

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – April 13, 2023

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner McKenzie
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner Henry
Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Cooper

EXCUSED: Commissioner Molloy
Commissioner Barnes

ALSO PRESENT:

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

One member of the public was in the audience.

Ms. McKenzie chaired the meeting. She announced that Executive Session would be held after the public meeting.

Representative Krueger – Presentation of Grant Funding Awards

Representative Krueger presented the Township with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$739,600. The Township was awarded \$489,600 for the installation of an elevator at the Township Building and \$250,000 for “Walkable Wallingford” Providence Road sidewalks. Ms. McKenzie thanked Representative Krueger for her assistance in obtaining the grants for the Township.

Representative Krueger noted that her office would be happy to partner with the Township to try to convince PennDOT to provide funding for a traffic signal at Baltimore Pike and Turner Road. She said there is a website link where residents can submit concerns for PennDOT roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Approval of Minutes – Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the March 23, 2023 minutes. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-1, with Mr. Cooper abstaining as he was not present at the March 23 meeting.

Reorganization of Committees- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to reassign the Parks and Open space committee to Commissioner Henry and the Public Safety Committee to Commissioner Garson. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions: Ms. McKenzie noted there is an opening on the Zoning Hearing Board.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

Government Relations – Max Cooper

LSA Grant – Elevator Design Work – Mr. Cooper said the Township was awarded \$489,600 for the installation of an elevator and other accessibility improvements at the Township Building. Linn Architects prepared the design and budget for the application, and Bob Linn has agreed to maintain the engineering design quote from the budget in the amount of \$42,500. This would be paid through grant funding. Mr. Cooper made a motion to award Linn Architects the design and inspection work in the amount of \$42,500. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Parks and Open Space Committee Beth Henry

Hepford Park – Scope Amendment Request – Dugout Installations – Ms. Henry said the Township received funding last year from the Keystone Communities Program in the amount of \$148,000 for the installation of the playground and baseball field adjustments. After all expenses, there is still about \$20,000 available in funding. There had been discussions recently about doing dugouts at Hepford Park. Mr. Grady reached out to the DCED's grant administrator to see if the scope could be adjusted for dugouts and to extend the grant contract deadline, and they said it was possible. Two dugouts for the one field would cost about \$35,000, and Nether Swarthmore Baseball said they would cover the difference. Mr. Garson made a motion to adjust the Scope of the DCED grant to appropriate \$20,000 toward two dugouts at Hepford Park, contingent upon Solicitor Scott's satisfactory review. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Gouley Park Athletic Fields – Mr. Garson said the Township is continuing to discuss the possibility of a turf field at Gouley Park. SRA and NPAA have funding, along with the Township's remaining \$170,000 of funding. Additionally, the upper soccer fields were recently expanded through the addition of dirt. The Public Works Department, in particular Jim Boyer and Nick DiDomenico, have been doing an excellent job with the project. He said the two organizations will need to figure out a land-use agreement. He noted there are portions of a turf field installation that Public Works could handle.

Public Safety Committee Report- Matthew Garson

Wallingford-Swarthmore SD - MOU with police – Mr. Garson said the School Code requires that each local school/school district execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local police every 2 years. With personnel changes at the District, the school district is not sure when the last such agreement was completed. The PA Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools has created and periodically updates its "Model Memorandum of Understanding" that it makes available for this purpose. It also requires that where parties reach an agreement that changes the MOU that the parties outline the changes with the rationale for those changes. Solicitor Scott said the school district's solicitor has asked for additional time but they the MOU will be ready at the next meeting.

Waive electrical fees for Library Fire Alarm System – He said the Helen Kate Furness Library is making fire alarm system upgrades, at the recommendation of the Fire Marshal. They have asked that fees be waived for their project. It is expected that the permit fee would have been a couple of hundred dollars. Mr. Garson moved to waive the fees for the upgraded fire alarm system. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

ARLE Application – Preapplication Scoping – he said this is the Automated Red Light Enforcement program. Though the name of the program is red light enforcement, the Township would consider applying for funding for the traffic signal installation at Turner Road and Baltimore Pike. There is no match requirement for this program, so it will be competitive. We did not receive funding last year, and we suspect it is because PennDOT has said they feel the best action would be to ban left turns from Turner onto Baltimore Pike. The concern is that it will move traffic into the residential neighborhood. Mr. Garson made a motion for the pre-application scoping for the possible traffic signal at the intersection of Turner and Baltimore Pike. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

W. Rose Valley Road Speed Limit Reduction Request Consideration – He said in response to concerns from the neighbors, the NPPD did a speed study on W. Rose Valley Road and found that speeds were a bit elevated. 4% of enforceable violations in one study, 7% in another, and 85th percentile in the 42-43 mph range. It may be worth asking PennDOT to reduce the speed limit in this area to 25 mph or 30 mph would be options along with E. Rose Valley Road. Mr. Garson moved to submit a speed limit reduction request to PennDOT for E. Rose Valley Road and W. Rose Valley Road for 25 mph consideration of both those roads. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Finance and Administration Committee -Kait McKenzie

Phone System Quote – Ms. McKenzie said the Township has been using Vonage for its phone system since 2016. Recently, there have been issues with the service quality and customer service. The Township obtained a quote from our IT company, GO2 Technology in Springfield, who offers a voice-over-internet protocol (VOIP) system. Switching to GO2 offers two benefits: first, Vonage does not offer in-person customer service, so Township employees are left to troubleshoot with customer service over the phone. Second, GO2's monthly cost would be about \$300 less than

Vonage's. GO2 also found savings in service redundancy with Comcast, which is included in that \$300. The total monthly cost for the current phone system is \$1,344.87, and GO2's would be \$1,025.50. There would be an upfront cost of \$5,575.76, which we'd recover in savings over about a year and a half. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to switch our phone system provider to GO2 technology. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Financial Update – Mr. Grady provided a summary: the Township appears to be on budget for most of the expenses. For revenues, tax revenue is largely frontloaded, and the Township is at about 85% of the budget for collection. One revenue that has exceeded projections was interest, which is nearly at 100% of the approximately \$16,000 that was budgeted.

Community, Health, and Environment Report – Kait McKenzie

Summer Camp Registration Open – Ms. McKenzie said camp registration is open, and the Township has already received applications for about 135 campers. The cost is \$295 and runs from June 26th through July 27th from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. She noted the Township is still accepting counselor applications too.

Shade Tree Commission – Tree Planting Event 4/22 – She said the Shade Tree Commission has organized a tree planting event for April 22nd at Leiper Park and the Leiper House. The event starts at 10 AM. She asked for people to please come out and help plant trees.

April 28th Arbor Day Proclamation – She declared that April 28th is Arbor Day for the Township, which is a requirement for the Tree City certification. She read the official proclamation.

Bird Town Event 4/15 – She said the Bird Town PA Committee is hosting an event called “Making Your Back Yard Bird Friendly” on April 15th from 1:30 PM to 3 PM at the Township Building. Phil Witmer of the PA Audubon Society will be speaking. She asked the Board to please distribute to their wards.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee -Robert O'Connor

Time Extension and Scope Amendment – Providence Rd Sidewalk Project – Mr. O'Connor said the Board asked for an extension to the time period for the first grant agreement, which was set to expire on June 30th. He said the Township also asked to include the cost of acquiring the right-of-way in the project scope. The DCED/Commonwealth Financing Authority approved the requests. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Approval of 2022 Multimodal Grant Contract for Providence Road Sidewalk – He said the Township was recently awarded \$250,000 for sidewalks on Providence Road. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the contract with the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the construction of a sidewalk on Providence Road through the Multimodal Transportation Fund. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Transportation Alternatives Program – Federal Funding – He said this is the same federal program through which the Township received funding last year for a portion of Providence Road. Originally, the funding was awarded to construct the sidewalk from E. Rose Valley Road down to the Springhaven entrance, but PennDOT required the reconstruction of the bridge near Putters Lane. As such, the project scope was adjusted to start at Route 320 and continue to Waterford Way. This program could be used for a sidewalk on Providence, W. Rose Valley Rd, or Wallingford Ave. The Township would be responsible for the costs associated with getting the project to construction could be over \$200K. This may be difficult for the budget considering the Township will still have to finish funding the Route 320 to Waterford Way portion of Providence Road. The Board opted not to submit an application this round.

Parkridge Drive Sewer Repair – Mr. O'Connor read a memo prepared by the Township Engineer regarding the Parkridge Drive sewer: General Pipe Cleaning performed a video inspection of the storm and sanitary sewer crossing through the property at 817 Parkridge Dr to determine the cause of the settlement/sinkhole in the yard. Public Works had previously done some exploratory excavation to no avail. The video was done while water was pumped into the sinkhole. The cause of the sinkhole appears to be an open joint in the storm sewer. Both the sanitary and storm sewer showed early signs of failure with multiple cracks throughout. The recommendation is to excavate and repair the open joint, including the next joint upstream and downstream. The hole should be backfilled and compacted. The cost is estimated at \$12,500 but proposals from contractors can be obtained. The relining of the storm and sanitary sewer should be considered in the future. The cost for the storm sewer is estimated at \$60,000 and the sanitary sewer at \$25,000. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the Township engineer to start getting bids for repair of the sewer joints and bring them back to the Board. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Building and Zoning Committee Report -Kait McKenzie

Ground Solar Panel Array – Ms. McKenzie said the ordinance regarding solar panels and ground solar panel arrays has been created. The County Planning Commission will be reviewing it on April 20th. The ordinance sets regulations

for solar panels such as the height above the roof, proximity to property lines for ground arrays, and prohibition of ground arrays in front yards. She said this was informational.

424 Wallingford Ave Rezoning – She said this has been advertised and a public hearing will be held on May 23rd followed by the consideration of the ordinance for adoption.

April ZHB Agenda – Ms. McKenzie said there are three residential cases and one professional office district case for 606 E. Baltimore Pike for a dance studio. The 606 E. Baltimore Pike case is being continued to the May meeting.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said the summer meeting schedule is June 15th, July 10th, and August 13th. The CAT Club is having a clean-up this Saturday, April 15th on Providence Road.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on April 27th, 2023. The meeting was adjourned around 8:20 PM.