

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – September 22, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 22, 2022. Combined meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner Molloy
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson

NOT PRESENT: Commissioner Knapp
Commissioner O'Connor

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Robert Scott	Township Solicitor - Arrived later
Chief Splain	Police Chief

1 member of the public was in attendance.

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

Approval of Minutes- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2022. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion which passed 4-0, with Mr. Garson abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comment.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Nothing to report.

ENGINEER REPORT- Excused absence

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT- Shaina Barnes

Recycling Program Bid Results – Ms. Barnes said only one bid was received, and it was from B&L Disposal at \$71.22 per property. This is about a 27% increase over the current contract. Although the township has not completed the budget, she said the estimate is that this will equate to about an extra \$2 per month per property. The Board has 60 days from September 14th to decide to accept or reject the bid. Ms. McKenzie suggested the board accept the bid for a single year and continue to look for alternatives for the future to be more competitive.

Ryan from B&L Disposal was present to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Molloy asked what accounted for the price increases. Ryan said it was due to increased costs of fuel, parts/shipping, and dumping for B&L. Mr. Grady asked why B&L did not bid on the fuel adjuster options. Ryan said there was concern about the administrative burden to B&L. Mr. Molloy asked if Ryan could return to a waste committee meeting and share more information. Mr. Molloy asked if the Board could vote on accepting the bid at the next meeting. The Board agreed to delay the decision.

Ms. Barnes made a motion to reopen yard waste bids. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT- Max Cooper

PECO Tree Work – Mr. Cooper said PECO has said they would reach out to the Township and the state elected officials to reschedule the meeting that was cancelled in early August, but that has not happened yet. PECO has confirmed they will not begin working until after a meeting has taken place.

Comprehensive Plan- – Stakeholder Interview Committee – Mr. Cooper said the Board would discuss each

Commissioner's nominee for the Comp Plan Stakeholder Interview Committee. Four names were put forward. Mr. Cooper made a motion for approval of the names for the Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Interview Committee

Ward 1- Heather Sayatte

Ward 2- Poe Leggette

Ward 4- Jason Glass

Ward 5- Lisa Jacobs

Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Mr. Cooper said the remaining spots would be filled at the October 13th meeting.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

2023 Budget Schedule – Ms. McKenzie said the Board will begin meeting on most Thursdays starting next Thursday September 29th. The Board will not meet on October 6th. The meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month are meant to focus solely on developing the 2023 budget.

ARPA Fund Usage – The Board discussed the drafted ARPA plan in more detail. Mr. Catania recommends going out to bid for the Pine Ridge culvert project to get started and the Canterbury storm basin project. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to authorize the township engineer to bid out the Pine Ridge Culvert and Canterbury stormwater facility. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to authorize a change order to include emergency signal preemption at the intersection of Providence Road, East Rose Valley Road, and Meadow Lane. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Fire Relief Funding Distribution – She said the Township received the Fire Relief Funding Distribution notification, and the amount is \$106,341.27, which is up from last year's \$84,640.25. This may be due to an increase in the Township's population from the census and from an increase in the property values relative to the state average. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-20 Fire Relief Funding Distribution to evenly distribute the amounts among the two Nether Providence Township Fire Companies in the amounts of:

Garden City Fire Company \$53,170.63

South Media Fire Company \$53,170.64

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

Bills List- MS. McKenzie made a motion to approve the Bills list in the amount of:

A/P Procurement Card \$43,265.60

A/P Interim Bills \$412,194.28

A/P Bills List \$131,276.75

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

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Kait McKenzie

Ms. McKenzie said there was no business to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- Kait McKenzie

E. Possum Hollow Sidewalk – Guiderail damage – Ms. McKenzie said the Township notified the school district that their insurance will need to pay for the damage. And while it may not be an issue in this situation, the Township did learn that the insurance trust does not typically cover guiderails. Manager Grady asked the Township's insurance trust what is needed to add guiderails into the coverage, and the trust is looking into it.

DROP Program for Police – Ms. McKenzie said the Township is still awaiting final confirmation from the police union that they concur with the pension restatement changes, which will include the DROP program.

Fireworks Regulations – Ms. McKenzie said there is a change in the state law and Solicitor Scott is drafting an ordinance amendment based on the PA Municipal League draft ordinances, and he will present that at the October workshop meeting.

Fire Siren Use at Firehouses – Ms. McKenzie said residents have shared concerns about the volume of the firehouse sirens and their belief that the sirens are no longer needed due to the technology available. Mr. Molloy shared a letter expressing concerns of the negative impacts to the children's mental health, especially when in the NPE school yard. Mr. Grady said he spoke to Garden City Fire Company President briefly about the topic. He relayed that Garden City Fire Company still uses it because about 95% of the Garden City Fire Company volunteers live close enough to hear when the sirens are sounded. This is helpful if they are not near their phones or pagers. Additionally, he said it lets people in the area know that emergency vehicles will be traveling through the area quickly. The Fire President also noted to Mr. Grady that studies had been done in the past and the decimal level does not cause damage to hearing. Mr. Grady said this will be a topic at an upcoming fire committee meeting.

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT- Shaina Barnes

Recycling Program Bid Results- Ms. Barnes noted this was addressed during the Public Comment section.

Waste Committee Discussion – Ms. Barnes said each Commissioner will present their nominee to the committee. Mr. Molloy made a motion to appoint the following members to the waste committee.

Ward 2- Leo Carey

Ward 4- Joanna Cortese

Ward 5- Tracy Beck-Campbell

Ward 7- Michael Krauss

EAC- Bill Silverstein

Ms. Barnes seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Single Use Plastics Ban Discussion – Ms. Barnes said the Board is waiting on feedback and questions from the Media Borough Environmental Advisory Committee and EAC, and this is because the proposed ordinance for the Township mirrors the Media Borough ordinance.

DEP 902 Grant Round Open – Ms. Barnes said the Township is considering applying for two leaf machines and possibly more recycling cans to keep in stock.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Garson

Hepford Park Baseball Field Discussion – Mr. Garson provided an update about conversations with the NPAA baseball association about potential usage of the remaining grant funds for dugouts at Hepford Park. He noted the grant funding must be used at Hepford Park. NPAA is asking for funding to repair fields, address safety concerns, and improve drainage issues. They are getting an estimate ready and will update the Board next month.

Bird Town PA Certification Awarded – The Township just received notification that the application to Bird Town PA was accepted. Mr. Garson offered a big thank you to Ralf Graves for leading the application with assistance from Krikor Panossian of the EAC and Carrie Miluski of the Shade Tree Commission.

Delco Greenways Grant Application – The Board has considered applying for Phase II of Furness Park. Charles Catania created an estimate showing \$301,000. The grant limit is \$250,000, but the Township also has \$52,000 in other funding sources. Mr. Garson made a motion to pass Resolution 2022-21 to apply for the funding for Phase II of Furness Park through the Delco Greenways Program. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Gouley Park/Summit School Demo – Proposal for Soil Testing – Mr. Garson said the state has been reviewing our paperwork from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), and they appear to be requiring that soil testing be performed in relation to the removal of the underground storage tank. The Township is still pushing back a bit as no one has any reason to believe there was any leakage or other environmental issues. The Township is awaiting two other quotes, but the Township did receive a quote for \$6,590 from Environmental Alliance, Inc. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve allocation of funds not to exceed \$6,590.00 for soil testing, contingent upon the State's final decision that the soil testing be performed. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marty Molloy

Public Right-of-Way Access Ordinance Consideration – Mr. Molloy said a right-of-way ordinance would require that utilities obtain a permit and environmental clearances prior to beginning any work in public right-of-way. Mr. Molloy suggested the Board get appropriate draft language from other attorneys. Mr. Scott agreed. Mr. Molloy said this would be discussed further at the October meeting.

Shade Tree Regulations – Mr. Molloy said this ordinance amendment has been advertised. The draft ordinance removed the exception for utilities. Mr. Molloy made a motion to adopt the amendment to Ordinance 842, amending Chapter 71 - Shade Tree Commission - to remove public utilities from the exemptions from licensing and permitting. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

98 S. Providence Road – Waiver Request for Development – He said this property is part of the recent three-lot subdivision from 6-8 E. Brookhaven Road. One of the conditions of the subdivision approval was that once a lot began development, it would go before the Planning Commission for stormwater review. This was because the property had stormwater issues in the past. The Planning Commission recommended it be conditionally approved upon a final review from the Shade Tree Commission Chair, the Township Engineer, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Commission to ensure that the comments had been satisfactorily addressed. The Planning Commission recognized the owners' interest in proceeding quickly before the cold weather. The owners' engineer said they would comply with all comments from the Township Engineer and Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Grady said the Township and resident will be discussing the right-of-way issue. Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve the waiver for the tree replacement plan conditioned on the completion of Shade Tree recommendations. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

6-8 E. Brookhaven Road Escrow Release – Mr. Grady said after speaking to the township Engineer there are still things that need to be addressed, including restoration along the sidewalk. Mr. Molloy made a motion to release Escrow in the amount of \$5,000 conditioned on the property owner meeting the requirements of the Township Engineer and Township Manager. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is ending 10/28/22. He said all applications to the program need to be submitted before that date. He said the bivalent vaccine for COVID-19 was approved by FDA and is available at pharmacies. Family Fun Day is October 15th at 12-3pm at the Strath Haven Middle School. Food, fun, and games will be available to our residents. There is a CAT Club cleanup Saturday the 24th, starting at Medbury Road at 9 AM. The Township was awarded two grants towards Houston Park. One was \$122,000 for trails and the other \$140,000 for streambank restoration and water quality. He shared a letter from Joy Keiffer from Lifeworks food pantry located in the Foundry church in Wallingford where she was asking for help in promoting the services they provide and the needs they have.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is October 13th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 PM.