

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
JUNE 16, 2016**

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**Call to Order:** Chairman Sorgini called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Sorgini, Supervisors Duffy, MacFarland and Zimmerman.
- b. Also in attendance were: John Rice, Township Solicitor; Alison Rudolf, Interim Township Manager; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Timothy Woodrow, Township Engineer; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager, John Primus, Director of Public Works; Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, and Stanley Turtle, Chief of Police.

Solicitor Rice announced that the Board met on June 6 in executive session to discuss personnel and real estate matters. He also announced that the Board met prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**1) Consent Agenda**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) including moving the meeting minutes of June 2, 2016 into the record and with the addition of the Escrow Release of the Lower Providence EMS Facility and the Escrow Release for the Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**2) Presentations**

- A) Presentation to Cpl. Robert Heim in recognition of 15 years with the Lower Providence Township Police Department.
- B) Presentation of Commendation of Merit to Officer Joseph McCreary.

**3) New Business**

- A) Consideration of agreement with Marc Consulting for economic and business development assistance.
  - i) Mr. Carmen Italia of Marc Consulting, Inc. introduced himself to the Board and reviewed the proposal for economic and business development assistance.
  - ii) Supervisor MacFarland asked what opportunities he saw for Lower Providence Township. Mr. Italia said that he would initially target the Collegeville Inn site, the Norristown Ford site, 950 Rittenhouse and Audubon Village.
  - iii) Supervisor Eckman stated that the proposal is for six months, which will allow the Township to get started on the initiative and to work past the stigma that Lower Providence is not willing to work with businesses. She said it is not easy to use taxpayer money to bring in opportunity but she feels the proposal is reasonable and it is worth the chance to fill properties that are almost impossible to attract new tenants. Supervisor Eckman said that Mr. Italia has connections and knows the history of properties.
  - iv) Supervisor Duffy said the proposal for \$75 per hour, not to exceed \$7,500, is reasonable and a good investment to jump start development and to help get the word out that Lower Providence is friendly to new business and development. He welcomed Mr. Italia to the team.

- v) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the agreement with Marc Consulting for economic and business development assistance. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- B) Consideration of waiver request for relief from Chapter 112 of Lower Providence Ordinance to allow a restaurant tenant to alternately follow standards of International Plumbing Code concerning the number of restroom facilities to be provided.
  - i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the request that was brought forth by the architect of the Starbucks that will be constructed in Audubon V. He explained how the code, as written, would adversely impact the construction.
  - ii) Chairman Sorgini asked if this issue should be reviewed and addressed for updating. Mr. Mrozinski said that an ordinance review is in order and would be addressed as his committee reviews and organizes all the text amendments.
  - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to grant relief from Chapter 112 of Lower Providence Ordinance to allow a restaurant tenant to alternately follow standards of International Plumbing Code concerning the number of restroom facilities to be provided. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- C) Consideration of a resolution approving S-16-03/3837 Landis Mill, preliminary/final subdivision plan to create two lots.
  - i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the resolution as well as the easements to be granted.
  - ii) Mr. Woodrow said that concerns and issues were addressed two weeks ago and, in response to Mr. Sorgini, stated he had no issue with the requested waivers.
  - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Duffy made a motion to approve a resolution approving S-16-03/3837 Landis Mill, preliminary/final subdivision plan to create two lots. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- D) Authorization to proceed with phone system upgrade and voicemail server replacement.
  - i) Mr. Roth reviewed the proposal to upgrade the phone system and voicemail server. He stated that this was a Capital Project for 2016 and while they had originally proposed to replace all phones, because the phones were in good condition the decision was made to upgrade instead, resulting in the project coming in under budget.
  - ii) Supervisor Duffy noted for record that the quote for the phone upgrade and server replacement is \$19, 635.96, which is approximately \$15,000 under budget.
  - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor made a motion to proceed with the phone system upgrade and voicemail server system. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
    - (1) Supervisor Eckman asked if the new system would allow the ability to send .wav files to email. Mr. Roth said the current system has that ability but it has not been implemented because stored emails/voicemails would cause an increase in volume and stored files could also be subject to Right To Know laws. He said that is something the Board would need to determine before implementing. Mr. Roth also said there is the issue of cost to maintain that component of the system to consider.
    - (2) Supervisor MacFarland asked why the voicemail server storage would be larger. Mr. Roth said that it would. Discussion was held as to the back-up provisions of the system. Supervisor MacFarland asked if it was possible to run out of storage space within the next a few years. Mr. Roth said they would not as voicemails are cycled through so the space is never overrun. He said that voice files can be copied and saved if necessary for police use.
    - (3) The motion *passed 5-0*.

E) **MOTION:** Chairman Sorgini called for a motion to hire David Woglom of the Lafayette College Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government to conduct the search for a new Township Manager at a rate of \$85 per hour not to exceed \$7,000. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**4) Announcements**

- A) The Lower Providence Fire Company's annual Fireman's fair is currently being held, through June 18, on the Fire Company's grounds, 3199 Ridge Pike, in Eagleville.
- B) The Planning Commission meeting will be held June 22 at 7 p.m.
- C) The Zoning Hearing Board meeting will be held June 23 at 7 p.m.
- D) The Township's Independence Day Celebration will be held in Eagleville Park. There will be a concert at 6:30 p.m. followed by fireworks at dusk.

**5) Courtesy of the Floor**

- A) Ann Marie Spone, Dorchester Road, explained that she had approached board a year ago about a unkempt property adjoining her residence. She thanked Mr. Mrozinski for his efforts but stated that the issue has not been resolved. She said that after a year the property owner has still not complied with the plan in place.
  - i) Mr. Sorgini asked that she give her information to Township staff and they will work on resolving the issue. Mr. Mrozinski and Mr. Woodrow reviewed what had been done to date to help resolve issues at the property. Solicitor Rice explained that enforcement was not easy on this type of code violation and that the matter could be pushed up to district judge but that it would not guarantee compliance, only a fine if the property owner is found guilty. Mr. Mrozinski said that he has tried to work with the property owner but feels that at this point it needs to move to the magisterial level.
  - ii) Ms. Spone said that her concern was for health reasons rather than aesthetics and asked for clarification of the ordinance that was being violated. Solicitor Rice stated they will look into the matter and take it to the next level if necessary.
- B) Supervisor Eckman stated that the Arcola Road Bridge is close to completion and should open on or about July 1.

**6) Adjournment**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: July 7, 2016 – Cancelled  
July 21, 2016