

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 17, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Executive Session:

- a) No executive session was held prior to this evening's meeting.

2) Public Meeting: Call to Order

- a) Chairman Sassu called the public meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Armed Forces Tribute:

- a) Mr. Dunbar explained that this presentation was created for a past Township holiday celebration to salute those serving in the Armed Forces. With a background of "A Soldiers Silent Night," pictures submitted by Township staff of friends and family who have or are serving in the Armed Forces were used in the video. Mr. Dunbar noted this has been tailored to 2009, and requested that everyone keep our Armed Forces in mind during the holiday season.
- b) Chairman Sassu commented that he always tries to acknowledge our military personnel and asked everyone to remember those serving overseas.

5) Roll Call:

- a) The following members were present: Supervisors Altieri, Dininny, and Sassu.
- b) Supervisors Brown & DiPaolo were absent.
- c) Also present were Solicitor David Onorato, Township Engineer John Chambers, Police Chief Francis Carroll, Director of Public Works David Shaffer, Accounting Manager Susan Law, Human Resources Coordinator Geri Golas, Parks & Recreation Director Karl Lukens, Code Enforcement Manager Tom Heisner, Project Analyst Nate Dysard, Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, Administrative Assistant Casey Snyder, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

6) Consent Agenda:

- a) **MOTION** – Supervisor Dininny made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion.
 - i) Supervisor Altieri commented that she would abstain from approval of the November 19, 2009 meeting minutes, as she was not at that meeting. Mr. Onorato noted that they could not approve the consent agenda if Mrs. Altieri abstains, and that she can vote to approve the minutes even if she was not at that meeting. Mrs. Altieri withdrew her abstention.
 - ii) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.

7) Proposed 2010 Budget / Fee Schedule:

- a) A resolution adopting the 2010 budget and appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purpose of the municipal government:
 - i) Ms. Law explained that a budget workshop was held on October 20, 2009. That budget was advertised November 5, 2009 but subsequently modified. The budget was modified and authorized for re-advertised on November 19, 2009, and they are here this evening to adopt the final budget of \$19,037,183.
 - ii) Revisions to the budget were due to the Montgomery County Commissioners not acting on the pending open space applications, and the Township's Jump Start II application. This resulted in the following changes:
 - (1) The General Fund reduced the 2009 transfer to the Capital Projects Fund for open space acquisition from \$360,000 to \$185,000. This resulted in an increase of \$175,000 in the 2009 balance, and an increase in the 2010 beginning and ending fund balance.

- (2) The Highway Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (Traffic Improvement Fund (TIF)) increased the transfer to the Capital Projects Fund for the Trooper and Ridge Pike right-turn lane project by \$262,000. This reduced the ending fund balance for the East area by \$262,000.
 - (3) The Capital Projects Fund was modified to reflect the previous two budget modifications.
 - (4) Projected General Fund revenue for 2010 is \$9,840,579, which is a 5.7% decrease from the 2009 approved budget. This is done without transferring any money from reserves, and reflects a \$75,000 transfer from the Municipal Authority.
 - (5) Expenses remain the same as presented in the original 2010 budget at \$9,015,258.
 - iii) Ms. Law requested authorization of the 2010 budget, including all 14 funds, at \$19,037,183.
 - iv) Supervisor Dininny noted that a resident contacted him with the concern that the Township's \$50,000 contribution to the LP Ambulance had been cut from the budget. He stated that this contribution was not cut and is included in the proposed budget.
 - v) **MOTION** – Supervisor Dininny made a motion to adopt the 2010 budget and appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purpose of the municipal government. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.
- b) A resolution establishing the 2010 real estate tax millage rates for Lower Providence Township:
- i) Ms. Law requested that the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution establishing the 2010 real estate tax millage at 1.512 mils, which reflects no increase from the 2009 millage.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Dininny made a motion to set the 2010 real estate millage at 1.512 mils, reflecting no tax increase for 2010. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Dininny noted they did not have to dip into the reserves to prevent a tax increase. This reflects a flat line budget because of the due diligence of Township staff.
 - (2) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.
- c) Authorization to approve the 2010 fee schedule:
- i) Mr. Dysard requested that the Board of Supervisors adopt the 2010 fee schedule, which contains some minor revisions to cover costs incurred for those items.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Dininny made a motion to adopt the 2010 fee schedule. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.
- 8) New Business:**
- a) Discussion – Authorization to prepare and execute residential solid waste collection, recycling and disposal contract:
- i) Mr. Onorato has prepared Resolution 09-164 to amend the trash collection program with some minor changes from previous years. The changes include:
 - (1) Recycling will now be single stream recycling.
 - (2) They have removed town home communities, condominiums, mobile home parks and Homeowners Associations from those residences part of the trash collection system provided they are on private streets or part of a private development or driveway.
 - (3) Additional items part of the recycling collection or contract include newspapers, office paper, junk mail, cardboard, bimetal, aluminum, clear and colored glass bottles, and plastic.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to adopt resolution 09-164. Supervisor Dininny seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.
 - iii) Mr. Onorato noted that the second part of this item was the approval of an agreement for twice a week trash collection beginning in 2010 with J. P. Mascaro & Sons. An agreement must be prepared and entered into by the Township. This was prepared; the Board has seen the agreement in advance. Mr. Onorato requested that the Board authorize the proper officers of the Township to enter into this agreement for the Township.

- iv) **MOTION** – Supervisor Dininny made a motion to authorize proceeding with the agreement. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.
- b) Discussion and consideration on proposed settlement agreement between Montgomery County Correctional Board of Prison Inspectors and Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority / Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority:
 - i) Mr. Onorato explained that Montgomery County filed litigation against Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority and the Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority with respect to sewer capacity for the prison expansion. They have reached a stipulation to be signed by council for the parties and to be entered as an order of court. The stipulation requires the County to purchase the necessary sewer capacity to the amount of 46,080 gallons per day. There will be a payment of \$2,064,000 to be split between the Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority and the Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority. The money will be held in escrow until the completion of the prison’s plan. There are additional items yet to be resolved that will be reserved for further action in court. Mr. Onorato requested that the Board authorize him to sign the stipulation on behalf of the Township.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to authorize the request. Supervisor Dininny seconded the motion.
 - (1) Chairman Sassu noted that the Sewer Authority had already approved this item.
 - (2) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.
- c) Authorization to approve written conditional use decision for 3976-4000 Ridge Pike Collegeville Inn property:
 - i) Mr. Onorato explained that he has prepared a conditional use decision and order for the November 5, 2009 hearing that was held for the Collegeville Inn proposal. The Board must take action on this matter by December 28, 2009.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Dininny made a motion to adopt the conditional use decision. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. There was no public comment on this matter.

9) Other Business from the Staff:

- a) There were no further items for consideration.

10) Presentations & Commendations:

- a) Presentation of plaques for Township Service to the following:
 - i) Chairman Sassu presented plaques to the following residents in appreciation of their service to the Township by participation on various Township Boards. Each of the awardees thanked the Board for this acknowledgement:
 - (1) Colleen Eckman, Parks & Recreation Board;
 - (2) Joseph Stemple, Planning Commission;
 - (3) Deborah Malone and Joseph Sterchak, Library Board;
- b) Presentation to Lieutenant Stanley Turtle, recognizing 20 years of service with Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Chairman Sassu and Chief Carroll presented Lt. Stanley Turtle with a plaque and gift from the Township in acknowledgement of his 20 years of service on the Lower Providence Township Police Force. Mr. Sassu provided an overview of Lt. Turtle’s career and the various honors he has received during this tenure.
 - ii) Chief Carroll indicated his appreciation, admiration and respect for Lt. Turtle, whom he called the consummate law enforcement professional. He also thanked Mrs. Vicki Turtle for sharing her husband with the Township.
 - iii) Lt. Turtle thanked his wife for her support, without which he could not have advanced in his career. He also thanked the Board and all of his fellow officers, without whom he could not perform his job.
- c) Presentation to Brad Penney, Streamlight’s President and Chief Executive Officer, on his retirement:

- i) Chairman Sassu presented a proclamation to Mr. Brad Penney on his retirement as President and CEO of Streamlight after 35 years. Mr. Sassu commented on the significance of the Streamlight products for law enforcement personnel and first responders. He noted that Streamlight always gives back to the community. They have been in Lower Providence for almost nine years.
- ii) Mr. Penney thanked the Board for this recognition. Several other Streamlight personnel were also present to participate in this event.
- d) Presentation to Supervisors Piero Sassu and Craig Dininny for dedicated service to Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Supervisor Altieri thanked outgoing Board members Piero Sassu and Craig Dininny for their service to the Township. She noted that you do not realize what responsibilities you take on when you are privileged enough to be elected to service on the Board, and discussed what types of things that Supervisors are responsible for. Mrs. Altieri noted that one of the most important attributes of a Supervisor is to have vision for the future. She thanked Supervisors Sassu and Dininny for making the Township a better with the work they have done, and thanked their families for supporting them.
 - ii) Mr. Dunbar narrated a PowerPoint presentation acknowledging the six year accomplishments during Mr. Dininny and Mr. Sassu's tenure along with the other 2004-2006 Board members: Mr. Hager, Mr. Dougherty, Mr. Lomire, and Ms. Kearney, as well as the 2006-2009 Board members: Mrs. Altieri, Mr. Brown and Mr. DiPaolo. These included a wide variety of items from numerous road projects, enhancements to Township parks, accreditation of the LPPD, purchase of the emergency management trailer and installation of a mass notification system, naturalization of basins, introduction of a brining technique for roads, the Township centennial, the Senior Expo, the 5k race for Marc Small, renovation of various Township facilities, and acquisition of multiple recognition awards for the Township among other things. Mr. Dunbar commented on the significance of local government in everyone's daily lives. He thanked both Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny for bringing him on board as Township Manager, noting how rewarding the experience has been.
 - iii) Supervisor Altieri presented plaques from the Township to Chairman Sassu and Supervisor Dininny. Mr. Dunbar read proclamations from State Senator Rafferty and Representative Vereb, which were also presented.
 - iv) Chairman Sassu discussed his thoughts on being a Supervisor. He thanked everyone for the recognition, noting he came on board when Jacqueline Crahalla left to become a State Representative. He also mentioned the warm friendship he has developed with Mr. Dininny.
 - v) Supervisor Dininny noted that the many accomplishments of the Board during his tenure and previous Boards couldn't be done without having good people around you. He stated that Township employees are an extension of the Board and get the job done. Mr. Dininny thanked Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Onorato and all of the Township personnel for their support. He finally thanked his family, noting the support of his wife has made it possible for him to serve the Township.
- e) Surprise presentation by special guest of the Chairman:
 - i) Chairman Sassu acknowledged Mr. Hank Cisco, the Ambassador of Norristown, who was in attendance during this meeting.
 - ii) Mr. Sassu introduced his special guest, Mr. Dean Garafolo, and Elvis impersonator, who entertained the audience with several Elvis Presley songs.

11) Comments:

- a) Public Comment:
 - i) Mr. Pat Mascaro applauded the work of Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny as good stewards of the community. Mr. Mascaro discussed the qualities of a leader, noting you must have vision and govern for the collective good of the people, which is not always popular. He hopes the new Board will build upon some of the things that Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny have worked on these past six years.

- (1) Mr. Mascaro explained that Supervisor Dininny came to him with concern about the loss of grant funding to purchase proposed open space parcels. As a result of this discussion, Mr. Mascaro and his brother have purchased the Downes property, which will be saved as open space for use as ball fields and passive recreation.
 - (2) Mr. Mascaro expressed his disappointment in the loss of the American Revolution Center, asking how you can put a prison in the center of the community but not a museum on the outskirts?
- ii) Mr. Hank Cisco commented on how much Lower Providence has grown since he was young, and on the accomplishments of the Board.
 - iii) Mr. Jim Dougherty congratulated Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny on their retirement from the Board, and acknowledged the great efforts of the entire Board and staff.
 - iv) Mr. Charles Mandracchia thanked the Board for all of their efforts. He commended Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny for standing up for what they believed in. Mr. Mandracchia noted that he had no position with regard to the ARC project and still does not. However, after sitting through 16 hearings on that matter, he stated that what people said about the Supervisors was wrong; their work was done with integrity and the best interests of the Township in mind.
 - v) Mr. Tom Leahan thanked the Board for their generous support of the Methacton Wolverines. He indicated that the staff has been wonderful through this process and looks forward to working with the incoming Board. Mr. Leahan remarked that Lower Providence sets the standard when it comes to working in a Police Department. The Board has done an outstanding job and he is proud to count Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny as friends.
 - vi) Ms. Janice Kearney, 565 Deerfield Drive, commented that it was an honor to work with this Board in various capacities through the years. She commended them for their vision, work ethic, integrity and accomplishments, noting she was also proud to be counted as a friend.
- b) Board Comments:
- i) Supervisor Dininny remarked how much all of the kind words meant to him. He stated that you couldn't get the work done without teaming up with and working with members of the community. He apologized to Mr. Mascaro who was demonized for being his friend. Mr. Dininny wished the new Board all of the best, asking them to take care of the community because they deserve nothing but the best.
 - ii) Supervisor Altieri commented that there would be a big hole in the Board without Mr. Sassu and Mr. Dininny. She hopes they will remain involved with the community in the future. Mrs. Altieri wishes the new Board the best. She noted that when members of the public have questions for the Board they should include all of the Board members and get everyone's perspective.
 - iii) Supervisor Sassu had several comments:
 - (1) He received a letter from Mr. Joseph DeLuca, 1433 Pawlings Road, apologizing for any problems with his property and project, indicating they are working to resolve issues in that matter.
 - (2) Mr. Sassu noted that a Beef & Beer was being held on behalf of the children of a young police officer in Upper Dublin whose wife passed away shortly after the birth of their third child. Flyers containing information on this event are available at the front desk.
 - (3) Mr. Sassu commented that Township staff does an outstanding job for the Township. He compared this to his previous job in Conshohocken, where the Board looked down upon the municipal staff. Mr. Sassu remarked that he hoped to show a different side to public service where employees are valued for the work they perform. He commended Mr. Dunbar for his work as the Township Manager. Mr. Sassu commented that he hopes he brought a different flair to meetings, to make them more enjoyable for people. He wished everyone the best and thanked them for their support.

12) Adjournment:

- a) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Dininny seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Reorganization Meeting: January 4, 2010
Next Business Meeting: January 21, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Dunbar, Secretary