

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 13, 2022**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 13, 2022. Combined meeting.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT:**

Commissioner McKenzie  
Commissioner Barnes  
Commissioner Molloy  
Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner Garson  
Commissioner Knapp

**NOT PRESENT:** Excused Commissioner O'Connor

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

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

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 September 22, 2022. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion which passed 5-0, with Mr. Knapp abstaining.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

**Recycling Program Bid – Motion to accept or reject bid** - 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 budget has not been completed, it is estimated that this will equate to about an extra \$2 per month per property. Ms. Barnes made a motion to accept B&L Disposal's bid in the amount of \$71.22 per property for a one-year contract. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**Rahul Munshi - Sheffield Drive-** Mr. Munshi said he came to express concern about the Garden City Fire Station fire siren, especially regarding the Nether Providence Elementary School being next to the firehouse. He said there is concern about the emotional impact for kids who become frightened by the loud noise of the siren. He believes that with today's technology, there are better ways to communicate with the volunteer firefighters. He asked if it is necessary. He stated that many of his neighbors share his concerns.

Ms. McKenzie said from past discussions with the firehouse they have said the firehouse uses the siren in case there was a cell service or power outage, in which case cell phones would not work. She said she understands Mr. Munshi's concern. Mr. Munshi responded that other on-call professions have found a way to communicate, and when there are power outages, PECO sends text messages.

Mr. Knapp asked Mr. Grady to set up a meeting so that Mr. Knapp, Mr. Grady, the Fire Marshal, and Garden City Fire Company can discuss the situation in more detail.

**SOLICITORS REPORT** – Nothing to report.

**ENGINEER REPORT-** Nothing to report

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT-** Max Cooper

PECO Tree Work- Mr. Cooper said there were no current updates. He said PECO assured the Township they would not do any work before a meeting happened.

Comprehensive Plan – Stakeholder Interview Committee – Mr. Cooper said they still need a few more ward representatives. A stakeholder committee meeting is tentatively planned for October 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Molloy added his ward’s representative to the list, Elissa Krauss.

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT –** Matthew Garson

WRPP Streambank Project in Houston Park. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program grant agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Nether Providence Township in the amount of \$140,000. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

GTRP Trail Project in Houston Park- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation program grant agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Nether Providence Township in the amount of \$122,676. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Delco Greenways Grant Agreement – Trail Feasibility Study- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Delaware County Greenways Municipal Grant Program grant agreement between Nether Providence Township and County of Delaware for the Leiper Smedley Trail Feasibility study, in the amount of \$75,715. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Martha Burton Park Licensing Agreement with WSSD – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the amendment of the Martha Burton licensing agreement between the Wallingford Swarthmore School District and Nether Providence Township, subject to the solicitor’s agreement. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT-** Micah Knapp

DROP Program for Police – Mr. Knapp said an agreement with both the Township and police union was made to restate the police pension plan, which included the creation of the deferred retirement option plan (DROP). Mr. Knapp made a motion to adopt Ordinance 843, an ordinance relative to the establishment and maintenance of Township employees’ pension, annuity, insurance and benefit fund or funds, to amend certain provisions of the pension plan or program applicable to the police and to restate in its entirety such pension plan or program, effective January 1, 2020. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE –** Kaitlin McKenzie

2023 Budget Schedule – Ms. McKenzie said several of the Township’s funded organizations, such as NPAA, the library, and the fire companies, will present their budget requests in the coming weeks. She said the Board would be meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup> to review the budget.

Pay off 2020 Loan – Ms. McKenzie said the Township accountant did an analysis of our cash flow and feels the Township can comfortably repay the 2020 loan, which was taken out to cover the grant projects. She said there is \$909,000 in principal outstanding. This will remove over \$64,000 from the 2023 budget and save in interest for the remainder of 2022. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to pay off the 2020 loan in the amount of \$909,000. Mr. Knapp seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

ARPA Fund Usage – Ms. McKenzie said the Township Engineer’s office is preparing the Pine Ridge Culvert bids and the Canterbury Bids. The E. Rose Valley contractor is processing the change the order for the emergency pre-emption to be added to the new traffic signal.

**COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT-** Shaina Barnes

Recycling Program Bid Results- Ms. Barnes noted this was addressed during public comment.

Waste Committee Discussion – Ms. Barnes said there are a few openings for the waste committee. Mr. Molloy said he felt there was enough experience from the appointed members that the group could begin meeting.

Single Use Plastics Ban Discussion – She said the EAC has recommended that the Board proceed with the same ordinance that Media Borough has used. She said it would not affect food trucks or food pantries. Mr. Scott was going to amend the ordinance to target retail as well.

DEP 902 Grant Round Open – She said the Board is in favor of applying to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s 902 Grant Round for two leaf machines. There is also consideration towards applying for more recycling cans. The grant covers 90% of the project, and the Township must provide a 10% match. A resolution will be passed at the next meeting.

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT** – Kait McKenzie

Public Right-of-Way Access for Utilities Ordinance Consideration – Ms. McKenzie said this was discussed at the last meeting. A right-of-way ordinance would require that utilities obtain a permit and environmental clearances prior to beginning any work in public rights-of-way. She said the Board may want to consider exceptions, for example, if a utility is only working on a single property for a private service line. The Board asked Solicitor Scott to add wording about permits and notification.

Rose Valley Borough Plowing Proposal – Ms. McKenzie said Rose Valley Borough has asked the Township if there is interest in creating an agreement where the Township would plow the public roads in Rose Valley Borough. The initial offer was for \$30,000 which is meant to cover the time and costs associated with the Township’s plowing of the roads.

**BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT** – Marty Molloy

Media Walk Escrow Release – Mr. Molly made a motion to approve escrow release #19 in the amount of \$6,941.44 to Progressive house. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Agenda Amendment- Mr. Molloy made a motion to add “approval of the fence ordinance advertisement” to the agenda. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Fence Ordinance – Mr. Molloy noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed the fence ordinance and proposed additional wording for electric fences. There was discussion among the Board about concerns with the clarity of the electric fencing wording. Mr. Molloy made a motion to advertise the fence ordinance amendment without the proposed electric fencing wording. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT** – David Grady

Mr. Grady said the LIHWAP Program is ending 10/28/22. He said Family Fun Day is October 15<sup>th</sup> at 12-3 PM at the Strath Haven Middle School, and there are still volunteers needed. Food, fun, and games will be available to our residents. Lifewerks pantry will be collecting goods at Family Fun Day. He said the Halloween decorating contest is happening again this year. He said the electronics recycling and shredding event is happening on 10/29 from 9 AM to 1 PM and to check the website for more information and fees for larger electronics. Fire Prevention Week is this week, and he noted the fire companies have been doing prevention and education within the school. The Helen Kate Furness Library is looking for board members and more information is available on the Township website. He said the Board should review the H2O Grant and Small Water and Sewer Grants offered through the DCED.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is October 20th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 PM.