

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – February 23, 2023

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 23, 2023. Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Knapp

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Robert Scott	Township Solicitor
Chief Splain	Police Chief

There were two members of the public in the audience.

Mr. Garson chaired the meeting. He announced that Executive Session would be held after the public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Kates – 120 Locus Lane

Mr. Kates thanked the Township for the addition of Gouley park playground. He expressed concerns with people using his property as part of the park property. He said children are playing in the creek and then coming onto his property and his swing set, and kids are cutting through his yard to get to the playground. He asked the Township to put up a fence to protect property owners behind the Gouley Park playground. He suggested the fence go from the rain garden and wrap around the playground. Mr. Garson said the Board is talking about adding more trees and vegetation to that area. He said the Township will continue to monitor the situation.

Approval of Minutes- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the January 26th minutes. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the February 9th minutes. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

3rd Ward Commissioner Opening- Mr. Garson announced that Micah Knapp, the 3rd Ward Commissioner, submitted a letter of resignation. He said Mr. Knapp has started a business which is taking up much of his time. Mr. Garson thanked Mr. Knapp for his service to the Township, including his time as Board President as he led the Township through the start of the pandemic. Mr. Garson made a motion to approve Mr. Knapp's resignation effective on February 23, 2023, which starts the 30-day time clock to find a replacement. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Mr. Scott noted that the replacement Commissioner must be a resident for at least one year prior to appointment. Mr. Garson said any interested people should submit a letter of interest to the Township Manager.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions; ZHB Opening and Planning Commission; Mr. Garson said there are openings.

Historical Commission Appointment- Mr. Garson made a motion to approve Ani Diakatos. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- No report as Mr. Catania was unavailable.

Government Relations – Max Cooper

Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting – March 14th 7 PM at WES. He said the Township is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan, which evaluates the existing land use, transportation systems, housing, community facilities and services, nature, and culture of the Township. The Plan projects future trends, establishes a series of goals, and proposes a list of policy and physical recommendations. This will be an opportunity for the public to weigh in on several questions. He said he will be there on March 14th at 7 PM at Wallingford Elementary.

PECO – Tree Trimming – He said PECO’s vegetation management contractor has begun working in the area in the Township. They have proceeded without receiving licensing from the Township.

Parks and Open Space Committee -Matt Garson

Gouley Park Field Improvements – Mr. Garson said that he, the Township Engineer, and Township Manager met with the Swarthmore Recreation Association (SRA) Board on February 15th and discussed the possibility of athletic fields at Gouley, a potential funding arrangement in exchange for a field-use agreement, and collaboration with NPAA soccer. Mr. Garson said he looks forward to an upcoming discussion between SRA, NPAA Soccer, and the Township.

DCNR Application with NPAA Baseball – Mr. Garson said the Township made NPAA Baseball aware of a grant opportunity that could assist with the acquisition and installation of dugouts at Hepford Park and Mickey Vernon Field at Bullens Lane Park. NPAA Baseball has the funding available for two dugouts, but ideally, they would like six dugouts among the two parks. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant has a 50% match requirement, which can include labor. If the Township Public Works Department performed the installation, that could equate to the cost of a dugout. Between the cash that NPAA has and the Public Works Department labor match, that could form the 50%, and the DCNR would provide the remaining 50% match for the cost of three dugouts. There would be six in total: NPAA/NPT Labor would fund three dugouts, and the DCNR would fund three. NPAA Baseball would be the main applicant. Mr. Garson made a motion to authorize the Township along with NPAA to submit a DPCR application for dugouts at various fields in the Township, with NPAA providing 50% and the Township providing the labor costs. Mr. O’Connor seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Public Safety Committee Report by Matthew Garson

Vernon Street – Speed Hump Requests – Mr. Garson said that the Board will consider the approval for installing speed humps on Vernon Street at the next meeting. He said exact locations would still need to be determined, and the final decision can be made at the next meeting when Commissioner Knapp may be in attendance.

Finance and Administration Committee -Matthew Garson

Bills List – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the Bills list in the amount of:

AP Interims List – TOTAL - \$1,360,875.85

A/P Procurement Card - TOTAL –\$ 38,164.97

A/P Bills List TOTAL – \$592,735.58

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

Consideration of a request for partial waiver of WSSD stormwater fees for turf – Mr. Garson said WSSD is replacing the artificial turf at King Field, and they are adding an additional area of turf coverage. The school district has asked for a waiver of the stormwater fees, except for any engineering review costs. The stormwater management fee that would be waived would be \$500. Mr. Garson made a motion to waive the stormwater fees for the turf fields at WSSD. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Accept Bids for Mower and Truck – Mr. Garson said the Township received bids for the Cub Cadet mower in the amount of \$2,850 and 2015 Ford F-550 truck in the amount of \$15,700, which needed nearly \$20,000 of work. He said the Public Works Director and Township Manager recommend accepting these bids. Mr. Garson made a motion to accept the bids. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Mr. Cooper asked about the vehicle replacement schedule. Mr. Grady said the Township had ordered a new Public Works truck in November of 2022 and hopes to receive it later in 2023.

Reject bids for 2016 police charger/announce bid for 2007 charger – Mr. Garson said the Township received bids for the 2016 police Dodge Charger, and they were below the \$10K threshold that the Township had wanted. Additionally, the Code Enforcement vehicle, a 2007 Dodge Charger, needs \$4,000 of work. He said they are proposing rejecting the \$8,500 bid for the 2016 Charger, providing that vehicle as a temporary vehicle for Code Enforcement, and then listing the 2007 Charger for auction. Mr. Cooper asked about vehicle electrification. Mr. Grady said the Code Enforcement Vehicle may make the most sense, as far as Township vehicles, to become an electric vehicle. He also said Code

Enforcement Officer Haywood believes that a pickup truck would be useful in the future. Mr. Garson made a motion to reject the bid for the 2016 charger and to announce the bid for the 2007 charger. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Community, Health, and Environment Report - Shaina Barnes

CRC Streams Cleanup March 25th – Registration Opens 2/10 – Ms. Barnes said the annual Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Stream Cleanup event is happening on March 25th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM, rain or shine. She said they have not announced the locations yet, but last year, for the Township, it was at Leiper Park and Smedley Park.

Electronics Recycling and Shredding March 11th – Ms. Barnes said the Township, along with Media and Swarthmore Boroughs, is hosting an electronics recycling and paper shredding event at Gouley Park, 101 Plush Mill Road, on Saturday, March 11th from 9 AM to 1 PM. She said you can also bring donations for Goodwill.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee -Robert O'Connor

Forest Road – Low Volume Road Bids – Mr. Grady said the Township received bids for the Forest Road Low Volume Road Grant Program project. The bids came in high, but he said the Township has two questions that the Low Volume Road Program Coordinator is researching. Additional funding may be available to assist with cost overages. Mr. Molloy asked if the road loan funds could be used for the project, and Mr. Grady said that was possible.

Aqua Contribution Offer – Mr. O'Connor said Aqua recently completed work on several roads in the Township, including Hawthorne, Palmers, and Osborne. These roads are included in the Phase I road program for restoration. Aqua has offered a contribution of \$215,250. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the bid. Mr. Molloy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Road Program – Motion to Accept Bid –He said the Township received bids for Phase I of the road program. The pricing was favorable, and the Township will be able to pave the base bid roads and the alternate bid roads. The low bidder was AF Damon in the amount of \$672,003 for the base and alternate. Mr. Garson read off the list of roads. O'Connor made a motion to accept the bid from AF Damon in the amount of \$672,003. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Chester Rd/Providence Rd signal pole replacement – approval of quote – He said the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 320 and Route 252 that was damaged. Unfortunately, the Township does not know when or how it was damaged. It appears something crashed into the pole, punctured it, and scraped it. PennDOT, along with the traffic signal electrical company, Charles Higgins and Sons, assessed that the pole and the support base needed to be replaced. They were concerned for the pole's integrity, citing another incident where a traffic signal pole failed and fell onto a vehicle in another community. Due to the concern for immediate safety at the intersection, the Township consulted with Solicitor Scott, and he was comfortable with proceeding with the work from Higgins. The Township has submitted a claim through our insurance trust. If that is not successful, the Township may be able to use Liquid Fuels funds. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$43,350.00. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Highway Report- Mr. O'Connor read a report from the Public Works Director, which included: Finishing Christmas tree pick up and starting the mulching process for mulch season. He said they received 93 PA One calls and seven emergency sewer calls.

Building and Zoning Committee Report -Marty Molloy

Nothing to report.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Events are listed on the Township website next one is on April 22nd at the Emergency Training Center in Sharon Hill and registration is required. The Community Arts Center is celebrating 75 Years. Tickets are available for the event on April 22nd on their website. Food Assistance Help is available on the Township website. A Bird Town event is happening Saturday, April 15th from 1-3 PM at the Township meeting room for a workshop on "How to Make your Back Yard Bird-Friendly".

Mr. Garson said the next meeting is on March 9, 2023. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 PM.