

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JULY 2, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Executive Session:

- a) Mrs. Altieri called the executive session to order at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. DiPaolo. The following supervisors were present: Mrs. Altieri, Mr. Dininny, Mr. Sassu, and Mr. DiPaolo. Mr. Brown was absent. Also present were Township Manager Mr. Dunbar and Solicitor Onorato. A discussion took place on legal and personnel matters. Mrs. Altieri motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dininny.

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, Dininny, DiPaolo, and Sassu.
- b) Supervisor Brown was absent.
- c) Also present were Solicitor David Onorato, Township Engineer John Chambers, Police Chief Francis Carroll, Director of Public Works David Shaffer, Human Resources Coordinator Geri Golas, Accounting Manager Susan Law, Project Analyst Nate Dysard, Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

5) Chairman's Comments:

- a) Chairman Sassu 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 Officer Mark Wells recognizing 20 Years of Service with the Lower Providence Township Police Department:
 - i) Chairman Sassu read a history of Officer Wells' career, and presented him with a plaque and gift from the Township. Chief Carroll was also present. Officer Wells thanked everyone, noting that he has enjoyed serving the Township.
- b) Presentation to Maureen Nelson recognizing 25 Years of Service with Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Chairman Sassu reviewed Mrs. Nelson's career history, and presented her with an engraved clock and gift from the Township. Mrs. Nelson also thanked everyone.
- c) Swearing-In of Peter C. Fleming as Police Officer for Lower Providence Township:
 - i) Chairman Sassu and Chief Carroll were present as Peter Fleming was sworn-in as a new police officer with LPPD by Judge Benjamin Crahalla. Mr. Fleming's family was also present. He thanked Chief Carroll and Lt. Turtle for this opportunity.

7) Discussions:

- a) Discussion on Shannondell Boulevard:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar noted that staff was directed to contact the leadership at Audubon Land Development to discuss the extension of Shannondell Boulevard. Additionally, he received two separate pieces of correspondence from the four representatives running for the Board of Supervisors on this matter. Mr. John Neilson is present this evening to answer any questions the Board may have relating to this matter.
 - ii) Supervisor Dininny noted that he brought this matter up because of the request from 800 residents at Shannondell and surrounding neighbors who do not want to see Shannondell Blvd. turned into a major thoroughfare. The difficulty is that this is an approved plan. He asked Mr. Neilson if his

- company would be willing to discuss the possibility of an alternative for this roadway with the Township, or possibly doing a project elsewhere should alternatives be limited?
- iii) Mr. Neilson indicated that he was willing to revisit the land development plan and review the need. He is also willing to consider an alternative project.
 - iv) Supervisor Dininny suggested that Audubon Land Development be invited to a Solicitor / Staff meeting to explore the options for this roadway.
 - v) Mr. Neilson commented that his family has been in the Township for over 50 years as a developer and over 100 years as a family, and they are willing to discuss things that would be beneficial for the Township to create a win-win situation.
 - vi) Supervisor Dininny requested that he be included at this meeting, as he has had hundreds of people discuss this matter with him.
- b) Disposition of Records:
- i) Ms. Law indicated that she would request authorization to dispose of all records listed on a resolution at the next meeting per the record retention policy.
- c) Extension request for conditional use application CU-09-01, 3236 Ridge Pike:
- i) Mr. Dysard indicated that the applicant for this conditional use application has request an extension for a 75-day period. This will be on the next meeting agenda for approval.
- d) Project S-08-04, Eagle Stream Plaza, for final land development approval:
- i) Mr. Dysard noted that the applicant was present to answer any questions the Board may have on this project prior to final land development approval. This is a 10,000 sq. ft. multi-use facility.
 - ii) Ms. Susanne Creveling, HT Engineering, was present to discuss the plan. Ms. Creveling indicated that she was here to answer any questions. They have a few items to complete, but these have been addressed.
 - iii) Mr. Onorato asked if she received the draft resolution? Ms. Creveling indicated that she had, and had made a minor date change. Additionally, there is a 6th waiver request that was not noted on the resolution that is necessary to satisfy a request on the McMahon review letter.
 - iv) This final waiver request relates to driveway separations that should be 100 ft., however they are only 50 ft. for safety issues.
- e) Request for fee waiver for use of Gaughler Field from Mavericks baseball:
- i) Mr. Dunbar has received a request from the Lower Providence Mavericks baseball team, that the Board consider waiving fees related to the use of Gaughler Field. This will be on the next meeting's agenda.
- f) Traffic light battery backup bid:
- i) Mr. Dysard explained that the purchase of two traffic light back-up systems, budgeted for 2009, will exceed the \$10,000 threshold and must go out for advertised bid. This will be on the next meeting agenda for approval.
 - ii) Supervisor DiPaolo asked if there were any on the State contract? Mr. Dysard indicated that there were not.
- g) Eskie Park comfort station:
- i) Mr. Dysard stated that in the 2009 budget, \$25,000 is listed as a line item for the Eskie Park bathroom. Most of the construction work is to be in-house, so it would be within budget. Mr. Dysard explained that the EDU's were not budgeted, so he will ask the Township to request a waiver from the EDU's. They will not proceed with the project until the \$25,000 DCED grant is received.
 - ii) Supervisor Dininny asked when they would confirm receipt of the DCED grant? Mr. Dysard indicated this is a slow process. Mr. Dunbar remarked on the legislative impasse with the PA State budget.
 - iii) Mr. Dininny asked if they would move this to next year? Mr. Dunbar stated that if they receive last year's grant funds, they could complete this project in the fall.
 - iv) Supervisor Altieri asked for an explanation of the EDU's. Mr. Dunbar explained that the capital fund for the Parks & Recreation budget has a \$14,000 deficit. They are waiting for a \$95,000

grant from last year for Hoy Park, and did not anticipate waiting for this grant. The sewer costs were approximately \$9,000 that was not budgeted for the project.

- h) 90-day extension for Project S-07-11, 3481 Germantown Pike, Terra Landscaping:
 - i) Mr. Dysard noted that the applicant has requested a 90-day extension for this project, which will be on the next meeting's agenda.
- i) 90-day extension for Project S-06-08, 3481 Shannondell Phase III:
 - i) Mr. Dysard noted that this applicant has also requested a 90-day extension for this project, which will be on the next meeting's agenda.
- j) Project S-07-06, 258 Level Road minor subdivision (Barto), amendment to preliminary / final land development approval:
 - i) Mr. Dysard noted that this plan was approved in 2008. The property owner is trying to sell the property, and is seeking an amendment to the plan.

8) **Courtesy of the Floor:**

- a) Chairman Sassu announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss legal & personnel matters.
 - i) Chairman Sassu remarked on attending the 100th anniversary celebration for Eagleville Hospital.
 - ii) Chairman Sassu noted that this Saturday, July 4th, the fireworks celebration would begin at the Township building at 6:30 p.m. with a band and fireworks at dusk. He will also be attending the 100th anniversary celebration for East and West Norriton that evening.
- b) Mr. Dunbar stated that on July 1, 2009, he received a call from Mr. Gerry Lenfest, President of the American Revolution Center, and Dr. Bruce Cole, CEO, regarding the decision to move the ARC into the Historical District in Philadelphia. Mr. Dunbar noted that the Township and staff have put a lot of time and effort into making this project work for the Township, or in the Park, or somewhere else in Montgomery County. This is a tremendous loss for the region, but at least it will still be located in PA. Mr. Dunbar thanked staff for their assistance since 2006 in working on this project, noting it would have provided a lot of opportunities for the region.
- c) Mr. Joe Ferraro, 12 Pinetree Drive, asked what records were being disposed of?
 - i) Ms. Law explained they were records the Township is not required to keep. Mr. Dunbar noted this is done in accordance with PA State Statute.
 - ii) Mr. Ferraro commented that when Shannondell was approved, the approval was partially predicated on Shannondell Blvd. going through.
- d) Mr. Mark Snow, 4020 Redwing Lane, a 12-year resident of the Township, and member of the LP Mavericks, voiced his concern over various fees the baseball team is required to pay for the use of Gaughler Field. He commented that they did not have to pay these fees for the past three years, nor did they have to pay the \$500 security deposit, and thinks they are being penalized with a fee. Mr. Snow commented that the taxes he pays should satisfy any responsibility for this field. He further noted that they have not seen any significant improvements to the field during the three years they have used it, and asked what they get in return for this fee? Mr. Snow thinks non-residents should have to pay for field usage, not residents. Mr. Snow stated that the Township should be happy that the kids are involved in sports and not penalize them.
 - i) Supervisor Dininny explained that he understands the work volunteers perform on fields, and would consider deferment of fees, but noted that Park & Recreation program is under-funded. Fees will help prevent them from raising taxes to support these programs.
 - ii) Mr. Dunbar stated that taxes do not cover the Park & Recreation budget. The Township does a \$100,000 transfer each year from the Club at Shannondell into the P&R budget, which runs annual deficits. The 2009 fee schedule was published and approved last December. Many teams use the field and there have been a lot of improvements to it in the last three years. The fees paid for use of the field help to cover costs for its' maintenance.

9) **Adjournment:**

- a) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Dininny seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: July 16, 2009
Next Work Session Meeting: August 6, 2009