

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – February 8, 2024

A public meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township was called to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 8, 2024—Workshop Meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED:

Commissioner Carbone

3 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

Committee Openings- Parks, Shade Tree, and EAC

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Garson made a motion to approve the January 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Ms. Henry seconded the motion which passed 3-0, and Ms. Barnes, Mr. Cooper, and Ms. McKenzie abstained.

SOLICITORS REPORT – None

ENGINEER REPORT- None

Government Relations Report- Max Cooper

Approval of County Agreement – Mr. Cooper said the Township has received a grant for \$250,000 to go towards the streambank restoration and trail creation in Houston Park. Solicitor Scott has reviewed the agreement. Work is expected to proceed later in 2024 or early 2025. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the grant. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Parks & Open Space Committee- Beth Henry

Sapovits Park – Ms. Henry said the Re-bid Stormwater Project Bids are Due February 15th. This is the rebid of the rescope stormwater project.

Public Safety Committee Report – Matt Garson

Strathmore Court Parking Restrictions Consideration –He said the Township has received a request from the Strathmore Court homeowners’ association to restrict parking on Strathmore Court during school hours. The HOA president wrote, “I see that other neighborhoods near the local schools have no parking or 2-hour parking signs. Is that

something that Strathmore Court can have? In the last year, we have seen an increase in the number of non-resident cars parking throughout our neighborhood during school days. With regular trash and recycling, deliveries and the simple volume of people using the cul-de-sac to turn around (even with the no outlet sign), it is getting harder and more challenging for us residents, particularly the children, to navigate the street.” Ms. McKenzie asked the Chief to check in with the school and talk to them about the issue as there is limited parking on school grounds, which pushes them to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Finance and Administration – Ms. McKenzie

Delaware County Tax Claim Bureau – She said, like many municipalities in the area, Nether Providence uses Portnoff Law Associates for delinquent real estate tax collection, as opposed to using the County’s Tax Claim Bureau. Legally, the County is permitted to demand a 5% commission on the delinquent taxes, even if the County was not the party collecting the taxes. The County had not historically demanded the 5% commission, but the County has changed its stance. She noted that there is the option of including the 5% County commission on top of the other fees for the delinquent taxpayer or net it out of the delinquent tax collections. She said it would be about a \$4,000 expense to the Township if it were netted out and not added to the delinquent claims. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve adding the County’s 5% commission to delinquent claims. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Public Works Garage Loan – Ms. McKenzie said the Public Works Garage construction is coming along, and now that the outstanding grants have been announced for other American Rescue Plan Act Funds, the Township will have to allocate a significant portion of the remaining ARPA funds towards the matches for grant awarded projects, such as Henry Lane. As such, the loan will be needed. For a 15-year fixed rate loan, the interest rate is 3.680% with about a \$52,000 a year interest and principal payment. A 20-year loan would have a rate of about 3.869% and about \$42,000 a year in interest and principal payment. She said the rates won’t be locked until the debt ordinance is passed. Mr. Cooper asked about a debt structure that would delay the payment of principal until upcoming debt was paid off in 2027, which would allow for level debt service payments.

Public Works Garage Loan – Resolution for Reimbursement – She said the Board will need to pass a resolution to allow for reimbursement of funds that have already been expended for the project. This allows the Township to seek construction costs as far back as 60 days, but there are no time restrictions for engineering and architectural fees. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2, declaring the official intent of the Township of Nether Providence to reimburse expenditures for certain capital projects from the proceeds of general obligation notes that the township expects to issue within the next twelve months and that declares the intent of the township to comply with the reimbursement regulations of the internal revenue code. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Community, Health, and Environment Report – Ms. Barnes

H2O PA Grant Agreement Approval – Henry Lane – She said the Township received a grant of \$450,225 through the H2O PA Grant program for the installation of storm drains on Henry Lane. Solicitor Scott has reviewed the agreement. This grant requires a 34% match (about \$232,000), which is scheduled to come from the ARPA funding. Mrs. Barnes made a motion to accept the grant agreement. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

WRPP Houston Park Streambank Restoration Grant Agreement Approval – Mrs. Barnes said the Township received a grant of \$150,000 through the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program for streambank restoration in Houston Park. This grant requires a 15% match (about \$26,000). Solicitor Scott has reviewed the agreement. Mrs. Barnes made a motion to accept the agreement. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Grant Opportunity – She said this is a grant opportunity that could be used for a variety of items, such as streambank restoration, to help offset the MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan requirements. Grant applications are due March 21st. Possible projects could be the continuation of Houston Park streambank restoration or Furness Park streambank restoration. Ms. McKenzie asked Mr. Catania to provide a list of his recommendations at the next meeting.

Infrastructure and Public Works Committee – Mr. O’Connor

2024 Road Program – Bids Due February 15th – He said the 2024 Road Program is out for bid, and information about the project can be found on PennBid.

Authorize CDBG Bid Advertisement – The Township was awarded funding through the 2023 CDBG program, and the Township should move to authorize bidding for the project. Mr. O’Connor made a motion to authorize the advertisement for the bidding. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Building and Zoning Committee Report – Ms. McKenzie

Media Walk – Deed of Dedication for Sewers; Escrow Release – Mr. Catania asked for this to be addressed at the next meeting.

Pendle Hill Zoning Case Withdrawn – She said Pendle Hill has withdrawn its application for a use-variance to hold weddings at its site. However, this does not preclude them from submitting a future variance request.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady said PECO had a virtual meeting for Ward 3 residents to inform them of tree trimming and removal that will be done to modernize lines for users. The Township will get replacements for the trees. More information can be found on our website along with the PECO contact. DELCO is searching for any Centenarians who are turning 100 years old this year for an event. Household Hazardous Waste event on Saturday, April 20th at Emergency Services Training Center. Registration opens 4-6 weeks in advance. The CRC Annual cleanup is March 16th at Smedley Park. 1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill 19079. There will be an E-recycling and shredding event March 23rd at the Strath Haven High School Brookhaven parking lot. No registration is required, and fees may apply for certain electronics. A moment of silence was held for the loss of Code Enforcement Officer Rich Haywood's mother, who is also the grandmother of Carl Schaefer in the Public Works Department. Thank you's: Ryan McClellan our new employee training as the new Administrative Assistant with the retirement of AnneMarie Cooke in early March. From public works, Ryan Smith and John Ellis for solving a complex issue involving a sinkhole due to drainage issues. Officer Bob Brake was involved in a confrontation and pursuit involving drug use in a train station parking lot. It involved car a ramming into Officer Brakes' patrol car. Everyone commended Officer Brake for his bravery.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on February 22, 2024. The meeting was adjourned around 8:10 PM.