractual 3.75% base salary increase. There is also a \$13,000 FICA increase related to that. Recycling Collection and Disposal is estimated to have a \$91,000 increase (28%) due to increased collection and processing costs. There are increases for the Public Works salary, which may change based on the ongoing contract negotiations. He noted there were significant Public Works overtime increases in 2022 for CAT Club Cleanups, playground installations, in addition to the normal overtime costs related to snow plowing, downed trees, sewer issues, etc. The budgeted increase is \$15,000.

Ms. McKenzie asked for clarification on the road resurfacing loan. Mr. Cooper said a \$50,000 increase would be added each year to the General Fund. Between reductions in debt service down the road, and the continuous increase of about \$50,000 to the budget, it would set the Township up for a 20-year paving cycle. Mr. Grady noted that there was a \$21,000 increase in the 2023 Liquid Fuels allotment from the State. Ms. McKenzie suggested that the \$50,000

road resurfacing line be reduced by the \$21,000, and she suggested further discussion about the road resurfacing loan when the full board was present.

Ms. McKenzie said ARPA funds should be discussed for stormwater, MS4, and the Public Works Garage. She said in order to not increase taxes this year, the Board could consider using ARPA funds to offset the expense increases in the budget.

Mr. Grady said liquid fuels funds, recycling, and sewer budgets will be discussed at the next budget meeting.

Ms. McKenzie said Rose Valley Borough proposed having the Township plow for Rose Valley. Ms. McKenzie and Mr. Garson asked the board to discuss this and look further into the proposal.

Adjournment

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting was the workshop meeting on October 13th. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 PM.