

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 20, 2022

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at the Township Building and live-streamed on YouTube.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy
Commissioner Knapp (arrived later)

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady, Township Manager

EXCUSED: Commissioner Cooper

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There was no public comment.

Helen Kate Furness Library Presentation-

Leah Kulikowski, the Library Director, began the presentation by stating that the library is now meeting the state-mandated minimum requirements to receive state funding. But she said that has come with increased expenses, including the conversion of a part-time employee to a full-time employee. They have increased and updated their book collections. In 2022, they offered 48 programs for adults and 78 programs for children and teens, serving a total of 2,415 unique patrons. She said they utilized their \$30,000 in ARPA funds for several facility projects and grounds beautification efforts. Candy Walters covered their fundraising efforts and noted that they are aiming for a fundraising record of \$120,000 for their 120th anniversary. Katie Boland outlined the 2022 operating budget, which included a \$63,000 increase in expenses for the staffing, library collection, and building and maintenance costs. She noted that this larger request for 2023 is a “right-sizing” and the Township would not see an equally large request in future years. She said without any additional funding from the Township, the library will continue to run a deficit. Their request for 2023 is \$189,306. Ms. McKenzie asked about the library’s endowment, and Ms. Boland explained that the endowment is being drained by running at a deficit, and it is not sustainable. Mr. Molloy asked if the library had any give-get requirements. Ms. Walters said that the library does. He also asked about grants, and Ms. Boland said the grants are usually for specific projects and not to help operations. It was noted that the Township’s support as a percentage of the operating expenses was 36% in 2021, which was lower than neighboring municipalities. Ms. McKenzie noted that the neighboring municipalities have larger commercial offerings and/or earned income taxes, which Nether Providence does not have. Ms. McKenzie thanked the library attendees for their time.

Insurance- rate Stabilization Fund Usage- Mr. Grady said the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust offers a rate stabilization fund that can be applied to the 2023 premiums. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to apply the insurance rate stabilization funds against the premiums for 2023. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Addition to Agenda: Ms. McKenzie made a motion to add the minutes from September 29, 2002 to the agenda. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Approval of Minutes- September 29, 2022- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes of September 29, 2022. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion, which passed 3-0 with three abstentions.

2023 Budget Review

Mr. Grady reported that the township is looking to cut a large deficit. He said cost drivers for the budget increase include:

- Police salary increases of \$188,000
- Police Pension contributions of \$65,000
- Insurance policy costs like liability and workers compensation for an increase of \$150,000
- Increased road resurfacing of \$29,000
- Grant projects including the stream bank restoration at Houston Park and the trail head and connection at Houston park increased the budget by \$40,000

Mr. Grady shared the changes to the budget since the last board meeting on September 29th:

- Increased pension state aid by \$10,000
- 2020 loan will be repaid on 10/25/22- removed \$65,000 from 2023 budget
- Grant transfer- \$100,000 removed for TA Set Aside Grant, as about \$70,000 was budgeted and unused in 2022. This can be carried forward.
- Road resurfacing- decreased by \$21,000 to reflect the equal increase in Liquid fuels funding that became available.
- Public Works Department and Administration Healthcare adjustments
- \$40,000 added for Houston Park WRPP and GTRP projects.

Ms. McKenzie asked the Board to discuss allocating road resurfacing funds to different line items as the road resurfacing funds come from a couple of different sources, including the State Liquid Fuels funding and the road resurfacing loan. Mr. Molloy noted that the Township is limited in its control over the large amount of mandatory expenses. He said, therefore, other revenue sources should be explored, such as an earned income tax. Mr. Molloy said those who are already paying an earned income tax in the towns of their employment would not be impacted, and the revenue would be brought back to the Township. Mr. Knapp noted the EIT was explored in 2017, and Mr. Grady added that the Board in 2017 was considering a reduction in property taxes to offset the increased EIT revenue. Ms. McKenzie noted that there were continued discussions about the Rose Valley plowing proposal, but she said it would not happen in 2023.

The Board asked Mr. Grady to contact Keystone Collections to see if Keystone could do a study around a potential earned income tax for the 2024 budget discussion, contingent upon the study having no cost.

Mr. Grady said NPAA and Garden City Fire Company will be presenting at the November 3rd meeting. South Media Fire Company will present at the October 27th meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting was the workshop meeting on October 27th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.