

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP – August 8th, 2024**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

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

#### **EXCUSED:**

Commissioner Henry

6 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:**

Richard Bartkowski - Rogers Lane: He said he has been watching the development of the new field at Gouley and is happy with the results. Since the sports being played on the fields are not 12 months/7 days a week, he wants to know why the Township cannot repaint the pickleball court lines on the upper parking lot. Ms. McKenzie gave an overview of the multiple discussions and conversations over the past several years on ways to accommodate pickleball. She also stated there are concerns of safety with pickleball being played in the parking lot while the two fields are in use. Mr. Bartkowski said he went over to Sapovits Park to look at the spot where the two pickleball courts will be painted and expressed his concern about the lack of parking there. He said he is just asking the Board to allow the upper parking lot to be used for pickleball when the turf field is not being used. Mr. Garson said the work on the courts is scheduled to begin on September 9th at Sapovits. He also explained that the use of the upper lot is not completely out of the question. The Board simply wants to see how busy the parking lot will be with the anticipated usage of the Gouley turf field.

#### **Committee Openings- Parks, Shade Tree, and EAC**

Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve Christopher Mano to be appointed to the EAC Committee. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**Approval of Minutes-** Ms. McKenzie motioned to approve the minutes for July 11, 2024, Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0 with Ms. Barnes abstaining.

**SOLICITORS REPORT** – None

**ENGINEER REPORT-** None

**Government Relations Report-** Max Cooper

**Municipal Assistance Grant Program – Fire Study** – Mr. Cooper said Nether Providence and Swarthmore have issued an RFP for a fire services study which can be found on the PennBid website. Related to that, Maureen Feyas found that the DCED's Municipal Assistance Program can provide up to 50% funding for a fire services study. The grant is

due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cooper made a motion to apply for the DCED's Municipal Assistance Program for a fire study. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

#### **Parks & Open Space Committee-** Kait McKenzie

Gouley Park – Setting Policies for Protecting Synthetic Turf Field – Ms. McKenzie said as discussed at the last meeting, the Township is looking to put policies in place to protect the soon-to-be-installed synthetic turf field. Ms. Mckenize made a motion to approve the “Policies for Protecting Synthetic Turf Field at Gouley Park”. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Sapovits Park – quotes for path installation from upper courts to lower fields – Ms. McKenzie said the Township has received several quotes for the installation of the path from the upper courts to the lower fields at Sapovits Park. The quote the Township received from LJ Paoella, the contractor who won the low bid for the lower court resurfacing, is for \$122,377.85. The already-approved costs for the lower court are \$40,300. As this is a 50% reimbursement grant, if the Township were to accept the proposal, the Township would need to fund about \$90,000 of the total project, after factoring in engineering costs as well. Initially, the Township was looking to use labor as the non-cash match, but Public Works does not currently have the availability to do the project along with the already-planned Leiper-Smedley Trail improvement. She suggested allocating the grant funds to other projects at Sapovits, such as for the softball field, multi-use courts, etc. while putting the path on hold for now. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to direct Mr. Grady to reach out to DCNR and see about redirecting the funds from the DCNR C2P2 grant to different projects. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Netting for Gouley Turf Field – Cost Proposal – Ms. McKenzie said the Township obtained a quote from Recreation Resource, a COSTARS vendor, for the netting installation at the turf new field at Gouley Park. The cost of the netting is \$21,133, which is over the estimated \$8,000. The proposed netting can withstand soccer balls and lacrosse balls. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to approve the purchase of netting for the Gouley Turf field from Recreation Resource for \$21,133.00. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Dugouts for Hepford and Bullens Parks – Cost Proposal – The township received a quote from Recreation Resource, a COSTARS vendor, for the dugout structures at Hepford Park Field 2 and Bullens Lane Park. The quote of \$38,250 falls in line with the budget. The total expected costs are around \$70,662, and the grant amount is for \$67,323. Ms. McKenzie made a motion to accept the proposal for the dugouts in the amount of \$38,250 from Recreation Resource. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

#### **Public Safety Committee Report** – Matthew Garson

**Mr. Garson congratulated the Police department on their accreditation for the third year and the huge accomplishment that is.**

Officer Coverdale – Pay Rate Increase for Past Service – Mr. Garson said Officer Coverdale was recently reappointed to the police force. Officer Coverdale had 8 years of prior experience with the Township's police department before leaving for a year and then being reappointed. The Board is ratifying increasing Officer Coverdale's base patrolman rate to 100%, as opposed to the 70% rate of an inexperienced starting officer. Mr. Garson made a motion to increasing Officer Coverdale's base patrolman rate to 100%, as opposed to the 70% rate of an inexperienced starting officer. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

#### **Finance and Administration Committee Report** by Kaitlin McKenzie

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

AP Interims List – \$312,386.84

A/P Procurement Card - \$41,499.49

A/P Bills List- \$1,077,886.43

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

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

Yard Waste Bidding – She said the Township has a request for bidding for yard waste collection. It has been advertised as well as sent to local haulers. The bids will be opened on September 11, 2024, at 11 AM. Information is available on the website.

Lighting Ordinance Draft Consideration – a draft of the lighting ordinance is available. Changes were made based on feedback from the Commissioners and the EAC. The board decided to have Solicitor Scott review the Ordinance before voting.

Consideration of Adoption of 2024 Property Maintenance Code – Ms. Barnes said as discussed at a prior meeting, the Board would like to update its property Maintenance Code to the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code. Ms.

Barnes made a motion to adopt the Property Maintenance Code to the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

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

**Sanitary Sewer Line Root Control Program Proposal** – He said annually, the Township has had Duke's Root Control, a COSTARS company, come in and treat roots in the sanitary sewers. Tree roots can break through the sewer lines and cause blockages, so the treatment kills the roots without harming the trees (and it is DEP approved.) This treatment is good preventive maintenance for the sewer system, so Mr. Grady asked Duke's to prepare a five-year plan for the Township to treat the over 42,000 linear feet of lines, that, since 2008, had been treated for roots. There is a 3-year warranty with the treatments, so this plan would ensure that the lines are always under warranty. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the 2024 treatment amount, not to exceed \$46,000, for Duke's Root Control. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Aqua contribution offer – Aqua has offered \$151,000 to cover the cost of repaving: E Possum Hollow, Dale Lane, Cricket Lane, Sykes Lane, and Avondale Road. Mr. Catania has recommended that this proposal be accepted. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the Aqua offer for \$151,000. Mr. Garson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Repaving program- repaving: E Possum Hollow, Dale Lane, Cricket Lane, Sykes Lane, and Avondale Road. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to put out bids for paving E Possum Hollow, Dale Lane, Cricket Ave, Sykes Lane, and Avondale Road. Ms. McKenzie seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Building and Zoning Committee Report- Candice Carbone

August ZHB Agenda – no items on the August agenda

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT – David Grady

Mr. Grady asked the Board if he could accept the salt bid for the year and would be ratified at the next meeting as there will be savings. He said Par Recycling which does our electronic recycling events reached out and asked if the Township would be interested in a small e-recycling drop-off bin that could be hosted at the public works garage. The bin is the size of a clothing donation drop-off bin, for a price of \$2,000.00. The board supported the idea. Martha Burton Park playground opening is set for August 10th at 10 AM. Mr. Grady thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work in getting the playground and park ready for the dedication this Saturday. Thank you to the Police Department's Rose Quinn for helping find shelters for 4 stray dogs in the township. Thank you to Olivia Mudrick, the Township's summer intern, as she worked tirelessly on the comprehensive plan along with other projects.

Ms. McKenzie said the next meeting is on September 12, 2024. The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 PM.