

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP –December 21, 2023**

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

### **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Cooper  
Commissioner Garson  
Commissioner O'Connor  
Commissioner Molloy  
Commissioner Henry  
Commissioner Barnes

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Dave Grady	Township Manager
Tiffany Griffin	Solicitor (for Robert Scott)
Charles Catania	Township Engineer
Chief Splain	Police Chief

Commissioner Garson chaired the meeting until Commissioner McKenzie's arrival.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December November 2, 2023 and November 30, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There was no public comment.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – Mr. Scott had nothing to report.

**ENGINEER REPORTE-** Mr. Catania said all matters will be covered later during meeting.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPORT** – Max Cooper

#### **Community Development Block Grant Hearing**

Mr. Cooper announced that this was the public hearing for the 2024. Mr. Grady explained the activities eligible for grant funding and that Garden City Manor is eligible for infrastructure improvements. He explained the Priority Project proposed for submission that includes road resurfacing of the remaining streets in Garden City Manor. He also explained the secondary option of the Hepford Park upgrade which would include upgrading the parking lot, batting cages, dugouts and snack bar. A paving project in Garden City Manor would be the third round of road resurfacing funding. A secondary project could be improvements within Hepford Park.

Mr. Garson said he would like to continue with paving the roads in Garden City Manor. Commssioner Barnes and Commissioner Cooper agreed. Commissioner Henry suggested applying for a primary and secondary project.

There was discussion with Engineer Charles Catania about the parking lot at Hepford Park, whether to expand or upgrade. Other considerations included lighting, sidewalks, snack bar building improvements, concrete pad, painting, batting cages, dugouts and snack bar improvements.

#### **CDBG Resolution**

Commissioner Cooper moved to approve Resolution 2023-20, to apply for the 2024 PY CDBG program, and endorsed submitting for the priority project as the completion of the paving of roads at Garden City Manor and the alternate project as the improvements at Hepford Park. Ms. Barnes seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT** – Beth Henry

**Update on Sapovits Park stormwater Project**– estimates came in higher than expected. Rescoping is required. The Township Engineer recommends vegetated swale project at around \$277,000, which could reduce sedimentation issues. Commissioner McKenzie arrived at the meeting at this time.

If there is interest in rescoping, the project should be re-bid. Ms. Henry made a recommendation to reject the bid, and Mr. Garson seconded. The motion passed 6-0. Ms. McKenzie abstained as she was not there at the start of the discussion. Ms. Henry moved to rebid the water quality and vegetated swale project for Sapovits Park. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 7-0.

Hepford Park – Mural Paintings - Ms. McKenzie noted that she and Township have been trying to find someone to do a mural at Hepford Park. She has reached out to the Media Arts Council. The quote is approximately \$5000 which would include materials and also a small fee for the artists. The quote was for the snack bar and container; however, the container is being rented so she will get back to the Media Arts Council and ask for an updated quote for the entire snack bar.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT-** Matt Garson

##### Providence Road/Leslie Lane – Flashing Light Signs for Ped Crossing

Mr. Garson said the Township recently added a crosswalk on Providence Road at the intersection of Leslie Lane, and the residents would also like flashing pedestrian crossing signs. He said the signs cost about \$800 each, and one would be needed in each direction on Providence Road.

Mr. Cooper agreed that it is a good idea. Mr. Garson moved to approve the installation of flashing pedestrian crossing signs on Providence Road at Leslie Lane. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

There was discussion about the enforceability of crosswalks and whether or not an ordinance would be needed. Ms. Griffin said that an ordinance would be needed.

##### Left Turn Ban from SHMS onto Providence Road

Mr. Garson moved to add the discussion of the ordinance to ban the left turn out of the Middle School between 7 AM and 9 AM onto Providence Rd. Ms. McKenzie seconded, and the motion to add the item to the agenda carried 7-0. Mr. Garson noted the ordinance was advertised, and he moved to adopt ordinance 857 to prohibit left turns from Stackhouse Lane at the Middle School onto Providence Road between the hours of 7 AM and 9 AM. Ms. McKenzie seconded. The motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Molloy opposing.

#### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT** – Kaitlin McKenzie

Ms. McKenzie provided an overview of the bills on the bills list. Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve the

- Procurement Card Bills List in amount of \$50,128.45
- AP Interim Funds in the amount of \$57,273.55
- AP Bills in the amount of \$355,260.73.

Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Bonus Payments - Ms. McKenzie said the Board of Commissioners wrote bonuses into Chief Splain and the Township Manager's contracts, and those bonuses would be paid at the discretion of the Board. For Chief Splain, his bonus is contingent upon the police department remaining accredited, which they have. Mr. Garson noted that both employees did not ask for the bonuses, but the bonuses are deserved. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to provide a bonus of \$5,000 to Chief Splain and \$4,000 to the Township Manager. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Resolution Setting the annual Sewer Rate - The sewer rate rental charge is being increased by 3.1% to reflect the increased treatment costs with DELCORA and CDCA. The amount is being raised to \$688.00 per unit for 2024. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-21 setting rate at \$688 per EDU. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution Setting Recycling Rate – Ms. McKenzie noted that recycling collection was rebid in the prior year, and the rate for 2024 would be about 10% more for collection. She made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-22 setting the recycling fee at \$105 annually, a 6% increase per property. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

2024 Budget - Ms. McKenzie said that one of the last items to cover for 2024's budget is the funded organizations. She said South Media Fire Company is asking for a \$3,000 increase from \$63,000 to \$66,000, and Garden City Fire Company is asking for a \$5,000 increase from \$63,000 to \$68,000. The Board agreed to provide both companies with the same amount, although Mr. Molloy noted that he did not think both fire companies, since they are differently-sized, should receive the same amount. The other organizations, such as wrestling, had asked for small increases. Ms. McKenzie read the figures for the general fund.

General Government	\$1,053,603.04
Public Safety	\$3,969,239.76
Codes and Inspections	\$298,453.02
Recycling and Waste	\$449,884.98
Public Works/Highway	\$1,586,535.02
Recreation/Parks	\$269,083.50
Debt Service	\$417,106.00
Insurance	\$439,189.00
Grant Matches and Misc.	<u>\$193,000.00</u>
	\$8,676,094.32

Mr. Grady did a presentation with the budgetary highlights.

Ms. McKenzie made a motion to adopt the 2024 budget. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion carried 7-0. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to adopt ordinance 858, setting the 2024 millage rate at 3.4596 mills on each thousand dollars of assessed value. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

**COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT** - Shaina Barnes

Grant Funding Awarded for Henry Lane Stormwater/Water Quality – Ms. Barnes said the Township was recently awarded \$450,225 in H2O Funding through the DCED/Commonwealth Financing Authority for stormwater improvements along Henry Lane. The Township is grateful to Representative Krueger and Senator Kane for their support and advocacy for this project. A match of about \$250,000 is needed, and this may be funded through American Rescue Plan Act Funding.

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT** - Robert O’Connor

Public Works Foreman Position – The Board of Commissioners has agreed to create a Foreman position within the Public Works Department. After interviewing several very-qualified internal candidates, the Board promoted Carl Schaefer to the Foreman role. Mr. O’Connor, Mr. Garson, and Ms. Henry expressed their appreciation towards of the candidates and shared their confidence in Mr. Schaefer. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to appoint Carl Schaefer to the role of Foreman. Mr. Garson seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

**BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT** - Marty Molloy

Media Walk Escrow Release #22 – Charles has reviewed and recommended its approval. Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve the escrow release in the amount of \$26,578.79. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, and it carried 7-0.

35 Waterford Way – Subdivision Consideration for Approval. This item was tabled as the owner was no longer available for the meeting.

19 and 21 Willow Road Escrow Release – Lee and Erika Arters have completed the work for 19 and 21 Willow Road properties, and Mr. Catania has recommended that the \$2,500 escrows for each lot be released. Mr. Molloy made a motion to approve the escrows for 19 and 21 Willow Road in the amount of \$2,500 for each property. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Ms. McKenzie thanked Commissioner Molloy for his three and half years of service to the Township as Commissioner, and she listed several projects that he spearheaded. Each of the Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Commissioner Molloy, who thanked the Board for their support.

**Manager Report**

He said the Leiper House had a very successful holiday season, and he said Angela Hewett had put a significant amount of work into making that happen. He thanked Marianne Leamy for jumping in to assist with the bookkeeping while Jessica DelGrosso is on maternity leave. He thanked the entire Public Works Department for their hard work during the fall leaf season. He also thanked Sergeant Montgomery for his efforts towards the police department’s social media presence.

The meeting was adjourned around 9 PM.