

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2015**

Executive Session: The Executive Session was called to order at 6:32 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman. Present were Supervisors Mr. Sorgini, Mr. Duffy, Mrs. Eckman, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Zimmerman. Also present were Solicitor Mr. Rice, Township Manager Mr. Gestrich, and Assistant Township Mrs. Golas. The session adjourned at 7:28 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman.

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, Eckman, Thomas and Zimmerman.
- b. Also in attendance were: Richard Gestrich, Township Manager; John Rice, Township Solicitor; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Karl Lukens, Parks & Recreation; Timothy Woodrow, Township Engineer; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager; John Primus, Director of Public Works; Francis Carroll, Chief of Police; and Denise Walsh, Community Relations Coordinator.

Chairman Sorgini announced that prior to the meeting an executive session was held to discuss legal and personnel matters.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a) and 1(b), including moving the meeting minutes of October 15, 2015 and the special budget meeting of October 15, 2015 into the record. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0.*

2) Presentations

- A) Presentation of annual donation check to the Lower Providence Senior Center by Supervisor Don Thomas to Brian Kuklinski and Eileen Kuntz.
- B) Presentation of annual donation check to Lower Providence Community Center Ambulance by Supervisor Don Thomas to Brian Kuklinski and Eileen Kuntz.
- C) Presentation of annual donation check to Lower Providence Volunteer Fire Company by Supervisor Colleen Eckman to Jackie Rittenhouse.
- D) Presentation of annual donation check to the Visiting Nurse Association by Supervisor Patrick Duffy to Richard Cirko.
- E) Presentation of annual donation check to the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County by Chairman Sorgini to Lynn Williams.

3) New Business

- A) Consideration of an ordinance to authorize issuance of non-electoral debt for a five-year interest free loan from Montgomery County in the amount of \$179,000 for the purchase of emergency radio equipment.
 - i) Solicitor Rice explained the details of the ordinance and stated approval was needed to advertise the ordinance.
 - ii) Mr. Gestrich said that the loan was put in the unrestricted capital as an expenditure and reiterated that this was an interest free loan.

- iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to advertise an ordinance to authorize issuance of non-electoral debt for a five-year interest free loan from Montgomery County in the amount of \$179,000 for the purchase of emergency radio equipment. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- B) Consideration of a recommendation to update township ordinance Chapter 67 to reflect updated building code standards at the state level pursuant to PA Act 45. Specifically recommending adoption of International Building Code 2012, Appendices B, E, F and G, International Fire Code 2009 and appendices.
 - i) Mr. Mrozinski explained the update. He stated that Chapter 67 is already on the books and was adopted with Act 45 of the State Code when the State went to the UCC codes. Mr. Mrozinski stated the ordinance was needed to bring in the new standards, noting that the Township has been using the new standards as much as possible but not in a direct fashion. He stated this is an administrative change, not a new regulation, and will allow the Township to give a direct citation of code to applicants. Mr. Gestrich said that this would need to be advertised if the Board of Supervisors elected to move forward.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Duffy made a motion to authorize the advertisement to update township ordinance Chapter 67 to reflect updated building code standards at the state level pursuant to PA Act 45. Specifically recommending adoption of International Building Code 2012, Appendices B, E, F and G, International Fire Code 2009 and appendices. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- C) Consideration of a recommendation to update Township Ordinance Chapter 114 Property Maintenance Code to reflect updated building code standards at the state level pursuant to PA Act 45. Specifically recommending adoption of International Property Maintenance Code 2009.
 - i) Mr. Mrozinski explained the update. He stated that Code 2009 has been adopted by the state and this would allow the Township to reflect the current codes. Mr. Gestrich stated they were seeking authorization to advertise the update.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Duffy made a motion to authorize advertisement of the recommendation to update Township Ordinance Chapter 114 Property Maintenance Code to reflect updated building code standards at the state level pursuant to PA Act 45. Specifically recommending adoption of International Property Maintenance Code 2009. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- D) Consideration of detention basin fencing recommendations
 - i) Mr. Lukens explained that he and the Township engineer had walked a few of the Township basins to determine their fencing needs. He stated that most have been naturalized which provides a more pleasing aesthetic while still providing a buffer. He submitted a list of the basins in the Township with different recommendations for fencing when the time comes to replace or remove the existing fencing.
 - ii) Chairman Sorgini asked about the process for removing the post & rail as well as chain link fencing. Mr. Lukens said that they would be removed as the need for repairs came up and would not be a next day item. He noted that some of the fences are still in good shape. Supervisor Duffy asked if the split rail fencing could be reused. Mr. Lukens said that it could and they have a large stockpile in the barn. He said they will continue to recycle the fencing and use it in other locations in the Township
 - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Thomas made a motion to approve the detention basin fencing recommendations. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

E) Authorization to advertise for 2016 Township Boards and Commissions vacancies and 2016 Professional Consultants.

- i) Mr. Gestrich stated that they were seeking authorization to advertise to advertise for the vacancies and consultants noting that there were vacancies on the Library Board, the Finance Committee, Parks & Recreation, Planning Commission, Sewer Authority, UCC Board, Vacancy Board, and Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Gestrich said that the current members may elect to reapply but said that if any residents were interested in these positions to contact the Township. Chairman Sorgini stated this was a great opportunity for residents to become involved in local government and encouraged interested parties to send a letter of interest to the Township.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize advertisement for 2016 Township Boards and Commissions vacancies and 2016 Professional Consultants. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- iii) Supervisor Eckman noted that the requests for consideration should be in by November 30, or as soon as possible.

F) Settlement Agreement between Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority and Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority and Lower Providence Township.

- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the case as well as the settlement agreement. He noted that the township was a party in the case as they formed the Township Sewer Authority. He noted that as a result of the settlement the rates for commercial sewer customers may be raised, however there does not appear to be any objections to the settlement by the commercial sewer customers.
- ii) Chairman Sorgini stated he acted as the Board of Supervisor liaison and noted that this was a complicated case but the compromise was a good faith compromise that the Township supports.
- iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Thomas made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement between Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority and Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority and Lower Providence Township. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

4) Announcements

- A) Sewer Authority Meeting will be held November 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- B) Library Board meeting will be held on November 16 at 7 p.m.
- C) Parks and Recreation Board Meeting will be held November 17 at 7 p.m.
- D) Planning Commission Meeting will be held November 18 at 7 p.m.
- E) Zoning Hearing Board Meeting will be held November 23 at 7 p.m.
- F) Annual Community Tree Lighting will be held Friday, December 4 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Eagleville Park
- G) The Caring & Sharing holiday food drive is underway. Items can be dropped off at the Township Building weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

5) Comments and other Business

- A) Supervisor Eckman announced that the Public Finance committee met on October 26 at which time the Township manager went over the budget and Township's financial status. Supervisor Eckman stated the committee, with its wide range of expertise, provides helpful input. She thanked Mr. Gestrich and Ms. Golas for their work with the committee.

6) Adjournment

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

Next Business Meeting: November 19, 2015
December 3, 2015