

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

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Molloy
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Knapp

ALSO PRESENT:

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

15 members of the public were in attendance.

Ms. McKenzie chaired the meeting. She announced that Executive Session would not be held.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Rossi- 210 W. Rose Valley Rd.: She said she is the parent of the minor pedestrian hit by the car on West Rose Valley Road while walking from his house to the bus stop on December 12th. She is advocating for major safety improvements along W. Rose Valley Road:

- She said the white lines that separate the road from the shoulder are faded.
- There is no buffer between front lawns and the side of the road.
- There are no sidewalks.
- There should be more speed limit signage.
- The sun's glare makes it hard to see pedestrian.
- Cars come speeding down from Brookhaven Road.

James Hansen- 310 Rosewood Lane: He is speaking on behalf of residents from W. Rose Valley Road, Rosewood Lane, Morgan Lane, Fairfield Drive, and other areas. He supports Ms. Rossi's statement. The residents are asking for both immediate and long-term action to improve the current unsafe condition of that stretch of West Rose Valley. W. Rose Valley Road is a commonly used road for walkers, joggers, and kids from middle & high school every day. He said it is unsafe because of the lack of shoulders, sidewalks, crosswalks. He believes it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. The intersection of W. Rose Valley Road and Rosewood Lane is dangerous because of the limited sightlines from the hills. There have been many close calls for drivers and pedestrians. He said Representative Krueger expressed support for combined short-term and long-term improvements.

Leland Kellner- 302 Rosewood: He said this is not a new problem. He said a crosswalk is painted on the road, but it is faded and cannot be seen. He noted that when his kids were in middle school, a new bus route was assigned to his kids. The school mandated that his kids walk from Rosewood along West Rose Valley to Bickmore Road. His family walked the new route and almost got hit. He called to have the route changed, and he said the school district agreed that the route was unsafe, so they changed it.

Ms. McKenzie said the Board understands the issues that the residents have presented. She said she has spoken with State Representative Krueger who also agrees. She said the Board would look at options, and she noted that sidewalks can take years.

Mr. Molloy said he also understands the concerns, as he noted when he met with the residents two days prior. He said that since this is a state road, the Township will have to go through PennDOT. He encouraged residents to reach out to Representative Krueger and Senator Kane about concerns. He said the Township can see what pedestrian signage is permitted and the Township can repaint the crosswalks in the new year as the weather permits. He said the police will do a traffic study, gather information, and make the results public. The Township will make a request to PennDOT for rumble marks on the side of the roads and see what other pedestrian safety options exist.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT- Shaina Barnes

Ms. Barnes noted that there will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on December 27th at the Garden City Fire Company. Ms. McKenzie asked the Commissioners to send information around to their wards.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT – Robert O’Connor

Forrest St Low Volume Road Grant Program – Mr. O’Connor noted that the deadline for the Conservation District’s Low Volume Road Program was approaching, and the Conservation District has agreed to extend the deadline through July 31, 2023. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to extend the Low Volume Road Program end date to July 31, 2023, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Motion to Advertise Bidding for 2023 Road Program – Mr. Grady said this item should be tabled as PennDOT’s Liquid Fuels Program does not allow any part of the process to begin before 2023.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Garson

Mr. Garson made a motion to add a discussion about a story-walk grant with the Helen Kate Furness Library. Mr. O’Connor seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Grady explained that the Furness Library Director reached out that day to say that they were interested in applying for a grant for a story walk to be installed in Furness Park. He explained that a story-walk has stations with pages from children’s books, and the stations change each season. Mr. Garson noted that a member of the Parks Commission had a concern about it creating clutter issues and maintenance of it. Mr. Garson suggested the Board think about it and discuss again in January.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Kaitlin McKenzie

Approval of Teamsters Agreement for Public Works Department – Ms. McKenzie noted there were several changes to the agreement, but the most material portion was for the wages, which were 5% for 2023, 4% for 2024, and 2% for 2025. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the agreement, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Year End Employee Compensation – Ms. McKenzie said there were a few bonuses for employees for outstanding work. Mr. Grady noted two bonuses approved by the Board in Executive Session for Maureen Feyas in the amount of \$500 for her work with Family Fun Day and the Summer Camp, and Anne Marie Cooke for her assistance with grants, also in the amount of \$500. Ms. McKenzie and Mr. Garson noted that Mr. Grady’s contract had a clause for a bonus of \$4,000, contingent upon the Board’s approval. Mr. Garson said Mr. Grady has received over \$1.5 million in grants in 2022. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the three bonuses, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion carried 7-0.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said Delaware County has been encouraging people to sign up for their weekly newsletter “In the Know”. He said this can be found at Delco.org.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on January 12, 2023. The meeting was adjourned around 8:10 PM.