

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

Call to Order: Chairwoman Eckman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairwoman Eckman, Supervisors Sorgini, Duffy Zimmerman and MacFarland.
- b. Also in attendance were: John Rice, Township Solicitor; Don Delamater, Township Manager; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager; John Primus, Director of Public Works and Stanley Turtle, Chief of Police.
Chairwoman Eckman announced that prior the meeting the Board held an executive session to discuss Real Estate matters. She announced that the Board will return to Executive Session after the meeting.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve consent agenda items 1(a) and 1(b) including moving the minutes of October 5 and October 19, 2017 into the record.

Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.

- i) Supervisor MacFarland abstained from the vote on the October 5 minutes due to his absences. Chairwoman Eckman and Supervisor Zimmerman abstained from the vote on the October 19 minutes due to their absence.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) Presentations

- A) Presentation of annual donation checks

- i) A check was presented to Lower Providence Senior Center
- ii) A check was presented to Lower Providence Community Center Ambulance
- iii) A check was presented to Lower Providence Volunteer Fire company
- iv) A check was presented to the Visiting Nurse Association
- v) A check was presented to the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County.

3) New Business

- A) Consideration of a waiver of land development for S-17-04/Metropolitan Veterinary Associates minor diagnostic equipment trailer, 2626 Van Buren Avenue.

- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the waiver request. Mr. Mrozinski said that the applicant is an existing business that, due to increased demand, placed a tractor-trailer in their parking lot to be used as a mobile imaging unit. He said that this was initially a temporary placement but due to high demand they would like to continue to utilize it for longer than is allowed under the ordinance. Mr. Mrozinski said that this is a relatively minor issue as there is no traffic impact or changes in impervious coverage. He said the condition placed upon the request is that if the trailer is still at the facility in five years the issue must be revisited with any eye to a more permanent solution.

- (1) Supervisor Sorgini confirmed that they have examined the location of the trailer in relation to the fire company connection and have been assured that this will not be an issue.

- (2) Supervisor Duffy asked if the trailer is currently in place and operational. Mr. Mrozinski said that it has been operational for approximately a year with no impact. He said that they approached the Township as the permit length was coming to an end and, as he cannot keep extending the permit, this is a way to address the issue.
- (3) Supervisor Sorgini asked if the Fire Marshal has inspected the site for conflicts. Mr. Mrozinski said that he has reviewed the plan.
- (4) Supervisor MacFarland confirmed the size of the trailer and discussed the setback requirements. Mr. Mrozinski said there has been no impact at all to the site.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-29, a waiver of land development for S-17-04/Metropolitan Veterinary Associates minor diagnostic equipment trailer, 2626 Van Buren Avenue. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- B) Budget Presentation and authorization to advertise the proposed 2018 Budget
 - i) Mr. Delamater presented the proposed 2018 Township budget. (See attached.)
 - (1) Supervisor MacFarland clarified how the 5% Real Estate Tax Percentage is being utilized.
 - (2) Supervisor Sorgini said that they hoped to mitigate the NPDES MS4 line item by collaborating with other municipalities in the MS4 process.
 - (a) Mr. Woodrow said that they attended a meeting of the consortium last week and said they identified projects, costs and sources of grant applications. He will have presentation to the Board to in the near future to discuss the findings of the consortium.
 - (3) Supervisor MacFarland asked Mr. Primus to discuss the Road paving projects. Mr. Primus said they are ahead of the schedule and that in several years they will have all major roads repaved.
 - (4) Supervisor Duffy thanked Mr. Delamater for the time he, the staff and department heads put into to crafting the budget to make sure the Township can provide a high level of service and that the Township, employees and police are equipped and compensated for what they do without burdening the tax payers.
 - (5) Supervisor MacFarland said he was pleased and grateful that they have been able to enact a balanced budget that provides the residents with fire and police protection as well as roads and services. He also noted that they have a 3.4 million fund balance that allows them to go beyond the operational needs of the Township and look at some of the longer-range items that are coming up. Supervisor MacFarland reiterated that the Township is in good financial shape with debt declining and scheduled to end in the very short term.
 - (6) Chairwoman Eckman repeated that there is no tax increase nor has there been one for the past four budgets, which is a testament to every employee of the Township who are good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to authorize the advertisement of the proposed 2018 Budget. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- C) Authorization to advertise for residents to serve on various Township Board and Commissions and for 2018 Professional Consultants proposals
 - i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the proposed advertisements.
 - (1) Supervisor Duffy asked if there were one or two spots available on the Sewer Authority. Mr. Delamater said that there were two spots.

- (2) Supervisor MacFarland said that the various boards that have volunteer positions open include the Library Board, the Finance Committee, Parks & Recreation, the Planning Commission, the Sewer authority, the UCC Board, the Vacancy Board and the Zoning Hearing Board. He encouraged residents to send in a letter of interest along with a brief bio or resume if they would like to be considered for a position.
- (3) Chairwoman Eckman said that there are approximately 50 residents are currently volunteering on the various boards and they provide a great benefit to the Township. She said that when an issue comes before the Board of Supervisors they know that the will be provided with good information and that the issues have been well vetted.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to authorize the advertisement for residents to serve on various Township Board and Commissions and for 2018 Professional Consultants proposals. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- D) Authorization for staff to advertise an ordinance authorizing the participation of Lower providence Township in the Delaware Valley Workers' Compensation Trust.
 - i) Mr. Delamater said that this is a follow-up from a previous approval where the supervisors authorized the Township to terminate the contract with the current worker's compensation insurance carrier and move to the Delaware Valley Workers Compensation Trust. He said the ordinance has been reviewed by the Solicitor's office and he is seeking approval to advertise the ordinance so it can be considered at the next Board of Supervisor meeting.
 - ii) Supervisor Duffy said this move will save the Township approximately \$35,000 per year in the premium. Mr. Delamater clarified, saying that move will save about \$30,000 in premium as well as additional savings in the Health Trust and the Liability in the form of multi-trust discounts that can be significant cost savings.
 - iii) Supervisor Sorgini commended Assistant Township Manager Geri Golas who began work on this several years ago saying her work is reaping significant benefit for the Township.
 - iv) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance authorizing the participation of Lower Providence Township in the Delaware Valley Workers' Compensation Trust. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- E) Consideration of Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority road opening permit fee waiver request.
 - i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the waiver request.
 - (1) Supervisor Sorgini stated that this issue comes before the Board every year and asked if there was a way to grant a waiver to cover all future requests as we are, essentially, granting a waiver to ourselves. Solicitor Rice said that a general waiver can be granted to waive all talk road-opening permits.
 - (2) Supervisor Duffy said that that is an efficient way to handle this but said that having the Sewer Authority come before the Board is a good way to show residents that their tax dollars are being spent to improve the infrastructure.
 - (3) Supervisor Sorgini suggested that they grant the general waiver request but request that the Sewer Authority come before the Board once a year and make a presentation to the general public or encourage the general public to attend the Sewer Authority meetings. He said it seemed redundant to grant ourselves a road opening permit on an annual basis
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to grant a general to the Sewer Authority for Road Opening permits. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

- iii) Chairwoman Eckman said that Supervisor Sorgini's suggestion to have the Sewer Authority appear before the Board to give a presentation was a good idea. Supervisor MacFarland said that, as liaison to that Board, he would bring it to their attention and extend that invitation.

4) Announcements

- A) The Sewer Authority will meet on November 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- B) The Parks and Recreation Board will meet on November 14 at 7 p.m.
- C) The 9th Annual Community Tree Lighting will be held Friday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township complex.
- D) 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. Details on the Tree Lighting and Caring and Sharing programs can be found at www.lptrec.com.

5) Comments and Other Business

- A) Supervisor MacFarland said that the Business Development Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 6 and he will have a report at the next meeting.
- B) Mr. Roth reported that the Township Website will be displaying a new design at 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3. He said the design is responsive to mobile devices and is a clean, modern design.
- C) Supervisor Sorgini reminded residents that Tuesday is the general election and encouraged residents to vote.

6) Courtesy of the Floor

- A) Trevor Troutman, Leader of the Arrow of Light Den of Pack 608, thanked the Board of Supervisors for hosting the Scouts at the meeting and announced that next Saturday the Scouts will be dropping off bags to residents for a food collection drive which will be collected the following weekend.
- B) Eric of Scout Pack 608 asked what the Township was doing regarding businesses who are leaving the Township and how they are filling the empty buildings.
 - i) Supervisor MacFarland said that the Township was invested in both filling empty building and bringing in businesses that were more helpful to people who live in the Township. He reviewed the businesses that have recently opened and are scheduled to shortly open including Lidl and Providence Place. He said they held an open house for the businesses in Ridge Pike West to address issues that businesses have in the Township.
 - ii) Supervisor Duffy said that one of the things that the Board of Supervisors is invested in is not only attracting new businesses but also working with existing businesses to make sure that their needs are met and they stay in the Township. He said they formed the Lower Providence Business Association and they are working closely with them to address the needs of businesses that have invested in the Township.
 - iii) Supervisor Sorgini said that some time these processes can be slow as other governmental entities also have requirements that must be addressed and that can be frustrating to see the process slow down.
 - iv) Chairwoman Eckman said that in the past 10 years Business Development Committee meets monthly to review every vacant property in the Township to determine why it is vacant and what they can do to help fill these properties. She said they also hired an economic development consultant who is helping fill the empty spaces in the Township.

7) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Zimmerman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: November 16, 2017
December 7, 2017