

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
DECEMBER 3, 2015**

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**Executive Session:** The Executive Session was called to order at 6:37 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Eckman, seconded by Mr. Duffy. Present were Supervisors Mr. Sorgini, Mr. Duffy, and Mrs. Eckman. Also present were Solicitor Mr. Rice, Township Manager Mr. Gestrich and Assistant Township Manager Mrs. Golas. The session adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Eckman, seconded by Mr. Duffy.

**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, Supervisor Duffy and Supervisor Eckman. Supervisors Thomas and Zimmerman were absent.
- 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; Timothy Woodrow, Township Engineer; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager; John Primus, Director of Public Works; Denise Walsh, Community Relations Coordinator; and Francis Carroll, Chief of Police.

Chairman Sorgini announced that prior to the meeting an executive session was held to discuss legal, personnel and real estate 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 November 19, 2015 into the record. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0.

**2) Presentations**

- A) Promotion of Cpl. Matthew L. Kuhnert to the rank of Sergeant with the Lower Providence Township Police Department.

**3) New Business**

- A) Authorization to post Act 44 Disclosure Forms on the Township website.
  - i) Ms. Golas reviewed the reason for the authorization. She stated that all contractors providing services to, and being paid by, the Township pension plans are required to complete the Act 44 Disclosure Form. She reported that Charles Friedlander of Municipal Finance Partners, Inc. and InR Advisory Services completed Disclosure forms. She requested the Board to authorize their posting on the Township's website.
  - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to authorize the posting of Act 44 Disclosure Forms on the Township website. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The Motion *passed* 3-0.
- B) Request for waiver of temporary sign permit fee for Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive.
  - i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the request for the waiver. He noted that Lt. Patty Simons was the sister of Township Public Works employee John Simons.
  - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to grant the waiver of the temporary sign permit fee for the Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0.
- C) Waiver request to permit an 8-foot high solid style fence in the front yard of Richter's Auto at 3966 Crosskeys Road.

- i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the waiver request. He noted that this was a non-conforming business.
  - ii) Mr. Michael Organski stated he completed the subdivision last year and stated there was an interest in developing the second lot contingent on being able to block out some of the automobiles on the lot of Richter's Auto. He said they are seeking a waiver for approximately 100 feet of fence along the street. Mr. Organski said he had an existing permit to put a fence up for the other side of the property to block out an existing landscaping business. He said the business owner is willing to have the fence installed.
    - (1) Supervisor Duffy asked if the landowner was seeking the waiver, stating he was not sure if they can grant a waiver to do something on another landowner's property. He stated that the property owner would need to apply for the permit.
    - (2) Solicitor Rice said that the Board could approve the request conditional on the property owner filing a permit.
  - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Duffy made a motion to approve the waiver request to permit an 8-foot high solid style solid fence on Mr. Organski's property as well as the construction of fence on the auto body property contingent on the owner of the property filing the appropriate paperwork. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0.
- D) Authorization to advertise Subdivision Ordinance Amendment concerning the sidewalks.
- i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the ordinance, stating this was a cleanup of a land development ordinance. He said that the amendments incorporate language and standards consistent with federal Americans with Disability legislation.
  - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to authorize the advertisement of the Subdivision Ordinance Amendment concerning the sidewalks. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0.
- E) Authorization to advertise Zoning Ordinance Amendments revising Audubon VC Village Commercial District to permit facilities with drive-through services as a conditional use.
- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the ordinance. He said the ordinance would permit this usage just in this portion of the Village Commercial District. He noted that both the Township's Planning Commission and the Montgomery County Planning Commission had reviewed the amendment.
  - ii) Chairman Sorgini said that the Montgomery County Planning Commission stated that the existence of a drive-thru in that area made them comfortable recommending the amendment.
  - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to authorize the advertisement of Zoning Ordinance Amendments revising Audubon VC Village Commercial District to permit facilities with drive-through services as a conditional use. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion.
    - (1) Supervisor Eckman reiterated that this is limited to the Audubon Village Commercial district.
 The motion *passed* 3-0.
- F) Authorization to advertise Zoning Ordinance Cleanup proposal.
- i) Mr. Mrozinski said this was the work of an ad hoc committee created for cleaning up the Zoning Ordinance. He reviewed his memo dated November 25, which outlined the changes (attached) Mr. Mrozinski said that the Montgomery County Planning Commission recommend the changes and said they would like us to review the sign ordinance as a whole which his department will do.

- ii) Chairman Sorgini noted that this ordinance cleanup was a joint effort between the Board and the Planning Commission over the course of several years and thanked everyone for their work.
- iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to authorize the advertisement the Zoning Ordinance Cleanup proposal. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0.

#### 4) Announcements

- A) 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Tree Lighting will be held Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Eagleville Park.
- B) The Caring & Sharing holiday food drive is underway – canned goods and non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Township Building during business hours. The Angel Tree will be in the lobby after Thanksgiving.
- C) Parks & Recreation Board will be held December 8 at 7 p.m.
- D) Sewer Authority Meeting will be held December 9 at 5:30 p.m.
- E) Planning Commission meeting will be held December 16 at 7 p.m.
- F) Zoning Hearing Board Meeting will be held on December 21 at 7 p.m.
- G) Library Board meeting will be held December 21 at 6 p.m.
- H) Chairman Sorgini noted that the ramps to 422 at Trooper Road were now open, stating this was not only a benefit to residents but also to businesses at that end of the Township.
- I) Chief Carroll reported that the Police Department has participated in two recent events.
  - i) He said that on November 17 they participated in the Limerick Nuclear Generator bi-annual exercise. He stated that the group participating, consisting of members of the police department and Township staff distinguished themselves and that Federal evaluators said the Township's record keeping was some of the best they've seen. Chief Carroll said that it was important for the Board and residents to understand that these practices and procedures are applicable to all hazard plans and that the Township can rest easy knowing that they are very prepared for any incident.
    - (1) Chairman Sorgini thanked the Chief and everyone participated in the exercise.
- J) Chief Carroll reported that on November 30 the Lower Providence Police Department underwent an on site assessment through the Law Enforcement Commission. He said the Lower Providence Police Department is one of only 101 accredited agencies out of 1200 in the state. He recognized and gave credit to the officers who worked so diligently to make the accreditation happen.
  - i) Chairman Sorgini said the credit goes back to the Police Department. He said he knows Lower Providence has the best police department in the area and the accreditation show that even more. He thanked Chief Carroll for his efforts and asked him to pass along the Board's congratulations to the department.
- K) Supervisor Eckman reported that the Business Development Committee unveiled their new Facebook page. She gave credit to the hard work of both Bill Roth and Denise Walsh. Mr. Roth discussed the purpose and use of the Facebook page.

#### 5) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Duffy seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next Business Meeting:      December 17, 2015  
Monday, January 4, 2016

**Respectfully submitted:**

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**Richard Gestrich, Township Manager**