

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JULY 15, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

---

**1) Executive Session:**

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

**2) Public Meeting: Call to Order**

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

**3) Pledge of Allegiance**

**4) Roll Call:**

- a) The following members were present: Supervisors Altieri, Brown, Eckman and Thomas.  
b) Supervisor DiPaolo arrived later in the meeting.  
c) Also present were Solicitor Michael Sheridan, Traffic Engineer Casey Moore, Police Chief Francis Carroll, Emergency Management Coordinator Charles DeFrangesco, Director of Special Projects and Technology William Roth, Accounting Manager Susan Law, Parks & Recreation Director Karl Lukens, Code Enforcement Manager Tom Heisner, Director of Community Development Randee Elton, Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

**5) Consent Agenda:**

- a) Approval of the consent agenda items 1a through 1c, inclusive of the meeting minutes from July 1, 2010:  
i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to accept the consent agenda items 1a through 1c, including the meeting minutes for July 1, 2010. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.

**6) Presentations & Commendations:**

- a) A proclamation recognizing the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Lower Providence Baptist Church:  
i) Chairman Brown read a proclamation honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lower Providence Baptist Church, while a short slide show of the church's facilities was played.  
ii) Rev. Robert French, the church's pastor, was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the church. Rev. French noted that he is pleased with the many activities the Township does for the community.  
b) Presentation by Letter27 Creative Directors Staci Katz and Nicole McGann, on a branding / marketing proposal for Lower Providence Township:  
i) Mr. Roth noted that in conjunction with the Valley Forge Corporate Center's (VFCC) revitalization project, the committee was seeking ways to attract new businesses to the community. They were investigating the use of a new logo for the VFCC, and decided that this effort should focus on the entire Township.  
ii) Letter27 owners Staci Katz and Nicole McGann were present to discuss their company's services as they pertain to branding the Township to stand out and create a growing economy for this community. A PowerPoint presentation was used during this discussion, which outlined benefits of branding, the process, and the final outputs.  
iii) Supervisor Eckman commented that the expansion of the revitalization project to the entire Township was very exciting.  
iv) Public Comment:

- (1) Mrs. Joyce Cluley, Vaux Lane, noted this was an excellent idea. She asked how a fee schedule would be structured for this since it is a two-year process, and asked if they had done this for any other Townships?
  - (a) Mr. Dunbar noted that this is a multi-year project with first year funding through existing business development money from the VFCC. For the second year they would look at allocating money from the budget or grant funding for this project.
  - (b) Ms. Katz noted they have not previously worked for a Township, however they have done business with the State of PA, specifically for their H1N1 Virus program.
- v) Supervisor Altieri noted that previous focus on the VFCC revitalization did not focus on the endless possibilities of the benefits this Township offers. She thanked Ms. Katz and Ms. McGann for the presentation, which is the third presentation they have done for the Township on this project.
- vi) Chairman Brown also thanked them, and noted a decision regarding this proposal would be forthcoming.

**7) New Business:**

a) Discussion and consideration on proposal for roadway classification assessment by McMahan Associates Vice-President Casey Moore:

- i) Mr. Casey Moore, the Township's Traffic Engineer, explained that McMahan Associates received a request in early May to study the reclassification of Eagle Stream Drive. They prepared a proposal, dated June 9, 2010, for the Board's consideration. Once the Board approves this proposal, they can proceed with re-evaluating and updating roadway classifications in the Township.
- ii) Mr. Moore noted that the Township roads have not been reviewed and reclassified since the 1980's. This project would focus on collector and feeder roads, with 13 roads already identified as the primary focus. McMahan will prepare preliminary recommendations for existing roadway classifications, outlining any changes for reclassification. Because traffic tends to be lower during the summer months, they will do traffic counts after school begins in September.
- iii) Supervisor Altieri asked how long this process would take? Mr. Moore stated it would be 4-5 weeks once the counters are in place.
- iv) Supervisor Eckman asked Mr. Moore to explain for the audience how road classification affects them.
  - (1) Mr. Moore explained that classification of roadways deals with cart way width, road width, parking on roadsides etc. For collector or feeder roads there are 60' right-of-way width that includes a 40' wide roadway from curb to curb, and then an additional 10' right-of-way area on either side of the road for utilities and improvements.
  - (2) Reclassification will review the widths, traffic volume, parking requirements etc. that will help determine how wide the road should be. This establishes setbacks for future development.
- v) Public Comment:
  - (1) Mrs. Burns, Valentine Road, asked what collector and feeder roads are. Mr. Moore noted collector roads typically tie together two higher classification roads, which have higher traffic volume. These typically have an 80' cart way. Feeder roads are lower volume and have a narrower cart way of 60'.
  - (2) Mr. Jim Waters asked if they could collect information on broken or leaning utility poles when doing this analysis? Mr. Dunbar noted they could not do that because the account the funds are coming from would not permit that type of work.
- vi) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to move forward with the June 9, 2010 proposal for the roadway reclassification study and recommendations. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.

b) Discussion and consideration on disposition of records resolution:

- i) Ms. Law requested authorization to dispose of records listed on a resolution in accordance with the Township's record retention policy.
- ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to authorize the disposition of records listed on the resolution. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
- iii) Public Comment:
  - (1) There was no public comment at this time.
- c) Discussion and consideration on updates to 2010 Township Fee Schedule:
  - i) Ms. Law requested authorization to update the Township Fee Schedule. Changes include the addition of sales for the Bicentennial book (\$5), and the History book (\$10), and several wording changes under Traffic Impact Fees, and a page labeled "Consultants" containing fees residents or developers may have to pay.
  - ii) Supervisor Eckman asked if you really had to pay to use the tennis courts? Mr. Lukens explained that was only if you wanted to reserve them, otherwise they are available on a first come first serve basis.
  - iii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to approve the updates for the 2010 Township Fee Schedule. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
  - iv) Public Comment:
    - (1) There was no public comment at this time.
- d) Update on status of Township utility pole hazards by Emergency Management Coordinator Charles DeFrancesco:
  - i) Mr. DeFrancesco explained that he has been working with Public Works to collect data on potential utility pole hazards, brought to the Township's attention by Mr. Waters during a June Board meeting. The list of 18 initially identified, plus 2 additional poles has been forwarded to Ms. Suzanne Ryan at PECO, and Mr. Dan Reavy at Verizon. Both of these companies are looking into the situation. Mr. DeFrancesco noted that PECO was out yesterday to begin looking into this matter. He will continue to follow through on this and report back to the Board.
  - ii) Public Comment:
    - (1) Mr. Jim Waters noted that he testified at a PUC hearing with regard to PECO's request for a rate increase. He provided a list of all companies with fiber optics, noting that some of the contact information was missing, and he was able to obtain this information from PECO's solicitor. Mr. Waters has also brought this issue to the attention of East Norriton, who was also receptive to the information.
- e) Update on SRO initiative by Chief of Police, Bud Carroll:
  - i) Chief Carroll noted that the LPPD has had a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Arcola and the four elementary schools since the 2006/2007 school year. In June 2009, grant funding for this project expired, and the Township and school district entered into a three-year extension of that program.
  - ii) Chief Carroll outlined the successes from the program, which has significantly reduced disciplinary actions in the schools. An example of this was that in 2004/2005 there were 45 violent incidents requiring mandated reporting, while there were only 16 such incidents in 2009/2010. Suspensions and detentions are also down about 94% during this same timeframe. The results are that the teachers can focus on teaching; students can focus on learning, with minimal disciplinary distractions.
  - iii) The school and Township have entered into discussions about taking the program to the High School, however that is located in Worcester Township so the LPPD has no jurisdiction there. Chief Carroll noted that the school district is interested in pursuing a legal remedy, which would permit the LPPD to be on the premises. They will educate the Worcester Supervisors and residents as to the benefits and successes of the program.
  - iv) Chairman Brown commended the outstanding results.
  - v) Public Comment:

- (1) Mr. Joe Ferraro, 12 Pinetree Drive, questioned how much the school board would spend on this program? Chief Carroll noted that until their role is specified, he couldn't talk about specifics of what would be involved.
- (a) Mr. Ferraro noted that the school board approved a policy for the SRO, and then approved an activity fee for parents. He thinks that if Worcester does not have a police department to address this program, that Worcester should have to pay for it.
- (b) Mr. Brown noted that the school district residents all pay a fee, the school tax, which would cover this. Mr. Ferraro thinks that Worcester should establish their own police department.
- f) Discussion and consideration on Brant Park renaming:
- i) Mr. Lukens noted that at the beginning of the year the Township lost a good friend and member of the Park Board in Marcello (Marty) Dell Angelo. At the June Park Board meeting, the board voted to rename Brant Park in Marty's honor, and he is seeking authorization for this recommendation.
- ii) Supervisor Altieri noted that the recommendation was to be consistent with naming of other Township parks such as Hoy or Eskie. This park is to be called Dell Angelo Park. Chairman Brown likes this recommendation.
- iii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to approve the renaming of Brant Park to Dell Angelo Park. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
- iv) Public Comment:
- (1) There was no public comment at this time.
- g) Discussion and consideration on a sign waiver request on behalf of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church for a temporary sign to promote a fundraiser:
- i) Mr. Heisner noted that the Thomas Paine Unitarian Church erected a temporary sign for their June 10<sup>th</sup> cookout, which was a fundraiser. They applied for and paid the sign fee, however they are requesting a waiver and refund of that fee.
- ii) Supervisor Eckman asked what the fee was? Mr. Heisner noted it was \$75.
- iii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to waive the fee and provide a refund as requested. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0.
- iv) Public Comment:
- (1) There was no public comment at this time.
- h) Discussion and consideration on a resolution for flashing warning devices on Eagleville Road & Pinetown Road / Sunnyside Avenue:
- i) Chief Carroll requested authorization for the installation of a flashing warning device at Eagleville Road, Pinetown Road & Sunnyside Avenue so they can forward a permit application to PennDOT and install the device. They have tried multiple ways to reduce traffic accidents at this location, including striping, signage, parking restrictions, tree removal and installing reflectors in the roadway. Since July 15, 2009, there have been 11 accidents at this location. Once this application is approved, the project should be completed by the end of September.
- ii) Public Comment:
- (1) Mr. Mike Comroe, 205 Pinetown Road, appreciates the efforts Chief Carroll has taken to try to make this a safer intersection. Mr. Comroe noted that even though there are small signs indicating no commercial traffic is to use this road, it is being used by commercial vehicles as a cut-through road. He noted specifically an armored car that speeds through the intersection, ignoring the stop sign, around 1-1:30 p.m. each day. He requested that the Board consider installing larger signs regarding the commercial traffic, and asked if there was a possibility that traffic calming devices could be installed? Mr. Comroe would also like to see a traffic study done to determine if a signalized intersection would be better than a flashing device.
- (a) Chief Carroll noted that this has been reviewed over many years and many ways, and at this point in time the optimum remedy is a flashing beacon and not signalization.
- (2) Mr. Joe Ferraro asked what metric would be necessary to trigger a signalized intersection?

- (a) Mr. Moore noted that PennDOT warrants must be met for a signal. There are other factors taken into consideration with regard to intersection safety such as grades and speed. During inclement weather at this location, a signal could create additional accidents because of the grade coming into a stoplight. There is not a steady stream of traffic throughout the day to trigger the warrants, which include traffic volume from side and main streets at the intersection.
- (b) Mr. Ferraro noted that if at some point the signal is warranted, money would have been wasted on the flashing device, so a signal installed now would be more cost effective.
- (c) Mr. Dunbar noted that Eagleville Road is a State road that must meet State or PennDOT criteria. PennDOT should be responsible for any signalization at this location.
- (3) Supervisor DiPaolo arrived at this point in the meeting.
- (4) Mr. Tom Borai, 5 Brenda Lane, commented that a light at Eagleville & Sunnyside Road would also calm traffic coming from Crawford across another State road. They tried to put a no left turn sign off Crawford onto Park Avenue, but had to take the sign down. A light at Eagleville & Sunnyside would allow the Crawford traffic time to get out.
  - (a) Mr. Borai asked what it would take for people on Pinetown and Brenda to get traffic calming devices? Chairman Brown noted there is an existing process to get traffic calming devices, but residents have to pay for them. The residents must form a committee; the process is noted on the web site.
- (5) Mr. Jim Waters, commented that in Conshohocken there is a sign posted under stop signs that says “Complete stops \$0, partial stops \$103.” He suggested the Township post similar signs at intersections where people don’t stop.
- (6) Mr. Jeff Kocher, suggested that the Township use modern devices such as a radar device that shows how fast you are going or a camera to take pictures of licenses that go through stop signs and send them a ticket. Chief Carroll noted that they have a mobile stalker board on a trailer they will use during school. The new school was required to install stalker boards as a condition of approval. The issue with such ideas is cost and how to fund them.
- (7) Mrs. Jody Burns, Valentine Lane, commented that with the branding effort underway for the Township, they would bring in even more traffic, so it should be addressed now.
- iii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution for the flashing warning device. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- i) Discussion and consideration on a resolution opposing House Bill 2431 (PN3570) and Senate Bill 1357 (PN1969):
  - i) Chairman Brown noted that there are currently bills being considered in the House and Senate of PA to do away with local government so there would only be County governments.
  - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Thomas made a motion to adopt the resolution opposing these bills. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
  - iii) Public Comment:
    - (1) There was no public comment at this time.
- j) Discussion and consideration on stormwater coalition billing:
  - i) Mr. Dunbar noted LPT is part of a Montgomery County consortium group, of which Montgomery Township has taken the lead, whose coordinated effort is to deal with the EPA and stormwater regulations being put on the Townships. The consortium is seeking proportionate shares from all parties to cover a cost overrun for legal and environmental fees. This would cost the Township somewhere in the ballpark of \$4,244. To date Lower Pottsgrove, Lower Gwynedd, Upper Gwynedd, have agreed to pay toward these costs, and they continue to reach out to others in the 20-member group for assistance.
  - ii) Supervisor DiPaolo asked if everyone was going to pay their proportional share? Mr. Dunbar indicated they have a meeting at 10 a.m. tomorrow, and it will be discussed at that time. He suggested that the Board set a cap for what they would pay.

- iii) Supervisor Altieri asked if Mr. Dunbar had the money for this? Mr. Dunbar noted they have been working with the consortium for EPA/DEP regulations, they are part of a smaller group along the Skippack dealing with a maximum daily load issue, and they are working on creating their own stormwater committee because they must have a stormwater management plan to the DEP by September 10, 2010. Funding will probably come from the general engineering services account, which currently has money. He did not anticipate this expense.
- iv) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to pay the expense with a cap as discussed by Mr. Dunbar. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion.
  - (1) Mr. Jim Waters stated that he was opposed to this consortium, which takes the position of a downstream municipality in regard to stormwater damage. He discussed his position and evidence he has gathered relating to damage / erosion, noting upstream municipalities don't suffer like the downstream ones. He is trying to create a class action lawsuit against Chester & Berks Counties for the damage from their stormwater into Montgomery County.
    - (a) Chairman Brown acknowledged problems elsewhere, but noted that this Board's concern is with Lower Providence Township and they can't be responsible for what is going on in Norristown.
    - (b) Mr. Dunbar noted that Lower Providence Township is a downstream municipality, so they really are on the same page with this. The Township has 2 million pounds or tons of sediment on the Skippack they have to deal with.
  - (2) Mr. Joe Ferraro commented that Mr. Waters should be the Township's representative to the consortium. Mr. Brown noted that Mr. Dunbar is the Township's representative.
  - (3) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 5-0.

**8) Comments and Other Business:**

- a) Mr. Dunbar had several items for discussion:
  - i) Mr. John Ruggiero has resigned from the Municipal Authority, and he needs the Board to accept his resignation.
    - (1) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to accept the resignation. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.
  - ii) Mr. Dunbar noted that Peter and Mary McFarland have donated \$3,000 to the Township toward the acquisition of a new portable sound system. This will be used for the On Your Marc race and other events. Staff is to prepare a thank you note on behalf of the Township for the Board's signature.
  - iii) As a follow-up to a public comment made at the last Board meeting, Mr. Dunbar verified that the hearing fees were paid for, for the 2009 and most recent 2010 Zoning Hearing Board hearings for the Lomire property. This account was paid in full.
  - iv) Mr. Dunbar noted that the County has ongoing efforts to charge municipalities that have their own police dispatch centers \$40,000 per year to be able to provide this service to their residents. This bill was originally deferred until 7/1/10, and was to be \$20,000. The County has sent an invoice for \$28,602.95 to the Township for the luxury of protecting our residents. The Township takes exception to this charge, because the Township residents all pay County taxes, and there is a surcharge on every phone bill to offset dispatch costs.
    - (1) Supervisor DiPaolo asked if they had asked the County how much they receive from the telephone surcharge for this service? Mr. Dunbar noted that this question was asked but never answered by the County. He subsequently contacted the three County commissioners to set up a meeting to discuss the matter. Commissioners Castor and Hoffel are willing to meet with the Township, however Commissioner Matthews has yet to respond to this request.
  - v) Mr. Dunbar asked the Board if they want to proceed with a proposal the Township received from Letter27 for the Township branding initiative.
    - (1) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to accept the Letter27 proposal and move forward with this project. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

- vi) Chairman Brown noted that parking should not be allowed on both sides of the roadway near the bocce courts. This parking is prohibiting through traffic to the Sewer Authority. There is ample parking in the parking lot if people would walk from there. Chief Carroll will follow up on posting signs for no parking on one side of this roadway.
- vii) Supervisor DiPaolo apologized for arriving late, he had to work this evening. He commented that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events was excellent and received many positive comments. He thanked Mr. Lukens, the Park Board, and volunteers for making this a success.

**9) Courtesy of the Floor:**

- a) Ms. Eve Donofrio, from the Library Board, noted that they held a Chick-fil-A night tonight.
- b) Mr. Mike Comroe noted that the LPPD and LPFD did an excellent job of emptying out the parking lots after the fireworks. It was done very quickly and orderly.
- c) Mr. William Wurtz, Pawlings Circle, is a member of the Park Board and thanked the Board for changing the name of Brant Park to honor Mr. Dell Angelo. He also clarified who sponsored the House and Senate bills to eliminate local governments.
- d) Mr. Tom Borai, 5 Brenda Lane, asked if the police departments would merge should the House & Senate bills be approved? Chief Carroll noted that if the bills were approved, they would do away with the local police.
  - i) Mr. Borai commended those responsible for putting meeting minutes on the Township web site. It was noted that Mrs. Walsh is responsible for this information.
  - ii) Mr. Borai noted that the Bicentennial Book the Township wanted to reprint was initially done at Homer Printing. This could be printed for \$2 per book. It was explained to Mr. Borai that this work was already contracted and approved at a cost of \$3.29 per book with Reliable Printing.

**10) Adjournment:**

- e) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**Next Business Meetings:**        August 5, 2010  
   August 19, 2010