

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 21, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Executive Session:

- a) Mrs. Altieri called the executive session to order at 6:28 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Eckman. The following Supervisors were present: Mr. DiPaolo, Mrs. Altieri, Mrs. Eckman and Mr. Thomas. Also present were Township Manager Mr. Dunbar and Solicitor Mr. Sheridan. A discussion took place at length on legal matters. Upon motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Altieri at 7:31 p.m., the Supervisors agreed to reconvene after the public meeting for continuation of the executive session.

2) Public Meeting: Call to Order

- a) Vice Chairman DiPaolo called the public meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Roll Call:

- a) The following members were present: Supervisors Altieri, DiPaolo, Eckman and Thomas.
b) Supervisor Brown was absent.
c) Also present were Solicitor Michael Sheridan, Township Engineer John Chambers, Police Chief Francis Carroll, Human Resources Coordinator Geri Golas, Director of Special Projects and Technology William Roth, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

5) Chairman's Comments:

- a) Vice Chairman DiPaolo announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting and would continue after this meeting was concluded.

6) Consent Agenda:

- a) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1a through 1c, including moving the meeting minutes for December 7 & 17, 2009 into the record. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.

7) Presentations & Commendations:

- a) Presentation to Officer Kenneth Duellely, recognizing 25 years of service with the Lower Providence Township Police Department:
i) Vice Chairman DiPaolo and Chief Carroll presented Officer Kenneth Duellely with a plaque and gift to commemorate his 25 years of service with the Lower Providence Township Police Department. Mr. DiPaolo also provided an overview of Mr. Duellely's career highlights.
ii) Officer Duellely thanked everyone for the recognition, especially noting his wife and children.

8) New Business:

- a) A resolution reducing the police officers' contributions to the Police Pension Plan for the year 2010:
i) Mrs. Golas explained that the police contract sets their pension contribution at 1% per year, where the regular pension is set at 5%. She requested that the Board adopt this resolution to set the Police Pension Plan contribution at 1%.
ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Thomas made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
iii) Public Comment:
(1) There was no public comment on this item.
- b) Approval of recommendation to appoint Methacton High School sophomore, Megan Stauffer, as an additional student representative on the Parks & Recreation Board:
i) Mr. Dunbar explained that 10-12 years ago the Board added the position of a Student Representative to the Parks & Recreation Board to bring the vision and opinions of the youth to their programs. The Park Board recently added a new male student representative, and is now

requesting that Methacton High School student Megan Stauffer also be added as a member. He commented that both representatives would have full voting privileges on that board.

- ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to appoint Megan Stauffer to the Parks & Recreation Board. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
- iii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.
- c) Authorization to waive Township sign permit fee for non-profit community baseball program, Methacton Athletic Association:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar explained that this was an annual request from the Methacton Athletic Association to waive the sign permit fee for their registration signs. They do complete the sign application.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to waive the sign permit fee. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
 - iii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.
- d) Discussion on Camp Perkiomy for 2010:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar noted this was just an informational item for the Board. The Methacton School District (MSD) is considering a reduction in their summer hours of operation in relation to the budget process they are now reviewing. This will impact Camp Perkiomy in that it is a 5-day a week program from June through August. Should the school board decide to reduce hours on Fridays during the summer, Park Board has suggested holding Field Trip Fridays. The campers will still report to the school parking lot and then board a bus for a field trip. Some staff will remain behind for a while after the bus leaves in case any latecomers need to be told they have missed the bus. MSD has not yet finalized this decision, however this is the plan being considered by the Township in the event they cannot use school facilities on Fridays.
 - ii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.
- e) Discussion and consideration on S-04-10, proposed walking trail on behalf of Gambone Development Co., Parkview at Valley Forge community:
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to table this item. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
 - ii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.
- f) Authorization to amend the 2010 fee schedule:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar explained that the Board adopted the 2010 fee schedule in December 2009. There are several changes to that schedule being proposed:
 - (1) Two additional permits for energy and accessibility will be added at a cost of 3 cents per square foot with a minimum of \$50 fee.
 - (2) The sale of Bicentennial banners is being eliminated.
 - (3) Charges for police services at an event will be increased from \$100 per hour to \$120 per hour, which includes the use of a vehicle. Other police charges for use of livescan and fingerprinting equipment will also be increased. They are also proposing a \$150 charge per visit as a lodging fee for guests in the jail.
 - ii) Mr. Dunbar requested that the Board adopt the amendments to the fee schedule as listed in the revised document.
 - iii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to amend the fee schedule as proposed. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Altieri asked Mr. Heisner if accessibility related to L&I or handicap requirements? Mr. Heisner indicated that it was for ADA handicap requirements both internally and externally to the building.
 - (a) Mrs. Altieri asked what the energy permit was for? Mr. Heisner indicated that it related to inspection for efficiency of heating, lighting, insulation, etc.

(b) Mrs. Altieri asked if this was for both commercial and residential buildings? Mr. Heisner stated that it was. Mrs. Altieri asked if this was part of the current inspection? Mr. Heisner indicated that it is but it is a separate inspection they are required to perform.

(2) Public Comment:

(a) Mrs. Joyce Cluley, 14 Vaux Lane, asked if the energy inspection was included for resale inspections? Mr. Heisner explained that it is for new construction or additions.

(3) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 4-0.

g) Police dispatch operations:

i) Chief Carroll explained that in July 2009 the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety (MCDPS) provided an analysis proposing the consolidation of emergency dispatch operations to the Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Center (MCEDC) in Eagleville effective January 1, 2010. There are currently 13 communities with self-dispatched police departments in Montgomery County. Abington, Cheltenham and Lower Merion Townships now have their 911 calls directed to the MCEDC.

(1) To attempt to recover costs detailed in the July report, Townships' maintaining a remote dispatch point (RDP) would be assessed a \$40,000 fee per year to maintain those services.

(2) The County Commissioners have agreed to defer this requirement for the 13 RDP's from January 1, 2010 to July 1, 2010, also deferring implementation of the fee until that date, at which point the prorated fee for services would be \$20,000. This deferral will allow the LPPD time to evaluate the options available with this proposal.

(3) The Township has discussed a 90-day evaluation period where dispatch operations for the Township would be transferred to the County 911 call center so they can effectively evaluate that capability. Chief Carroll noted that the County issued a 42 page report which addressed 911, but does not address call dispatch or call management, key components for the Township's with RDP's. They need to capture that information during the evaluation. This transition to the evaluation period commences on January 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

ii) Supervisor Altieri asked if they would have a back up here at the Township for these services? Chief Carroll indicated they do have a back up, with dispatch personnel on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This is necessary to address various services such as prisoners, Livescan, etc. Mr. Dunbar commented that they could stop the evaluation at any point if there are issues of concern regarding the impact this has on the health, safety and welfare of the residents.

(1) Supervisor Altieri asked how the County would monitor the results of what they hope to gain by this transfer of dispatch duties? Chief Carroll noted they would maintain a log of all calls. This will be done quantitatively and not anecdotally, capturing both good and bad effects of this transition, and trying to be as objective as possible.

iii) Supervisor Eckman asked if callers would notice any difference on January 25th? Chief Carroll explained that a Montgomery County 911 call taker would answer 911 calls. Calls that need to be addressed by LPPD personnel will be told to call a different phone number.

(1) Mr. Dunbar remarked that the MCDPS feels they can handle these duties. The LPPD receives an average of 3,000 calls per month. We need to provide an unbiased assessment of the new process.

iv) Public Comment:

(1) Mr. Tom Borai, 5 Brenda Lane, asked how many police departments the county would be handling? Chief Carroll indicated that it was 36 or 39. Mr. Borai noted that the LPPD dispatch just handle calls for Lower Providence.

(a) Mr. Borai asked if the county would be paying Lower Providence? Chief Carroll indicated we would not receive any money. Mr. Borai commented that the Township still pays their dispatchers.

(b) Chief Carroll explained that 911 calls today are dispatched to the LPPD from the MCEDC. Beginning Monday, calls to 911 will be dispatched to the patrol cars by the

County and not go through our dispatch center. We are going to try to measure their ability to dispatch and handle our calls.

- (c) Mr. Borai asked how long the LPPD has had their own dispatch and if there have been problems? Chief Carroll indicated it has been about 25 years and we do not have problems. Chief Carroll remarked that it is always good to re-evaluate and assess what we are doing.
- (d) Mr. Borai commented that our dispatchers know our Township intimately.

h) Authorization to engage Ferguson Group / Frank Lee Speaking as Legislative Advocate for Lower Providence Township:

- i) Mr. Dunbar noted that we currently have an agreement that runs through February 2010 with the Ferguson Group. He is requesting that the Board authorize staff to discuss and renew the contract with the Ferguson Group.
- ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to authorize this request. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
- iii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.

9) Comments and Other Business:

- a) Mr. Sheridan noted that the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) rendered a decision for Z-09-11, 1433 Pawlings Road on January 8, 2010. Neighbors contesting the decision filed an appeal today. Mr. Sheridan requested that the Board authorize him to intervene on the Township's behalf as a party in the appeal and in support of that appeal, and also to support any issues not raised in the appeal.
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Thomas made a motion to authorize the Township Solicitor to file an appeal from the Zoning Hearing Board decision as well as an intervention. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Altieri asked if she votes in favor of this would she need to vote on every issue in the appeal?
 - (2) Mr. Sheridan explained the appeal was a 25-page document with many separate issues. If he identifies issues not listed in the appeal, he would want to be able to file a separate appeal on those matters.
 - (3) Mrs. Altieri clarified that with the motion as it stands; there would be no need to come back to the Board for approval on the particulars? Mr. Sheridan affirmed this.
 - (4) Mrs. Altieri commented that she agrees with some items in the appeal, but not everything. For that reason she will oppose the motion.
 - (5) **MOTION VOTE** –The motion *passed* 3-1. Supervisor Altieri opposed the motion.
- b) Vice Chairman DiPaolo noted that the DEP was here yesterday to discuss the TCE contamination in Evansburg. They have a proposal to install public water in the effected area, which includes Germantown to Ridge Pike, and from Level Road and Evansburg Road to Pechans Mill Road. There is a 60-day comment period, and he encouraged residents to ask questions now. Once the 60-day period is up, the DEP would enter a Statement of Decision and their decision would be final.
- c) Public Comment:
 - i) There was no public comment on these matters.

10) Courtesy of the Floor:

- a) There were no comments at this time.

11) Adjournment:

- b) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and enter into an executive session. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Work Session Meeting: February 4, 2010
Next Business Meeting: February 18, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Dunbar, Secretary