

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
MAY 18, 2017**

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**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Eckman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairwoman Eckman, Supervisors Duffy, MacFarland, Sorgini and Zimmerman.
- b. Also in attendance were: John Rice, Township Solicitor; Don Delamater, Township Manager; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager; John Primus, Director of Public Works; Stanley Turtle, Chief of Police and Jennifer Reed, Student Representative.

Chairwoman Eckman announced that prior to the meeting the Board met to discuss personnel, and legal 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 May 4, 2017 into the record. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**2) New Business**

A) Consideration of a fence waiver for 59 Level Road.

- i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the waiver request, stating this was a request to replace an existing fence that provides a safety and visual barrier to the rear yard and in-ground pool of 2003 Saffron Way.
- ii) Mr. Evans, the property owner, stated the fence would be a wooden stockade fence, replacing an existing wooden stockade fence.
- iii) Supervisor Sorgini asked if site lines would be an issue. Mr. Mrozinski said there would not be a site line issue.
- iv) Supervisor MacFarland asked for clarification as to whose property the fence is currently located. Mr. Evans said the fence was on his property and was there when he purchased the home. He stated that the previous owner had entered into an agreement with the neighbor as to the location of the fence.
- v) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the fence waiver for 59 Level Road. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

B) Consideration of preliminary/final approval for subdivision plan for S-17-01, 1418 Gertrude Avenue.

- i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the preliminary/final plan. He said that Robert Beers of Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., the applicant's engineer, was in attendance and available for questions.
- ii) Chairwoman Eckman said that per the review letters that there may be an issue with the riparian buffer. Mr. Woodrow said the he felt that issue had been resolved.
- iii) Solicitor Rice confirmed that the riparian buffer and steep slopes would not be issues that required waivers. Mr. Woodrow said that he had asked for more clarification from the applicant, which he received in the revised submission. He said that these issues do not meet the requirements of the ordinance and would not be imposed on the lots.

- iv) Solicitor Rice reviewed the April 17 review letter from Woodrow & Associates. He confirmed that Catherine Street and Gertrude Avenue are public streets maintained by the Township. He asked if the applicant had reviewed the SALDO comments. Mr. Beers said that the Planning Commission had felt that almost everything in the review letter could be waived based on the property and the neighborhood. Mr. Woodrow said they would like to see conditions of approval regarding the location of the proposed driveways and an area of disturbance that would guide a future buyer of the property. He said he would work Mr. Beers to clarify this.
  - v) Solicitor Rice discussed the existing well on the property, which is located inside the existing house. He asked if the well was currently in use and Mr. Beers confirmed that it was. Solicitor Rice said that a condition attached to approval would be a connection to public sewer.
  - vi) Solicitor Rice asked if future buyers would be responsible for stormwater management. Mr. Woodrow said that any buyer of the lot would need to create a grading and stormwater management plan to meet the Township's code. Solicitor Rice said that this would need to be documented and put on record at the Recorder of Deeds. Solicitor Rice said there were issues of deferred improvements that would need to be documented as a condition of approval.
  - vii) Supervisor MacFarland clarified that all lots are over 30,000 square feet. He asked if the roads are public or private. Mr. Woodrow said they are public roads that are plowed and maintained by the Township. Supervisor MacFarland said they don't meet current roadway standards. Mr. Woodrow agreed and said this is why the applicant was seeking waivers as to cartway widths.
  - viii) Supervisor Sorgini asked if public sewer is available for these lots. Mr. Beers said that it was.
  - ix) Chairwoman Eckman expressed concerns regarding the waiver of the road widening and asked if there was a way to widen Lot 3 slightly to permit cars to turn around. Discussion was held as to road widening possibilities. Mr. Woodrow said that he could look at the plans with Mr. Beers to see if a solution could be worked out. Supervisor Sorgini asked if there was access for fire vehicles. Mr. Woodrow said that fire vehicles can get in but they need to back out. He said he would work with Mr. Beers to see if these issues can be mitigated.
  - x) Mr. Beers stated that they have resolved the non-conforming lot issue in the Montgomery County Planning Commission's March 20, 2017 letter.
  - xi) Solicitor Rice said that the Board will discuss and clarify the issues and, at the next meeting, a written resolution will be prepared for approval. He asked Mr. Woodrow if he would have the opportunity to meet with the applicant prior to the next meeting. Mr. Woodrow said that he would. Solicitor Rice said that if that meeting occurs to iron out the remaining issues then the resolution will likely be on the next meeting's agenda.
- C) Consideration of proposal for MS4 watershed study.
- i) Mr. Woodrow reviewed the background of the MS4 watershed study and the Proposal for the Skippack Creek Watershed Sediment TMDL Planning & Coordinated Implementation Strategy as outlined in the May 4, 2017 T&M Associates letter. He stated that the total share cost for Lower Providence Township to participate in the study is \$12,740.20. He said if the Township moves ahead with the proposal they would participate in a meeting next week with the DEP and members of the consortium to discuss how to best present reports and work together as a group to get the most benefit from their collaboration. Mr. Woodrow said they

have been promised by the DEP that by working together they would be moved to the top as far as grant considerations. He also stated that they held their first meeting with the local MS4 group and determined that while they have many good practices in place they need to move forward to memorialize their work and have it ready for DEP presentation.

- ii) Supervisor Duffy said that it is important to note that the Lower Providence Township is at the bottom of Skippack Creek and is at the mercy of communities' decisions upstream and this is a way for Lower Providence to work with those municipalities to make sure that we get the benefit of any steps taken upstream. Supervisor Sorgini said that it will help the Township to comply while keeping costs low by cost sharing.
- iii) Supervisor MacFarland asked if all of the other five communities have committed to the consortium. Mr. Woodrow said that all have verbally committed, with several already voting to participate.
- iv) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the participation of Lower Providence Township in the Skippack Creek Watershed Sediment TMDI Planning & Coordinated Implementation Strategy. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

D) Proclamation recognizing Older Americans Month.

- i) Mr. Delamater read the proclamation declaring May 2017 to be Older Americans Month.
- ii) Chairman Eckman said she has seen two instances of disrespect toward older residents in the Township in the past month and thinks this will help bring awareness and encourage residents to think about the senior citizens in the community.

E) Consideration of a request from the Lower Providence Fire Department for extension of operating hours for the annual Fireman's Fair.

- i) Chief Turtle reviewed the request stating that the extension were for Friday, June 9 between 10 and 11 p.m.; Sunday, June 11 between 9 p.m. and 9 p.m.; and Friday, June 16 between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. Chief Turtle stated that they have been granted these extensions for the past two years and there have been no issues. He also said he has made a point of reaching out to the vendor to outline the Township's expectations and there have been no issues
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to grant the request from the Lower Providence Fire Department for extension of operating hours for the annual Fireman' Fair. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
  - (1) Supervisor MacFarland asked if there had been any issues with the neighbors. Chief Turtle said there have been no complaints.The motion *passed* 5-0.

**3) Announcements**

- A) The Planning Commission will meet on May 24 at 7 p.m.
  - i) Mr. Mrozinski said that the Planning Commission will have an update on Eagleville Hospital's master plan.
- B) The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on May 25 at 7 p.m.
  - i) Mr. Mrozinski said that the Zoning Hearing Board will hear a request from a new property owner who wants to put a house on a substandard lot on Clearfield Avenue. In addition, they will hear the variance requests for the Lidl Supermarket Group.
- C) The Lower Providence Fire Department's annual Fireman's Fair will be held June 8 through June 17 on the Fire Department grounds, 3199 Ridge Pike, in Eagleville. Information is available at [ww.lpfire.com](http://ww.lpfire.com).

**4) Comments and Other Business**

- A) Supervisor Sorgini announced that the Parks and Recreation Board is actively planning this year's Fourth of July celebration.
- B) Supervisor MacFarland said that the Regional Sewer Board met a week ago and reported that the surveying and planning through DEP to go forward with the sewer line in place as was voted on continues and there has been no change in the project. He said that it is moving forward at the normal pace.
- C) Supervisor Duffy recognized Chief Turtle as well as the Police, volunteer firefighters and Public Works Departments for their professionalism at the recent accident on Park Avenue. He asked that both Chief Turtle and Mr. Primus pass along his and the Board's thanks for their work at the scene.
- D) Jennifer Reed, Student Representative, announced that Friday was the end of the unofficial testing month at Methacton High School. She also announced that on Saturday, May 20, two events will be held that would highlight the diversity of the high school. Ms. Reed said that the International Fair presented by the Multicultural Club will have presentations and performances by students and community members representing their country of ancestry. Also being held on May 20 is the TedX event which features presentations by Methacton students who have paved the way as scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs.

**5) Adjournment**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Business Meeting:                    June 1, 2017  
   June 15, 2017