

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
August 18, 2022**

Call to Order: Chairman Neights called the hybrid live/virtual meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Protocol for Hybrid Meetings: Chairman Neights provided an overview of the protocols for public participation for members of the public attending the meeting virtually over Zoom.

Roll Call:

- a. The following Board members were in attendance: Chairman Neights, Vice-Chair Coless, Supervisor Darby, Supervisor MacFarland and Supervisor Sorgini.
- b. Also, in attendance were: E.J. Mentry, Township Manager; Lauren Gallagher and Nicole Feight, Township Solicitors; Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Michael Jackson, Chief of Police and Student Representative Uma Bapat.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Neights announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting on August 18, 2022, to discuss land acquisition, legal and personnel matters.

1) Presentations

- A) Recognition of outgoing Parks and Recreation student representatives.
 - i) Vice Chair Coless recognized and thanked student representatives Iris Gong, Kristen Riddell, and Charles Yang for their service to the Parks and Recreation Board.
- B) Lower Providence Community Library report
 - i) Marija Skoog, Library Director, presented the Lower Providence Community Library report which included an overview of the Library's mission, financial information, staffing, programming, circulation and usage data, and goals for the future.
- C) Student Representative report from Uma Bapat
 - i) At the conclusion of Uma Bapat's student representative report, Chairman Neights thanked her and recognized that this is her last meeting as student representative to the Board of Supervisors.

2) Consent Agenda

- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) including moving the meeting minutes of the July 21, 2022 Board of Supervisors business meeting into the record and authorizing payment of the bills totaling \$565,267.75. Supervisor Darby seconded the motion.
- ii) There was no public comment.
- iii) The motion *passed* 5-0.

3) New Business

- A) Review of final land development plan, Shannondell Phase III
 - i) Mike Mrozinski introduced the final land development plan. Brad Macy for Shannondell, and Bernadette Kearney, attorney for Shannondell, via phone, discussed the final land

development plan for Shannondell Phase III and indicated the developer's intent to comply with all comments in the Township consultants' review letters.

- ii) No action was taken by the Board. The Board will consider a resolution of final land development approval at the September 1, 2022 meeting.

B) Discussion and presentation of preliminary land development plan – 420 Church Road

- i) Mike Mrozinski introduced the preliminary land development plan for 420 Church Road. Eric Frey, developer's attorney and Anthony Branca, applicant were there to present to the Board. Discussion ensued regarding the sidewalk waiver and the developer's proposal to build an asphalt trail connecting the subdivision to the existing sidewalk on Walker Lane for a cost not to exceed \$10,000. The trail will require easements from two property owners, which will be the Township's responsibility to secure.
- ii) Public Comment:
 - (1) Ted Bugda, Sky Drive, expressed concerns regarding traffic on Church Road.
 - (2) Robert Dodds, Walker Lane, expressed concerns regarding the amount of tree removal.
 - (3) Karen Stine, Church Road, expressed concerns regarding traffic on Church Road.
 - (4) Lisa Bugda, Sky Drive, expressed concerns regarding traffic on Church Road and the amount of tree removal and need for native tree replanting.
- iii) No action was taken by the Board. The Board will consider a resolution of preliminary land development approval at the September 1, 2022 meeting.

C) Appointment of student representatives to the Board of Supervisors

- i) E.J. Mentry, Township Manager, recommended two students, Ash Jeyapratap and Kaitlyn Phan for appointment as student representatives to the Board of Supervisors for 2022-2023.
- ii) **MOTION:** Chairman Neights made a motion to approve the appointment of the student representatives to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment.
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

D) Consideration of policy regarding tax assessment appeals

- i) Lauren Gallagher, Solicitor, discussed the policy regarding tax assessment appeals. The Solicitor prepared a memo for the Board with three options addressing scenarios in which the Township Solicitor would enter its appearance on tax assessment appeals.
- ii) E.J. Mentry, Township Manager, recommended the Board select Option 3 whereby the Solicitor would enter the Township's appearance in all cases in which the property's current indicated fair market value is \$10,000,000 or above. The Board concurred with the Manager's recommendation.
- iii) No action was taken. The Solicitor will draft a resolution setting the policy for the Board's consideration at the September 1, 2022 meeting.

E) Approval of purchase of repository parcels from Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau

- i) Lauren Gallagher discussed the approval of purchase of five repository parcels from the Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the purchase of five repository parcels from Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau. Vice-Chair Coless seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment.
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

- F) Consideration of proposal for two-year extension to audit services agreement
- i) E.J. Mentry, Township Manager discussed the proposal for two-year extension to audit services agreement by BBD, LLP stating that with the change of Financial Director, there should be some consistency and continuity in keeping the same auditor for two more years.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the proposal for two-year extension to audit services agreement with BBD, LLP. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.
- G) Approval of Selection Committee Ranking of Construction Inspection Consultants for Park/Crawford/Eagleville Intersection Improvement Project
- i) E.J. Mentry, Township Manager requested the Board's approval of the Selection Committee's Ranking of Construction Inspection Consultants for the Park/Crawford/Eagleville Intersection Improvement Project.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini, made a motion to approve the Selection Committee Ranking of Construction Inspection Consultants for Park/Crawford/Eagleville Intersection Improvement Project. Supervisor Darby seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment,
 - iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.
- H) Consideration of Lower Providence Fire Department request for extension of special event operating hours
- i) E.J. Mentry, Township Manager discussed the Lower Providence Fire Department request for extension of special event operating hours for the October 2, 2022 5K and Brews and BBQ event.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the request for extension of special event operation hours for the Fire Department event. Vice-Chair Coless seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment
 - iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.
- I) Discussion of Anti-Discrimination/Human Relations Commission ordinance and consideration of authorization to advertise.
- i) Lauren Gallagher, Township Solicitor, introduced the draft Anti-Discrimination/Human Relations Commission ordinance for Board discussion and consideration.
 - ii) Significant discussion ensued regarding the duties and authorities of the proposed Human Relations Commission, and whether the ordinance as drafted would accomplish the goals set out.
 - iii) Public Comment: Resident, Kathy Eskie, 540 Highgate Road, spoke in opposition to the ordinance as drafted.
 - iv) No action was taken. The Board requested the Solicitor to seek feedback from the relevant state agencies on the draft ordinance and suggested changes. Item tabled to an unspecified date.

4) Announcements/Meetings

- A) Concert in the Park – Sunday, August 21, Todd O’s River of Dreams – Billy Joel Tribute band, 6:00pm
- B) Planning Commission meeting –August 24 at 7:00 p.m. - *Cancelled*
- C) Zoning Hearing Board meeting – August 25 at 7:00 p.m.

5) Comments and other Business

- A) Supervisor Sorgini – Sewer Authority moving forward with their capital projects.
- B) Supervisor MacFarland – Regional Sewer Authority pipe, part of the project is complete, no more digging.
- C) Vice-Chair Coless – Thank you to Parks and Recreation Department and summer staff on their hard work and completion of summer camp.
- D) Chairman Neights – EAC will be attending the Fall Festival. Also mentioned the National 9/11 Memorial trail, possible proclamation at the next meeting.

6) Courtesy of the Floor

- A) There was no public comment.

7) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Darby made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Next Business Meetings: September 1, 2022
September 15, 2022