

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
March 2, 2023**

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**Call to Order:** Chair Coless called the hybrid live/virtual meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Protocol for Hybrid Meetings:** Chair Coless 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 members were in attendance: Chair Coless, Vice Chair Darby, and Supervisors MacFarland, Neights and Sorgini.
- b. Also in attendance were: E.J. Mentry, Township Manager; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Michael Jackson, Chief of Police; Michael Clarke, Township Solicitor; and Ash Jeyapratap, Student Representative.

**Chairman's Comments**

Chair Coless announced that there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting discussing legal, personnel and land acquisition matters.

**1) Presentations**

- A. Student representative report –Ash Jeyapratap
  - a. Student representative Ash Jeyapratap, a Methacton High School Junior, provided an update on recent happenings and upcoming events at the high school, including the theater presentations, science fair competition, the dance marathon fundraiser and Prom.

**2) Consent Agenda**

- A. **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the consent agenda item 2(a) including moving the amended meeting minutes of February 16, 2023, into the record. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
  - i. There was no public comment.
  - ii. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**3) Old Business**

- A. Consideration of Resolution 2023-11 approving Audubon Square V Land Development Plan, Phase 2, 717 S. Trooper Road
  - a. Bernadette Kearney, representing Audubon Land Development, pointed out that two references to February in the resolution before the Board needed to be changed to March, and clarified square footage for restaurant and retail space.
  - b. **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-11 approving Audubon Square V Land Development Plan with the noted changes. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
  - c. There was no public comment.
  - d. The motion *passed* 5-0.

B. Approval of Resolution 2023-16 adopting the Township Comprehensive Plan

- a. Mr. Mentry said that the draft plan had been discussed at a number of recent public meetings, including a public hearing that spanned the two most recent meetings on February 2 and February 16. Comments from the Planning Commission and SEPTA were able to be incorporated into the updated draft without any substantive changes or need for readvertisement. Formatting changes are to be completed once the plan is adopted and then a clean, final copy will be provided.
- b. **MOTION:** Chair Coless made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-16 adopting the Township Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
- c. Supervisor Neights noted that on Page 181 a slight adjustment is needed to a numeral.
- d. There was no public comment.
- e. The motion *passed* 5-0.

C. Adoption of Ordinance No. 676 restricting parking on Van Buren Avenue

- a. Solicitor Clarke said the ordinance would give the Chief of the Police the ability to implement temporary and emergency regulations, rather than the Board of Supervisors, and permanently restricts parking on Van Buren Avenue. Chair Coless clarified that the Chief will be able to implement regulations elsewhere, not just on Van Buren Avenue.,
- b. **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 676 restricting parking. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
- c. Brad Macy asked about where the people will be parking. Chief Jackson noted there are parking lots available and that the “no parking” restriction improves a safety issue.
- d. The motion *passed* 5-0.

4) **New Business**

A. Authorization for Township Solicitor to Submit Application to Zoning Hearing Board for Sign Relief

- a. Mr. Mentry explained that there are two motions before the Board related to the replacement of the Township’s electronic message board which has been budgeted for and for which a proposal has been received. However, because the current sign is non-confirming with the Zoning Ordinance, replacing it requires zoning relief. Two motions are requested: one to formally authorize application to the Zoning Hearing Board and one for conditional approval of the proposal for the replacement.
- b. Supervisor MacFarland noted the sign is located in the R-1 zoning district with a public facilities overlay and asked if the variance would affect any other areas. Mr. Mrozinski said any would be subject to Zoning Hearing Board approval.
- c. **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to authorize the Township Solicitor to submit application to Zoning Hearing Board for sign relief. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- d. There was no public comment.
- e. The motion *passed* 5-0.

B. Conditional approval of Signarama Proposal for Electronic Message Center Replacement, Subject to Granting of Zoning Relief by the Zoning Hearing Board

- a. Mr. Mentry said that a proposal had been received from a local company, Signarama, to replace the aged and unreliable current sign. The digital portion will be replaced, keeping the stone façade, at a cost of \$59,536.37. Signarama is a COSTARS-approved vendor.

The cost is approximately \$3,500 over budget, but there is sufficient fund balance in the American Rescue Plan and Capital Funds to cover the overage.

- b. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to authorize conditional approval of Signarama proposal for Electric Message Center Replacement subject to granting of Zoning relief by the Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Supervisor Neights.
- c. There was no public comment.
- d. The motion *passed* 5-0.

C. Resolution 2023-18 approving fund transfer

- a. Mr. Mentry said the resolution approves the transfer of funds from the Liquid Fuels Fund to the Liquid Fuels Loan Fund, as budgeted. The funds had been transferred in the past, but not memorialized by resolution.
- b. **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-18. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- c. There was no public comment.
- d. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**5) Announcements/Meetings**

- Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and PA Department Environmental Protection will attend the March 16, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting to provide an update on the Moyers Landfill Superfund Site
- Sewer Authority – March 13 at 4:30 p.m.
- Environmental Advisory Council – March 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Library Board – March 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Board – March 21 at 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission – March 22 at 7:00 p.m.
- Zoning Hearing Board – March 23 at 7:00 p.m.

**6) Comments and Other Business**

A. General Discussion of 2023 Board Goals & Strategies –

- a. Chair Coless explained that she wanted to revisit the Strategic Planning discussions that the Board began in 2022, specifically with regard to grant project priorities. She asked Mr. Mentry to provide a summary.
- b. Mr. Mentry reviewed a memo he had submitted to the Board laying out potential priority projects for grant funding, including an RACP application for the municipal campus and building improvements; stormwater management funding for a stormwater fee study or a specific improvement project based on the Township's MS4 permit; parks and recreation improvements; and pedestrian connections, such as sidewalks, trails, or crosswalks.
- c. Significant discussion ensued regarding park and trail improvements, the desire for an inclusive park, and the recommendations from the PROS Plan. The Board requested the staff to provide recommendations for a sidewalk project at the April 5 meeting, along with a draft RFP for a Stormwater Fee study.

B. Township Manger Project Updates –

- a. Mr. Mentry provided general updates on a number of Township projects, including the Park/Crawford/Eagleville intersection project; the APS Push Button installation at Ridge/Parklane; the Ridge/Germantown Pike Connector Project; the Germantown/Evansburg Intersection improvement project; and staffing updates.

**7) Courtesy of the Floor**

A. No public comment

**8) Adjournment**

A. **MOTION:** Chair Coless made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Business Meetings: March 16, 2023  
April 5, 2023\*