

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MAY 7, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Executive Session:

- a) Mr. Brown called the executive session to order at 6:07 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Altieri. The following Supervisors were present: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Altieri, and Mr. Sassu. Also present were Township Manager Mr. Dunbar, Solicitor Mr. Onorato and HR Coordinator Mrs. Golas. A discussion took place on legal and personnel matters. Mr. Dininny arrived at 7:20 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

2) Public Meeting: Call to Order

- a) Chairman Sassu 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, Brown, Dininny, and Sassu.
- b) Supervisor DiPaolo arrived later in the meeting.
- c) Also present were Solicitor David Onorato, Township Engineer John Chambers, Police Chief Francis Carroll, Public Works Director David Shaffer, Director of Parks and Recreation Karl Lukens, Project Analyst Nate Dysard, Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, Director of Community Development Michael Siegel, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

5) Chairman's Comments:

- a) Chairman Sassu announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss legal & personnel matters. He further explained this was a work session where the Board does not take action on the items, and that the audience does not comment on the agenda items until the courtesy of the floor portion of the meeting at the end of the evening.

6) Presentations & Commendations:

- a) Presentation to Melissa A. Sattler on attainment of achieving the Gold Award from Girl Scouts:
 - i) Chairman Sassu presented an award to Melissa Sattler for attaining the Gold Award from Girl Scouts. Miss Sattler's Gold Award project included the delivery of a combined summer reading and healthy snack program for children at three locations.
- b) Presentation to Lisa M. Bassett on attainment of achieving the Gold Award from Girl Scouts:
 - i) Miss Lisa Bassett was not present to receive her award for attaining the Girl Scout Gold Award. Chairman Sassu discussed her Gold Award project, which related to creating an awareness of theater for children.
- c) Presentation to Neel Mehta who will represent Montgomery County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.:
 - i) Chairman Sassu presented an award to Neel Mehta, an Arcola Intermediate School student, who is representing Montgomery County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee this month.
- d) Presentation to Francis Carroll, Chief of Police, on 25 years of service with the Lower Providence Township Police Department (LPPD):
 - i) Chairman Sassu presented Chief Francis Carroll with a gold watch and an award for his 25 years of service with the LPPD. Mr. Sassu provided an overview of Chief Carroll's career history, and thanked him for his service. Chief Carroll thanked the Board and various Township personnel for their support. He also acknowledged the support he receives from his family, noting it is not easy having a police officer in the family.
- e) A resolution recognizing the week of May 3-9, 2009 as National Arson Awareness Week in Lower Providence Township:

- i) Chief Carroll requested that the Board adopt a proclamation and resolution declaring the week of May 3-9, 2009 as National Arson Awareness Week in Lower Providence Township.
- f) A resolution recognizing the week of May 10-16, 2009 as National Police Week in Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Chief Carroll requested that the Board adopt a proclamation and resolution declaring the week of May 10-16, 2009 as National Police Week in Lower Providence Township. He noted that in 2008 there were 133 police officers that died in the line of duty, with 7 of them coming from Pennsylvania. May 15th is National Police Memorial Day.
- g) A resolution recognizing the week of May 18-24, 2009 as National Public Works Week in Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Mr. Shaffer requested that the Board adopt a proclamation and resolution declaring the week of May 18-24, 2009 as National Public Works Week in Lower Providence Township. He discussed the various activities performed by Public Works personnel.
- h) A resolution recognizing the week of May 3-9, 2009 as Building Safety Week in Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Mr. Siegel commented that Lower Providence Township was the only township in Pennsylvania to participate in Building Safety Week in 2008.
 - ii) Mr. Salisbury requested that the Board recognize the week of May 3-9, 2009 as Building Safety Week in Lower Providence Township. This was approved two years ago, and they would like to start it up again this year to promote building safety.
- i) A resolution recognizing the week of May 17-23, 2009 as National Emergency Medical Service Week in Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Chief Carroll requested that the Board adopt a proclamation and resolution declaring the week of May 17-23, 2009 as National Emergency Medical Service Week in Lower Providence Township. He noted that the Lower Providence Community Ambulance was a critical part of the community, and faces the stress of rising costs and demands on their services. There will be an open house for the LP Ambulance on May 17th, when a new unit will be dedicated.
 - ii) Supervisor Dininny commented on the strengths each of these departments brings to the Township. He noted that Code Enforcement is recognized as being very firm but professional and fair. Public Works has been ahead of the ball with regard to the types of maintenance they perform on the roadways, including brining. The LPPD and Ambulance provide services that some adjoining communities do not have, and are very important considering the amount of senior housing in the Township.
- j) A resolution recognizing May 18, 2009 as National Buckle Up Day in Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Chief Carroll requested that the Board adopt a proclamation and resolution declaring May 18, 2009 as National Buckle Up Day in Lower Providence Township. This will kick-off an awareness campaign that runs through June 7th. They are trying to raise awareness and increase usage of seat belts.

7) Discussions:

- a) Agreement to authorize electronic access to PennDOT Systems:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar explained that at the May 21st meeting he would request the Board to authorize an agreement between the Township and PennDOT in an effort to streamline this process.
- b) Discussion on request from Audubon Recreation Association (ARA) to install a new scoreboard on Field C:
 - i) Mr. Lukens has received a request from ARA for the installation of a new scoreboard for Field C. ARA will bear all associated costs for this project, which has already been approved by the County.
- c) Discussion on releasing \$15,000 from capital budget for ARA to purchase and build a pavilion:
 - i) Mr. Lukens will request that the Board authorize releasing \$15,000 from the capital budget for construction of a pavilion at the ARA fields. Construction costs will exceed \$15,000, with the

additional expense to be paid by ARA. ARA will be required to complete this project by Fall 2009.

- ii) Supervisor Brown asked what size the pavilion would be and if there would be a concrete base? Mr. Lukens indicated the pavilion would be 20' x 45', with a concrete slab base approximately 2" wider than the pavilion.
- iii) Mr. Dunbar noted that the pavilion would be constructed in the area where ARA typically places portable tents.
- iv) Supervisor Altieri asked if ARA would handle the construction? Mr. Lukens indicated that they would handle installation of both the concrete slab and the pavilion.
- d) Discussion on conditional use for Collegeville Inn:
 - i) Mr. Siegel noted that at the last Board meeting the applicant requested a delay on the conditional use hearing. This will be scheduled for the May 21st Board meeting, and the Township Engineer, Township Landscape Consultant, and Township Traffic Engineer will all be present to participate in the hearing.
 - ii) Supervisor Brown asked if the applicants would be in attendance? Mr. Siegel noted that they have been told to attend.
 - iii) Mr. Dunbar noted that the applicant was told to come and complete this application or rescind it. This project has been delayed for too long.
- e) Escrow releases for Audubon Square IV in the amount of \$128.11; for Shannondell Phase V in the amount of \$10,956.41; for Seton Company in the amount of \$3,311.24; for Cutler Group, Providence Lea in the amount of \$6,056.43; for Pineville Properties in the amount of \$977.70; for Victory Christian Church in the amount of \$4,941.78; for Stephen & Amy Gaus in the amount of \$3,084.87 and \$2,021.13; for 35 Evansburg Road in the amount of \$2,763.85; for H. Troxel Cemetery Service in the amount of \$994.12; and for John Dubbs in the amount of \$1,042.28:
 - i) Mr. Siegel noted that these escrows have been on the Township's books for several years. He is trying to clean up the escrows and wants to return money to the developer's or applicants where possible. This money was initially held to ensure all requirements were met and bills were paid. All of these projects have been completed and have reached dedication or the 18-month period, therefore the escrows should be released.
- f) Waiver request from Lower Providence Historical Society in the amount of \$75.00 for temporary sign:
 - i) Mr. Siegel explained that the Lower Providence Historical Society is requesting a waiver from the \$75 temporary sign fee for a Plant and Bake sale they are having. This request has been granted in the past.
 - ii) Supervisor Brown noted that the sale was this Saturday, and asked if they needed to take action? Mr. Dunbar noted that the fee could be refunded to this organization after the May 21st meeting.
 - iii) Supervisor DiPaolo arrived at this point in the meeting.
- g) Discussion on disposition of assets – police bicycles:
 - i) Chief Carroll is requesting that the Board authorize the donation of two bicycles that are no longer used by the LPPD to the Lower Providence Community Center Ambulance. The bicycles will be used by paramedics at special events such as the 4th of July fireworks.
- h) Discussion on disposition of assets – H&K UMP 40 weapons:
 - i) Chief Carroll will also request authorization to sell two Heckler & Koch UMP40 weapons to the Collegeville Borough Police Department. These weapons are no longer used by the LPPD for their participation on the regional tactical team. Collegeville PD will be able to use them for similar purposes.
 - ii) Chairman Sassu noted that Federal law requires them to be transferred to another Police Department.
- i) Authorization to accept road reconstruction bids:
 - i) Mr. Dysard will request that the Board accept the 2009 road reconstruction bids for micro resurfacing at the May 21st meeting.

8) Courtesy of the Floor:

- a) Chairman Sassu thanked the LPPD for their many efforts in providing assistance for the funeral of retired Conshohocken Police Chief Joseph Clayborne, and provided the details of that event. He noted that there was also participation from a variety of Police Departments from around the area.
- b) Supervisor Brown received a complaint from a lawn service contractor regarding the many political signs placed on lawns. Mr. Brown directed the contractor to just make a pile of the signs on the properties he mows. He commented that people should receive the proper permission prior to putting up these signs.
- c) Mr. Tom Lehan, President of the Methacton Wolverines, requested that he be provided with some time on the next meeting's agenda to discuss a sign fee waiver and the possible use of an equipment trailer. Mr. Dunbar requested that he provide a formal request in writing in order to be placed on the agenda.
- d) Mr. Tom Borai, 5 Brenda Lane, expressed concern regarding a presentation made to Shannondell Residents, and remarks made by a Supervisor regarding the status of Shannondell Boulevard. Mr. Borai commented that Supervisor Dininny appeared to be making promises to keep Shannondell Boulevard closed as a private road should he be re-elected. Mr. Borai reviewed past Township meeting minutes relating to the public opening of this road and the corresponding conditions requiring the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit.
 - i) Supervisor Dininny remarked that Mr. Borai assumes this was done for votes. It is his belief that a major thoroughfare should not be placed next to a retirement community.
 - ii) Mr. Borai commented that the original plans restricted truck traffic on Shannondell Blvd.
 - iii) Mr. Dininny hopes that the next Board would continue efforts to install a full interchange at Rt. 422 and place more improvements on Trooper Road. This will keep traffic where it belongs.

9) Adjournment:

- a) **MOTION** – Supervisor Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Dininny seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Dunbar, Secretary