

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 3, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Executive Session:

- a) Mr. DiPaolo motioned to call the executive session to order at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Altieri. The following Supervisors were present: Mr. Brown, Mr. DiPaolo, Mrs. Altieri and Mr. Thomas. Mrs. Eckman was absent. Also present were Township Manager Mr. Dunbar and Solicitor Mr. Sheridan. A discussion took place on legal, personnel and real estate matters. Upon motion by Mrs. Altieri, seconded by Mr. DiPaolo, the session adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

b)

2) Public Meeting: Call to Order

- a) Chairman Brown called the public meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Roll Call:

- a) The following members were present: Supervisors Altieri, Brown, DiPaolo and Thomas.
b) Supervisor Eckman arrived after the meeting began.
c) Also present were Solicitor Michael Sheridan, Township Engineer John Chambers, Public Works Director David Shaffer, Police Chief Francis Carroll, Accounting Manager Susan Law, Code Enforcement Manager Tom Heisner, Director of Community Development Randee Elton, Emergency Management Coordinator Charles DeFrancesco, Human Resources Coordinator Geri Golas, Director of Special Projects and Technology William Roth, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

5) Chairman's Comments:

- a) Chairman Brown announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

6) Consent Agenda:

- a) Approval of the consent agenda items 1a through 1c, inclusive of the meeting minutes from May 20, 2010:
i) Supervisor Altieri noted that she approved of the consent agenda, but would abstain from the minutes because she was not in attendance at that meeting.
ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to accept the consent agenda items 1a through 1c, including the meeting minutes for May 20, 2010. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.

7) Presentations & Commendations:

- a) Introduction of Randee Elton as Director of Planning & Development for Lower Providence Township:
i) Ms. Golas introduced Randee Elton as the new Director of Planning & Development for the Township, and provided an overview of her work history.
ii) Ms. Elton indicated that she is looking forward to working with the Township.
b) Presentation of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award to Cpl. Matthew Kuhnert by MADD Representative Deborah Amoroso:
i) Chief Carroll introduced MADD representative Deborah Amoroso and her husband Frank, who he described as friends of the Lower Providence Police Department (LPPD.) A drunk driver on Pawling's Road killed the Amoroso's 20-year-old son in May 1998.
ii) Mrs. Amoroso presented a Certificate of Recognition from MADD and a Congressional Certificate of Achievement to Cpl. Matthew Kuhnert for having the highest amount of DUI arrests in the LPPD.

- iii) Cpl. Kuhnert commented that he would not want to work anywhere else; he loves the LPPD. He noted that his passion for DUI arrests is that he believes he probably saved a life each time a drunk driver is taken off the streets.
- c) Presentation by Benjamin Parvey, Chief Executive Officer of Blue Sky Power LLC, on the Solar Feasibility Design Study:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar explained that they are trying to restart the Solar Feasibility Program, which stalled when one of the involved partners, CMX, stopped servicing Pennsylvania. He introduced Mr. Benjamin Parvey, CEO of Blue Sky Power, to provide an overview on the services provided by his company in relation to this project.
 - ii) Mr. Parvey indicated that he would like to work with the Township to advance their U.S. Dept. of Energy Grant (DOE) and Department of Community & Economic Development Grant (DCED). Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Parvey relayed the services his company provides in relation to pursuit of these grants.
 - (1) Mr. Parvey noted that the Township is primarily interested in pursuing renewable energy using the Moyer Landfill, for use in Township buildings and at the schools. Blue Sky will review regulatory, technical and engineering issues to determine what type of projects can be completed and how to best finance them. There are various types of bonds that can be used to fund projects.
 - (2) For the Moyer Landfill they will be looking at opportunities for a Township owned & operated renewable energy facility, as compared to a privately run facility. Mr. Parvey discussed various types of bonds for these options and how they would work. A goal would be to reduce energy consumption for the Township by 20%. A public / private partnership would lease the property to an outside agency to generate electricity for an energy provider.
 - (3) Mr. Parvey noted that sometimes a solar cap is placed over the landfill. The U.S. DOE is encouraging this type of use, which they would probably pursue.
 - (4) Blue Sky Power provides clean energy project development and engineering for government and institutional users. This includes finance; land use, regulatory compliance, engineering and project development.
 - iii) Supervisor Altieri questioned the timeframe for completing the study? Mr. Parvey noted this would be 2-3 months, so they should be done in early fall.
 - iv) Chairman Brown asked how long it would take until this could be operational once the study was complete? Mr. Parvey indicated this would probably take another 6 months to allow for RFP's, financing and construction.
 - v) Mr. Brown asked what the next step would be for this project? Mr. Parvey noted that there is a resolution on this evening's agenda that needs to be approved. Once this occurs, they will coordinate meetings to begin moving forward.
 - vi) Public Comment:
 - (1) Ms. Bonita Grover, 4032 Redwing Lane, asked how long it would take for the Township to see a return on this investment? Mr. Parvey explained that this would depend on the type of financing used. If the project were a federally funded municipal facility, with no interest on the loan, it would take 6-7 years. However, energy savings will occur immediately.
 - (2) Mr. Harold Baird commented this was an excellent idea. He asked what the lifespan was for this type of system? Mr. Parvey noted that the panels have a 25-year warranty, so they probably have a 30+ year useful lifespan. The inverter will most likely need to be replaced in 10-15 years.
 - (a) Mr. Baird asked what was available for residents? Mr. Parvey does not handle residential accounts, but noted that PA has a rebate program running that provides credits for alternative energy use.
 - (3) Mr. Michael Comroe, Audubon, questioned if they would look into using methane gas as a source of energy from the Moyer Landfill? Chairman Brown noted that the landfill has been

vented since 1981, so this has gone up in the air. Mr. Parvey indicated that because of the venting, such a use would be very limited.

(4) Ms. Regina Mascaro, works for JP Mascaro & Sons. She noted they are involved with working with landfills. Ms. Mascaro asked if they would be using municipal bonds to fund this? Mr. Parvey indicated they would, using Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, that are principal only, no-interest bonds.

(5) Chairman Brown asked how many acres JP Mascaro was using from their landfill to generate energy? An engineer with JP Mascaro indicated that Pioneer Crossing was 101 acres, with 60 completed. They generate 6 megawatts per hour or 4,200 mw hours per month.

d) Presentation by James Watters on safety issues regarding utility poles in Lower Providence Township:

i) Chairman Brown noted that Mr. Jim Watters approached the Township regarding hazardous utility poles and hanging wires in the Township. Mr. Watters is present to discuss his concerns.

ii) Supervisor Eckman arrived at this point in the meeting.

iii) Mr. Watters remarked that his concern is with hanging wires and leaning poles that present a danger to the general public. While working for the phone company prior to his retirement, Mr. Watters job was to ensure the safety of these types of items.

(1) PECO typically replaces poles when they fall over from rotting at the bottom or when they are hit by a vehicle.

(2) When poles are rotting at the bottom and they are not replaced, it pulls the service wire toward the building, which is dangerous.

(3) Mr. Watters used a video of existing dangerous poles and wires throughout the Township to explain his concerns. He noted that if someone touches one of these wires hanging below the communications wires, they would be killed. Lax wires can be blown together by wind and cause power outages. Alternatively such wires rubbing together can send power surges into a home.

(4) Fiber optic boxes located at the bottom of utility poles could take out significant services should they be struck by a vehicle. These boxes should be at the top of the poles.

(5) Mr. Watters noted that there is now an inconsistency with how these matters are addressed. This situation came about with the deregulation of the utilities. He has been in contact with representatives from PECO and PennDOT in an effort to get them to address dangerous situations. Mr. Watters noted that both of these organizations are willing to work with people to address the problems brought to their attention. His goal is to share his knowledge with people so they are aware of the dangers.

iv) Mr. Dunbar will set up a meeting with Public Works personnel so they can review the tape in detail to address currently known areas of concern.

v) Chairman Brown thanked Mr. Watters for bringing this matter to the Township's attention.

8) **New Business:**

a) Authorization to reaffirm Blue Sky Power LLC for the Solar Feasibility Study:

i) Mr. Dunbar requested that the Board authorize Blue Sky Power to take the lead on the Solar Feasibility Study for the Township.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to authorize the request. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

iii) Public Comment:

(1) There was no public comment on this item.

b) Authorization to prepare and solicit request for proposals for banking services:

i) Ms. Law noted that the 3-year contract for banking services with (Commerce) TD Bank expires on October 1, 2010. She requested authorization to prepare and solicit bids for a new 3-year banking services contract for the Township.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to authorize the request. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- c) Discussion and consideration of printing and publishing of the Township History Book:
- i) Mr. Dunbar noted that Mrs. Walsh has been the project lead on compiling and completing an updated Township History Book. The book is currently ready to be printed. Staff is recommending that the book be available for sale to the public at cost. They are also seeking direction on how many copies to print. A run of 250 books would cost \$2,500; a run of 400 books would cost \$3,700. There is \$9,000 in the operating budget for this expense.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to run an initial printing of 250 books, and to donate a copy to the Library. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - iii) Chairman Brown noted that he has been approached to have the original yellow Township history book reprinted as well. He would like to authorize Mrs. Walsh to check into pricing for printing the original yellow book.
 - iv) Public Comment:
 - (1) Mrs. Leslie Bass commented that the new book does not include everything that was in the original 1976 (yellow) book. It is important to reprint the 1976 book as a supplement to the new book. Mrs. Bass noted that the Library no longer has a copy of the 1976 book.
 - (2) Supervisor Altieri questioned if they should combine the two books or should they stand-alone? Mrs. Bass noted that the 1976 version was done by citizens and focused on different areas in the Township. Some of these homes are not included in the new book.
 - (3) Mrs. Altieri asked if they should delay printing the new book? Mr. Dunbar stated they should not hold off on printing the new book. He noted that they were not able to validate all of the information in the original book, which is why it was not included. The 1976 book was very basic, and to try to include all of that in the new book would delay the project by at least a year.
 - v) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to have Mrs. Walsh provide a price estimate to re-print the 1976 book. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- d) Discussion and consideration to move forward with the Trooper Road closed loop signal and camera project:
- i) Chief Carroll requested that the Board authorize advancing the closed loop system and camera project on Trooper Road. Congressman Sestak's office obtained a \$237,500 appropriation for this project, which has a 20% local match. The Township will be splitting the 20% match with West Norriton Township. This will be submitted through the Montgomery County Planning Commission for inclusion in the 2011 Traffic Improvement Program (TIP). They intend to use the local 20% match to complete the engineering work in 2010, and complete the project in 2011.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to move forward with this project. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - iii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.
- e) Authorization to apply for 2010 Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BPV) Grant Application:
- i) Chief Carroll requested authorization to apply for the 2010 Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BPV) Grant, which provides a 50% reimbursement for the purchase of bulletproof vests for use by police officers. The vests have a 5-year replacement cycle. The LPPD will be purchasing 19 new vests in July, and the grant would pay \$7,837.50 toward that purchase.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to authorize the request. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - iii) Public Comment:
 - (1) There was no public comment on this item.
- f) Re-authorization of 2009 COPS Hiring Recovery Program Grant Application for consideration in the 2010 fiscal year awards:
- i) Chief Carroll explained that in 2009 the LPPD submitted an application for three police officers through the COPS Hiring Program Grant. Unfortunately they did not receive this grant. For the 2010 COPS Grant cycle, they are restricting applications to those departments who did not

receive the award in 2009. This program would provide 100% funding for three replacement police officers for a three-year period, with no local match required. Chief Carroll noted they currently have one officer in the DROP program, and he anticipates enrollment of two more officers this year. This funding would allow for a seamless transition between the new hires and retiring officers for the department.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Thomas made a motion to re-authorize application for the 2010 COPS Program. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

iii) Public Comment:

(1) There was no public comment on this item.

g) Approval of the 2010-2011 Act 147 Grant Application requesting monies through the Montgomery County Emergency Management for one GPS Event Tracking & Damage Assessment Unit:

i) Mr. DeFrancesco noted that through the Montgomery County Emergency Management Act 147 Emergency Response Fund, fees are provided to support municipalities surrounding nuclear power plants in the State. Mr. DeFrancesco would like to apply for \$7,500 in funds to purchase a GPS Event and Damage Assessment Tracker. This would be used to collect data and document events through GPS tagging, photographs and data entry. There are other applications for the unit as well.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to authorize the application. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

iii) Public Comment:

(1) There was no public comment on this item.

9) **Comments and Other Business:**

a) Discussion and consideration on waiver request for Montgomery County Correctional Facility – DUI Facility:

i) Mr. Dunbar recommended that the Board waive the financial security and off-site construction improvement agreements for the Montgomery County Correctional DUI Facility, with the exception of posting escrow agreement to capture reimbursement for any related engineering or legal review fees.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to adopt the recommendation. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

iii) There was no public comment on this item.

b) Mr. Dunbar noted that for the last few years there has been some question regarding ownership of Willow Avenue, where it begins and ends. The Township Engineer has provided a proposal to verify the parcels and tax maps. This project would cost \$1,000. He requested authorization to proceed with that verification.

i) Supervisor Eckman asked if this was for all the parcels on Willow Avenue? Mr. Dunbar noted that it would be roughly 10 properties.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to authorize the Township Engineer to proceed. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

iii) There was no public comment on this item.

c) Mr. Dunbar noted that the Board authorized staff to move forward with energy-electric purchase task. However, for staff to move forward on a bid, a quick response will be required. Mr. Dunbar requested authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract as it comes in. He noted that once a contract is received, it would be good for only 24 hours. It would be in the best interests of the Township to lock in pricing for a 3 or 4-year period.

i) Supervisor Eckman asked if the bid would be for 3 or 4 years? Mr. Dunbar noted they would list pricing for 1, 2, 3 and 4 years.

ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to authorize the bids to proceed and the Chairman to execute an agreement in the best interests of the Township. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

iii) There was no public comment on this item.

