

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – October 26, 2023

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October 26th, 2023—Legislative Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner Cooper
Commissioner Garson
Commissioner McKenzie

ALSO PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED:

Commissioner O'Connor
Commissioner Molloy
Commissioner Henry

12 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:

Kathy Dolphin of the first block of Blackthorn Road and Kelly Munsell of the 400 block of Woodward Road represented the Delco Dills pickleball group, and they thanked the Board of Commissioners for all their efforts with attempting to create a public pickleball location at Creekside Swim Club. Ms. Dolphin asked for suggestions and the next steps from the Board. Ms. McKenzie said the first phase for Gouley is to finish the field and land agreement. Once the field is in and they assess parking and if the area can handle more activity, the Board will look into the possibility of installing pickleball courts. The Dills asked about other open spaces in the Township and Ms. McKenzie said water issues at Smedley Park and Sapovits Park cause them to be bad options for courts. The Dills asked why athletic fields were going in at Gouley when there were already fields for these sports. Ms. McKenzie said the athletic field will be helping hundreds of families. She also said along with grant money, soccer is putting in money to help make the project possible. Mr. Garson reiterated Ms. McKenzie's points and noted that these plans have been in place since the Summit Committee was formed back in 2018. Ms. Munsell said pickleball is the fastest growing sport and asked why a plan from several years ago is still relevant. The Board agreed to move forward with the current plan and consider pickleball again at a later date.

Public Safety Committee Report by Matt Garson

Quiet Zone Request – Wallingford Train Station – Mr. Garson said several neighbors from the area around the Wallingford Train have requested that a quiet zone be studied. He said we do not know what the cost of a study would be, so the Board could consider directing the staff to do an RFP for a study.

Public Comment: Caroline DiMatteo of Church Road - She said the quiet zone would help with safety issues and tranquility. She noted that the addition of the two extra gates could increase the safety for pedestrians and vehicles. She also said that the first train of the day comes through around 5 AM and the last train of the day comes through just before 1 AM, which leaves just about four hours where there are no train horns. Mr. Garson said as the Township has many projects in the pipeline at this time there is no money to put towards this study. He also recommended watching to see what other municipalities are doing with quiet zones along the Media Wawa Line. Ms. McKenzie said they will add this project to the ongoing project consideration list.

Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2023- Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the October 12th meeting minutes. Mr. Garson seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

Funded Organization Presentations –

NPAA- Wrestling- Chelsey Berger: The club has tripled its membership in the past three years. They have 115 kids this year with an added girls-only wrestling room. The club is asking for \$4,000, which is an increase from \$1,500 last year. She said the bulk of expenses are renting the space from the school district, who requires that a janitorial staff member be there during the rental times.

Nether-Swarthmore Hoops- Amy Strachan, the Executive Director for Swarthmore Recreation Association, said one-third of the SRA budget goes towards the Nether-Swarthmore Hoops program. She also said of the 490 kids signed up, two-thirds are Nether Providence residents. They're asking for a \$500 increase for a total of \$3,500 for renting space and keeping registration at the same price.

Ms. McKenzie said the Township may be able to assist in communications with the school district for both clubs.

Garden City Fire Company- President Lou DiDomenico and Chief Pat O'Rourke were present. Mr. DiDomenico said there is a \$7,800 deficit so far for 2023. The largest expenses are truck maintenance and gas/electric costs. The fire company asked for an increase of \$6,000 for a total of \$69,000 for the 2024 budget. He asked for the township to consider using ARPA funds to help fund building the storage garage behind the station. The fire company already has \$40,000 for the \$70,000 total cost of the project. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to allocate \$15,000 to fund the storage garage from ARPA Funds. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Government Relations – Max Cooper

Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Program Opening Until Nov. 30th - Mr. Cooper said the Township is exploring the idea of solarizing the Township Building, the Public Works Garage, and the fire companies. The Township is resuming conversations with Solarize Delco to explore the project costs and plans.

Parks & Open Space Committee- Kait McKenzie

Playground Disposal/Donation Resolution – She said the old playground at Martha Burton Park was removed last week, and while it is estimated to be at least 20 years old, it is still in decent condition. Mr. Grady did research on GovDeals, Municibid, and Ebay, and it appears that the playground does not have much value, probably not more than a couple of hundred dollars. There is a Montessori school in Upper Darby that is willing to pick up the equipment and use it. If the Board is agreeable to donating the equipment or selling it at minimal cost this may end up saving on disposal costs. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve resolution 2023-14 in regard to the sale or donation of Martha Burton Community Park's old playground equipment. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Finance and Administration Committee -Kait McKenzie

Lease for new wide-format copier – She said for years, the administrative staff has struggled with making copies of plans, scanning plans, or printing plans. The proposed wide-format copiers would solve those problems, and it would allow us to begin digitizing plans, thus reducing the need for maintaining paper copies. Additionally, if the staff want to make copies of plans, they have to make several smaller copies and tape them together, which is difficult to get just right. A three-year lease on a basic wide-format copier would be \$489 a month. A five-year lease would be \$355 a month but more expensive in the long term. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the three-year lease on a basic wide-format copier for \$489 a month. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

2024 Budget Meeting Schedule – Ms. McKenzie reminded the Board that they will be meeting on November 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 30th and December 7th and 14th.

2024 Budget Drafted – She said a draft is available in the materials for the Commissioners. The first reading of the budget will occur on November 9th.

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

A/P Bills List TOTAL – \$355,417.12

AP Interims List – TOTAL - \$438,438.56

A/P Procurement Card - TOTAL –\$36,012.51

Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Community, Health, and Environment Report – Shaina Barnes

Plastic Bag Ordinance Advertised – She said the ordinance is advertised for the November 9th meeting. The EAC will be discussing the ordinance at their November 1st meeting. Ms. McKenzie said she and Mr. Grady would go out and speak to the businesses affected by the new ordinance.

Electronics Recycling and Shredding Event 11/18 at SHHS – MS. Barnes said the Township, Media Borough, and Swarthmore Borough are hosting an event at Strath Haven High School on November 18th from 9 AM to 1 PM. The event was moved to the high school in an effort to better handle the traffic volumes. Most electronics are free, but TVs/monitors have a fee based on size and type. Please see the flyer for more information.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – Kait McKenzie

Funding for Public Works Garage – She said the Township’s Public Works Garage addition was bid at \$1,187,000, which was significantly higher than the \$600,000 that was set aside from American Rescue Plan Act Funds. This was due to unforeseen utility and site issues after the original cost estimate. Additional funding of approximately \$587,000 is needed to cover the cost. The Township obtained a pro forma from Delaware Valley Regional Financing Authority for a 20-year \$600,000 loan. The estimated annual payment for the first three years is just under \$28,000, and it increases to around \$51,000 for the remainder of the loan term. The interest rate as of last week was 4.492%. The board decided to vote on this at the next meeting with more Commissioners attending.

Enterprise Fleet Management Proposal – Mr. Grady said he had a meeting with Enterprise Fleet Management to look at our vehicle replacement schedule. They work with other municipalities such as Aston, West Chester Borough, Upper Merion, and Chester County. They’re proposing a model where the Township would lease vehicles with no restrictions on upfitting, maintenance, etc. with a more frequent turnover than what we currently do. The Township has trucks that are 10-15 years old, and maintenance is becoming an issue. The idea is to re-sell the vehicles while they still have value and before they need a lot of repairs. Enterprise purchases in bulk directly from the manufacturers, so they are able to provide savings over the dealer markups. There is no long-term commitment to Enterprise. They use a program called Sourcewell, which is similar to COSTARS in that it allows for the competitive purchasing of vehicles and remains in compliance with PA procurement laws. Solicitor Scott, in his preliminary research, believes Sourcewell would comply. We would also like him to confirm that the reselling of the vehicles would be compliant with First Class Township Code. Enterprise estimates that following their program would generate savings of \$261,000 over the next ten years. Plus, the Township would have a more current fleet of vehicles. The Board asked if Enterprise could attend a meeting to discuss the program.

Building and Zoning Committee Report – Kait McKenzie

Delaware County Land Bank Consideration – She said the Delaware County Redevelopment Authority, through 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. Samantha Newell of Rudolph Clarke, as the conflicts solicitor, has reviewed the documents and has no concerns. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the Redevelopment Authority related to Delaware Land Bank. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Solar Panel Ordinance – County Comments – Mr. Grady said the County came back with comments. They agreed with the 6ft off-the-ground amendment. They also cautioned against allowing solar panels on historical buildings. Since the Township does not designate historical properties, this would not apply. Two advertisements need to happen, along with a public hearing, and the ordinance can be voted on at the November 16th meeting.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady expressed his gratitude to all the Family Fun Day donors, including William E Howe & Co, DJ Brookhaven Auto Wash, Albert Federico Consulting LLC, A to U Services, Kevin Crowley Builders, Catania Engineering, Global Security, Robert W. Scott Esq, Miller Greenhouses, Portnoff Law Associates, Go2 Technologies, PECO, Wawa, and C-Biz. He also announced that the Halloween decorating contest will take place this year, and interested individuals can contact the office to be added to the judging list. The Curbside Leaf Collection schedule is available on the township website and Facebook page, with a reminder not to place leaves in the street for safety reasons and to avoid including sticks, only leaves. Additionally, the Township recently received a \$150,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant fund for the Garden City resurfacing project. There's a reminder that Yard Waste Drop-off is closed. Delaware County Ballot Drop-Boxes are open, with their locations provided on the website. Lastly, there are staff appreciations for Officer Worrell, who is pursuing a degree in criminal justice while working

full time and serving in the military, Mona Price for her work on the newsletter, and Steve Gavaghan for his contributions to the township building's front walkway decorations and gardening, which have received much positive feedback.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on November 2nd, 2023. The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 PM.