

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – November 17, 2022**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, November 17, 2022. Legislative Meeting.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner O'Connor

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

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

No members of the public were 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 October 27, 2022, minutes. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**Public Comment-None**

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions – None**

**SOLICITORS REPORT** – None

**ENGINEER REPORT**- None

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT**- Max Cooper

PECO Tree Work – Mr. Cooper said the Township had a meeting with representatives from PECO, Rep. Krueger's office, and Senator Kane's office this week to discuss four upcoming projects in 2023. During the meeting, PECO shared its reasons for determining the necessity of the project. The Township asked questions and shared the concerns heard from residents. PECO did share that they had a plan to replace the trees that would be removed, and Mr. Grady encouraged them to follow the Township's tree replacement formula in the Shade Tree Commission Code.

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

Public Right-of-Way Access for Utilities Ordinance Consideration –Bob Scott is reviewing and editing for the Board.

H2O and Small Water and Sewer Grants – She said there are two funding sources that can be used for sewer or water projects in the Township.

- The Small Water and Sewer project: Eligible projects are those which have a total project cost of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$500,000 and involve the construction, improvement, expansion, repair, or rehabilitation of a water supply system, sanitary sewer system, storm sewer system, or flood control projects that are owned and maintained by an eligible applicant. Two projects that come to mind are the Henry Lane storm sewer project and the Moylan neighborhood request for sanitary sewer extensions. A 15% match is required (could use ARPA funds)

• H2O PA Project: Eligible H2O PA projects are those that involve the acquisition, construction, improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation of all or part of a water supply, sewage disposal, or storm water system which is owned and maintained by an eligible applicant. Project must cost at least \$500,000 and a 50% match is required. Board will decide at next meeting.

Henry Lane Drainage – Ms. McKenzie said several residents along Henry Lane have complained about the very poor drainage on their street, so the Township Engineer’s office did a study to see what options are available. Mr. Garson has said he plans to review the plans in more detail with the Township Engineer and discuss with the neighbors at a later date. The estimated cost is over \$500,000.

Pine Ridge Road Sewer Work – Bid Award Consideration – She said bids were received on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The low bidder, JMC Contractors at \$190,300, sent a letter asking to withdraw their bid due to an administrative error. N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. was the next low bid at \$287,815.00. The estimate had been \$275,000 in the ARPA plan. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to accept the bid from N. Abbonizio Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$287,815.00 using ARPA funds. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

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

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT-** Micah Knapp

**AGENDA ADDITION-** Mr. Knapp made a motion to add an agenda item for Authorizing a Police Sergeant Test. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Police Sergeant Testing- Mr. Knapp made a motion to authorize Chief Splain to move forward with Police Sergeant testing. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** – Kaitlin McKenzie

2023 Draft Budget Available for Review/Budget Discussions – She said the budget is available for inspection on our website or at the Township offices. The budget is scheduled for adoption on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Changes to the budget since last meeting:

- \$1,000 increase to Leiper House
- \$30.00 increase to Historical Society

Earned Income Tax Study Info – Ms. McKenzie said in October, the Board authorized Keystone Collections to do a study about the potential impact of an earned income tax. She said the Township received the study, but there are several questions that Keystone Collections needs to answer.

Bills List – Ms. McKenzie provided highlights of the expenses and made a motion to approve the Bills list in the amounts of:

- AP Interims List – \$20,206.34
- A/P Procurement Card - \$52,914.87
- A/P Bills List - \$563,181.84

Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

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

2023 CDBG Grant Round Open – CDBG Hearing on December 8<sup>th</sup> –Ms. Barnes said the 2023 Community Development Block Grant Round will be opening again in January. Garden City Manor is the only area in the Township that is eligible. The funding can be used for a variety of projects, including road resurfacing, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, or recreational improvements. This year, the Township received funding for road resurfacing, which will take place next year. There will be a hearing on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and after that, the Board should decide which project(s) it would like to apply for. There is a primary and a secondary application that can be submitted. Board showed interest in continuing with the road resurfacing improvements in Garden City.

Yard Waste Bid Award Consideration – Ms. Barnes said the Township opened bids for yard waste collection today. JP Mascaro and B&L Disposal were the bidders, and the low bid came from JP Mascaro at \$44.21 per location. The cost would be included in the recycling fee. Mr. Molloy said he could see many residents wanting this until they find out there is an additional \$44 to receive the service. He thinks it would be more beneficial to open the Public Works Yard for disposal more often. Mr. Knapp noted that there is an increased burden on the Public Works Department employees when the yard is open more often, in addition to the risks of having the public there. The Board will decide at the next meeting.

Public Comment- Thomas Sassaman, the Controller from JP Mascaro, was present. He said the increase works out to less than \$1 per week per household, and he thinks it could be a nice benefit for residents. He mentioned what items could be collected.

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

ZHB Agenda – Mr. Molloy said there are three residential variance requests (Hastings, Henry, and Medbury) and one request for Garden City Fire Company for a special exception for a shed (height and sq footage). The meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT** – David Grady

Mr. Grady said the Shade Tree Commission Tree Planting Event in Houston Park was scheduled for Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. He said there is a drop box for political signs in front of the Public Works Garage yard on Brookhaven Road. He shared a reminder for residents to put leaves on the curb and not in the street. The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (“PAHAF”)—which assists Pennsylvania homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including up to \$14,000 for delinquent property taxes and \$10,000 for delinquent utilities per homeowner—recently made the following updates: delinquent property taxes cap now \$14,000 [increased from \$8,000]; delinquent utilities cap now \$10,000 [increased from \$8,000]; maximum assistance now \$50,000 [increased from \$30,000]. He said a Property Tax Rebate is available through PA Department of Revenue. For more information about the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, visit [revenue.pa.gov/PTRP](http://revenue.pa.gov/PTRP). He said artifacts were uncovered at the Leiper House and the treasures will be displayed at the Leiper House on Saturday, December 3, between 1 and 4 PM.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on December 1, 2022. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 PM.