

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
March 3, 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: Township Manager E.J. Mentry 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, Supervisors Darby, MacFarland and Sorgini.
- b. Also, in attendance were: E.J. Mentry, Township Manager; Mike Clarke and Lauren Gallagher, Solicitors; Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer; Bill Roth, Special Projects and Technology, Mike Mrozinski, Community Development; Joe Chillano, Public Works Director and Michael Jackson, Chief of Police.

Chairman's Comments

- a. Chairman Neights announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting on March 3, to discuss legal and personnel matters.
- b. Chairman Neights announced that, consistent with recently updated CDC guidelines and guidance from Montgomery County, masks are no longer required and are now optional.
- c. Chairman Neights spoke regarding the current war in Ukraine and how lucky we are to live in the United States. He asked for thoughts and prayers for all those defending Ukraine.

1) Presentations

- A) Student Representative report – Anna Rozinsky

2) Consent Agenda

- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a) and 1(b), including moving the meeting minutes of February 17, 2022, into the record. Vice-Chair Coless seconded the motion.
- ii) There was no public comment.
- iii) The motion *passed* 5-0.

3) Hearings

- A) Conditional Use Hearing – 3237 Ridge Pike
 - i) **MOTION:** Chairman Neights made a motion to open the Conditional Use Hearing and Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
 - ii) There was no public comment.
 - iii) The motion passed 5-0.
 - iv) A stenographer was present to transcribe the hearing. The hearing closed at approximately 8:45 PM and was continued to March 17th at 7:00 PM for a decision.

4) Old Business

- A) Discussion of Strategic planning process

- i) Chairman Neights led a discussion on the strategic planning process with the Board. He read a list of strategic goals and priorities for the Township that were submitted by Supervisors Sorgini, Coless, and MacFarland. These goals and priorities included: infrastructure improvements, emergency services, municipal building needs, staffing needs, grant project portfolio, stormwater management, technology and cybersecurity upgrades, and capital improvement funding.
 - ii) Supervisor MacFarland asked about the usage of the American Rescue Plan Funds and wanted to make sure those funds are included in the strategic planning conversation.
 - iii) Supervisor Sorgini also suggested that the Township's fund balance be included in the strategic planning process.
 - iv) Vice Chair Coless suggested scheduling a special workshop meeting with the Board, preferably for a date in April, to have a more in-depth discussion with the Board, Manager, and public on the strategic planning process. E.J. Mentry stated that he would circulate dates and advertise the meeting once a date is set.
 - v) Supervisor Darby suggested sending a survey out to Township residents to give them an opportunity to prioritize and rank the various goals and project areas. E.J. Mentry said that he would work with staff to set up a survey using SurveyMonkey that would be posted to the Township website and Facebook page.
 - vi) Chairman Neights asked the Township Manager about the status of long-range plans for the various township departments. E.J. Mentry responded that he is working with department heads and the Township's management staff and anticipates having something to present to the Board by the end of April or beginning of May.
- B) Escrow policy for trash contract
- i) Matter was tabled until next meeting, March 17th, 2022.

5) New Business

- A) Consideration of conditional approval of Township sponsorship of stream erosion project under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- i) Mike Mrozinski asked for an authorization to sign off as a project sponsor in order to secure the federal funding for the Smeykal stream erosion project. He explained that the EWP program funds 75% of the construction costs and that the Township was just notified today that PA DEP would fund the remaining 25%. These agencies do not provide the funding directly to residents, so the Township as project sponsor would be the conduit for the funds. Other than staff time in administering the funds, there is no cost to the Township.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion of conditional approval of Township sponsorship of the stream erosion project under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, said approval contingent on PA DEP committing to fund the remaining 25% of the project costs. Supervisor Darby seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - iv) The motioned *passed* 5-0.
- B) Award of streetlight maintenance contract
- i) E.J. Mentry asked for the Award of streetlight maintenance contract to Charles A. Higgins and Sons.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Chairman Neights made a motion to award the streetlight maintenance contract to Charles A. Higgins. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

C) Authorization to advertise 2022 Road Improvements Bid

- i) Joe Chillano asked for the authorization to advertise the 2022 Road Improvements Bid.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to authorize advertisement of the 2022 Road Improvements Bid. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

6) **Announcements/Meetings**

- A) Trash & recycling service line: A dedicated phone line and email address have been setup for service-related trash, recycling, and yard waste issues. Call 610-635-3599 or email trash@lowerprovidence.org
- B) Sewer Authority – March 14 at 4:30pm
- C) Parks and Recreation Board – March 15 at 7:00 pm
- D) Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – March 16 at 7:00pm
- E) Environmental Advisory Council – March 21 at 6:00pm
- F) Library Board meeting – March 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- G) Planning Commission meeting – March 23 at 7:00 p.m., hybrid
- H) Zoning Hearing Board Meeting – March 24 at 7:00 p.m., hybrid

7) **Comments and other Business**

- A) Supervisor Sorgini discussed Sewer Authority projects on Walker Lane and Sunnyside.
- B) Supervisor MacFarland discussed the Library expansion project and stated that the Regional Sewer Authority is expecting a completion of project by September, possibly.
- C) Supervisor Darby discussed the recent Zoning Hearing Board meeting, during which one application was approved and another was continued to March.
- D) Vice-Chair Coless stated that the March Comprehensive Steering Committee meeting will be in-person.

8) **Courtesy of the Floor**

- A) Mrs. Cavallo, resident, Summit Avenue, spoke regarding the conditional use hearing.

9) **Adjournment**

- A) **MOTION:** Chairman Neights made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Darby seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Next Business Meetings: March 17, 2022
April 7, 2022