

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – September 28, 2023**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 28, 2023—Legislative Meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Robert Scott	Township Solicitor
Charles Catania	Township Engineer

EXCUSED: Commissioner Molloy

No members of the public were in attendance.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2023-** Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion which passed 4-0, with Ms. McKenzie and Mr. O'Connor abstaining.

Appointment of Conflicts Counsel- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve Rudolph Clarke, LLC. as conflicts counsel for usage in situations where the Township Solicitor has a conflict of interest. Mr. Garson seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

**SOLICITORS REPORT** – None

**ENGINEER REPORT-** Work on Woodward will start at the end of October.

**Government Relations** – Max Cooper

**Delco Greenways Grant Program Resolution** –Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the application for the Delco Green Ways Program for the extension of the Houston Park trail, the restoration of the bridge in Houston Park, and a connector path from the playing fields down into the wooded area of the park in the amount of \$252,000. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Program Opening Until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** - Mr. Cooper said the Board is continuing to explore options for the Local Share Account grant program. One option is for the installation of solar panels at the Township Building, the new Public Works wing, and the two fire companies.

**Parks & Open Space Committee-** Beth Henry

**Gouley Park Updates** – Mr. Garson said he has been in touch with SRA and Nether United Soccer, and it appears there is interest in having a land use agreement drafted. This does not guarantee that the partnership will happen, but it allows the three parties to discuss the terms of the land use agreement. Mr. Garson asked Mr. Scott to draft the terms of a land use agreement.

**Sapovits Park – Stormwater Bid Advertisement** – Mrs. Henry said the Township Engineer has prepared the bid documents for the Sapovits Park stormwater project. Bids will be opened in the days before the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the project will take place in the winter. Mrs. Henry made a motion to authorize the bid advertisement for the Sapovits Park stormwater project. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**Public Safety Committee Report**- Matt Garson

Towing Contract Review – Mr. Garson said the contract is being updated to make the fee schedule more transparent. Mr. Scott will be reviewing it.

Consideration of Ordinance of Intent of Taking of Right-of-Way – Mr. Garson made a motion to adopt ordinance 853 which expresses an intent to take private property by condemnation for a permanent easement and a temporary construction easement at 306 S. Providence Road for the construction of a sidewalk as authorized under the first-class township code, 53 p.s. § 57301 et seq., and the eminent domain code, 26 PA c.s. § 101, et seq. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Contribution to Media Fire Co. Consideration – He said as discussed during last year’s budget process, Media Fire Company is asking for a financial contribution from Nether Providence due to an increase in the advanced life support (ALS) services that Main Line Health is charging Media Fire. Media Fire has not asked for a specific amount from the Township, but \$30,000 was budgeted for 2023. They will be asking for a larger contribution for 2024, possibly in the range of \$60,000 to \$70,000. The Board discussed and agreed this is the best way to move forward for now. Long-term solutions will need to come from a more regional approach at the County or State levels. Mr. Garson moved to contribute \$30,000 to the 2023 Media Fire Company for help with advanced life support services. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Fire Relief Funding Distribution – He said the Township received \$110,870.61 for distribution to the fire companies’ fire relief associations. If split equally, both companies would receive \$55,435.31. Mr. Garson made a motion to distribute the fire relief funding in the amount of \$110,870.61 to South Media Fire Company and Garden City Fire Company in the amount of \$55,435.31 to each company. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**Finance and Administration Committee** -Kait McKenzie

Police Pension Committee Creation Consideration – Ms. McKenzie said Officer Liss has made a request to create a police pension committee so that the police can be a part of the advising for the pension plan. The Board would continue to have final authority on all pension decisions. Ms. McKenzie said the Board would await a formal request from the FOP.

Dandelion Digital Proposal – She said Dandelion Digital is a local social media and marketing company that could provide a monthly newsletter, website enhancements, social media postings, news web posts, and calls to action/forms. They handle these items for Media Borough, Upper Providence, and other communities in the area. They are based in Media Borough. She said the cost of the proposal is \$3,500 a month. Ms. McKenzie asked the board to think about it for next year's budget.

2024 Budget Meeting Schedule – She said the board will be meeting every Thursday through early December for the consideration of 2024. Some dates may not be needed, and those will be decided and announced closer to the date of the meeting.

Pension State Aid Distribution – Ms. McKenzie said the state pension aid was received in the amount of \$262,254.97, and this will be distributed to the two pension funds. This was about \$47,000 higher than the budgeted amount of \$215,000, so this is good news as it reduces the amount that the Township needs to contribute to the pension fund. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14 distributing the \$262,254.97 in state aid in the amount of \$186,492.42 to the police pension fund and \$75,762.55 to the non-uniform pension fund. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Bills List – Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the Bills list in the amount of:

A/P Procurement Card - TOTAL –\$38,110.26  
AP Interims List – TOTAL - \$314,838.52  
A/P Bills List TOTAL – \$41,939.04

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

**Community, Health, and Environment Report** – Shaina Barnes

MS4 Permit Submitted – Ms. Barnes said the Township’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System report for the year ended 6/30/23 has been prepared and submitted by Catania Engineering. This report documents the best practices for stormwater management, storm sewer outfalls, public education, and the remediation of contamination issues. This report needs to be submitted each year in order to be compliant with the permitting requirements.

**Infrastructure and Public Works Committee** – Robert O’Connor –

Mr. O’Connor said he had no items to report.

**Building and Zoning Committee Report** – Ms. McKenzie

ZHB Agenda for October – She said there are three residential cases on the docket and the continuation of the Pendle Hill case.

Delaware County Land Bank Consideration – Mr. Scott said the Delaware County Redevelopment Authority, through the Delaware County Council, has created a Land Bank. This Land Bank would acquire blighted properties, and each of the taxing authorities would agree to release the liens on the property. While the Land Bank is in possession of the property, the taxing authorities would not receive taxes for the property, and the municipality would be responsible for maintaining the outside of the property. Once the Land Bank is able to restore the property to a taxable use, half of the taxes collected on the property will go to the land bank for a period of 5 years unless the property goes to a municipal use. The conflicts counsel, Rudolph Clarke LLC, will be reviewing the documents.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT** – David Grady

Mr. Grady said the Manchester Road bridge is being replaced and will be closed for the next 12-18 months. Family Fun Day is October 7<sup>th</sup> at Strath Haven Middle School from noon to 3 PM. More information is on our website, and volunteers are still needed. He said there is a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Upper Chichester municipal building. Registration is required, and the link is available on the Township website. He mentioned that the Delaware County Health Department was offering several upcoming screenings: free senior-focused vaccination program for Delco residents 60 plus - registration is required for the event on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm. The health department is also giving free mammogram screenings at the wellness center in Yeadon on October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM to 3 PM. There is a drive through the flu shot clinic, free for 3 and up. The Penn State Fall Festival is on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 3 PM at Smedley Park, and a Bird Town Committee member will have a table there. Due to construction at the public works garage, the yard waste drop-off will be closed until after the new year. Staff thank you: Carl Schaefer for his work on the Martha Burton Park playground arrangement; John Kalwaic for his work on making the Township more digitalized with administrative work and permits. Officer Kevin Smith with his work with his classic police vehicle and the maintenance of all the police vehicles.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on October 5th, 2023. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 PM.