

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 2, 2018**

---

**Oaths of Office**

Jason Sorgini sworn in as Supervisor  
Gary Neights sworn in as Supervisor  
Jonathan Perrone sworn in as Auditor  
Michael Deal sworn in as Tax Collector

**Call to Order:** Chairwoman Eckman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairwoman Eckman, Supervisors Sorgini, Duffy, MacFarland and Neights.
- b. Also in attendance were: Donald Delamater, Township Manager; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Denise Walsh, Community Relations Coordinator; Geri Golas, Assistant Township Manager, Stanley Turtle, Chief of Police.

Chairwoman Eckman reported that an Executive Session was held on December 29, 2017 to discuss personnel matters.

1) Appointment of Temporary Chairman

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Colleen Eckman as Temporary Chairman. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) Election of Chairman

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Patrick Duffy as Chairman for 2018. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

3) Election of Vice-Chairman

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to appoint Jason Sorgini as Vice-Chairman for 2018. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

4) Appointment of Solicitor and Fixing of Compensation

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint the firm Grim, Biehn & Thatcher as solicitor for 2018 at the established rates. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0

5) Appointment of Township Secretary/Treasurer

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint Donald Delamater as the Township Secretary/Treasurer. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

6) Appointment of Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Geri Golas as the Assistant Township Secretary/Assistant Treasurer. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

7) Appointment of Open Records Officer

A) Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint Denise Walsh as the Open Records Officer. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

8) Appointment to Vacancy Board

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to re-appoint Gloria Corcoran to the Vacancy Board. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

9) Appointment to Library Board of Trustees (three (3) Three-year Terms)

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to appoint Lisa Bono, Earl Catagnus and Arthur Miller to serve on the Library Board of Trustees. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- 10) Appointment to Sewer Authority (one (1) Five-year Term; one (1) Unexpired Term – 2021)
- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to appoint Fred Walker to the Sewer Authority for one (1) Five-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Doug Hager to the Sewer Authority to fill an unexpired term, expiring in 2021. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- 11) Appointment to Planning Commission (one (1) Four-year Term; one (1) Unexpired term - 2018)
- A) In response to Supervisor Neights, Chairman Duffy explained that at the previous Board of Supervisor Meeting the Board voted to reduce the number of Planning Commission seats from nine to seven thus only requiring the appointment of two members.
- B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to appoint Cara Coless to the Planning Commission. The motion did not receive a second.
- C) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Susan LaPenta to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed 4-1* with Supervisor Neights in opposition.
- D) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint David Akers to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- 12) Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board by Resolution #18-01(one (1) Five-year Term; two (2) Vacancies, Alternate Members – 2020 and 2022)
- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to appoint George Ozorowski to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term which expires in 2022. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Jill Zimmerman as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term which expires in 2022. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
- C) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Robert Hardt as an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term which expires in 2020. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- 13) Appointment to Parks & Recreation Board
- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to appoint Cara Coless to the Parks & Recreation Board. The motion did not receive a second.
- B) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to appoint Jean Akers to the Parks & Recreation Board. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- C) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Joe Clement to fill George Ozorowski's vacant seat on the Parks & Recreation Board with a term expiring in 2020. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
- 14) Appointment to Finance Committee (two (2) Four-year Terms)
- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Joseph Busillo and Paul Chapin to the Finance Committee. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*
- 15) Appointment to UCC Board of Appeals (one (1) Three-year Term)
- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to re-appoint Richard Firth to the UCC Board of Appeals. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

16) Appointment of Consulting Engineer and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Woodrow & Associates as the Township Consulting Engineer at the established rates. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
- i) Supervisor Neights asked if the appointment is at the pleasure of the Board or is by contract. Chairman Duffy said that it is at the pleasure of the Board but should they become dissatisfied with the firm's service the consultant can be replaced at any time. He said that Woodrow & Associates has done a fabulous job for the Township and does not anticipate any issues. Supervisor Neights clarified that his comment was not to cast aspersions but rather to understand the process.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

17) Appointment of Traffic Engineer and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint McMahon & Associates, Inc. as the Township Traffic Engineer at the attached fee schedule. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
- The motion *passed* 5-0.

18) Appointment of Landscape Architectural Consultant and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Thomas Comitta Associates as the Township Landscape Architectural Consultant at the established rates. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

19) Appointment of Township Lighting Consultant and fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Ron Smith/Suburban Lighting as the Township Lighting Consultant at the established rates. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

20) Appointment of Labor Attorney and fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Scott Blissman of Eckert, Seamans, Cherin & Mellot, LLC as the Township Labor Attorney at the established rates. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

21) Appointment of Minutes Secretary to Various Boards and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Deborah Stanish as Minutes Secretary to the various boards at the attached fee schedule. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

22) Appointment of Actuary for Township Pension Plans, Township Employees Pension Plans, Township Employees' Pension Plan and the Defined Contribution (401(a)) Plan and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to re-appoint Charles Friedlander of Municipal Finance Partners as the Actuary for Township Pension Plans, Township Employees Pension Plans, Township Employees' Pension Plan and the Defined Contribution (401(a)) Plan and Fixing of Compensation at the established rate.
- i) Supervisor Neights noted that there was no fee schedule provided but rather a fee amount that is limited for the year. Chairman Duffy said that this is a budgeted fee and the consultant is not to exceed that fee. Ms. Golas clarified that the actuary has a flat fee that is established for creating certain documents, which is why he can create an estimated fee per year with reasonable accuracy. Supervisor Eckman commended Mr. Friedlander for his ability to explain very complicated system of estimated contributions and said his work at the Township for the past 8 years was appreciated.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

23) Fixing of Compensation for Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to fix the compensation for Keith McLennen at his established rates should he be appointed solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

24) Appointment of Board Liaisons

- A) Chairman Duffy made the following Board Liaison Appointments:
- i) Business Development Committee: Supervisors Eckman and MacFarland
  - ii) Finance Committee: Supervisor Eckman
  - iii) Library Board: Supervisor Neights
  - iv) Parks & Recreation Board: Chairman Duffy
  - v) Pension Committee: Supervisor Neights
  - vi) Planning Commission: Supervisor Sorgini and Chairman Duffy
  - vii) Sewer Authority: Supervisor MacFarland
  - viii) Additional appointments
- (1) Chairman Duffy asked Supervisor Eckman to establish and find a chair for an Open Space Committee.
- (a) Rich Spicer, Pechins Mill Road, noted that establishing an Open Space committee is a good idea but feels it is disingenuous of the Township to do so after permitting the development of nine acres in the flood plain. Supervisor Eckman said that if he was referring to the former Collegeville Inn site that that it was a redevelopment as it had already been developed.
- (2) Chairman Duffy asked Supervisor Sorgini to begin a conversation with the Township's emergency service providers to determine whether regular meetings or a committee should be established to help determine their needs for the future.

25) Resolutions and Ordinances:

- A) Resolution No. 18-02 authorizing the appropriate Township Officials to affix signatures on checks.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing appropriate Township Officials to affix signatures on checks. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- B) Resolution No. 18-03 designating depositories for Township funds.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to adopt the resolution designating depositories for Township funds. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- C) Resolution No. 18-04 establishing the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$600,000 and \$100,000 for Secretary.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adopt the resolution to establish the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$600,000 and \$100,000 for Secretary. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- D) Resolution No. 18-05 establishing the Police Officers contributions to the Police Pension Plan for the Year 2018.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adopt the resolution establishing the Police Officers contributions to the Police Pension for the year 2018. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The Motion *passed* 5-0.

E) Resolution No. 18-06 establishing member contributions to the Employees Pension Fund for the Year 2018.

i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt the resolution establishing member contributions to the Employee Pension Fund for the year 2018. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

F) Resolution No. 18-07 Appointing the Certified Public Accounting Firm of BBD LLP to Serve as Auditors to Audit the Accounts of Lower Providence Township for Fiscal Year 2017.

i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

26) Certification of Delegates and Voting Delegate to PSATS Annual State Convention.

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to authorize the Board members and Township Manager to attend the 2018 PSATS Convention and to appoint Don Delamater as the PSATS Voting Delegate for 2018. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

## **27) Other Business**

A) Consideration of Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) ordinance.

i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the ordinance and the economic benefit of approving the LERTA ordinance. He said it has been presented to the school board and the members and the superintendent are in favor as is the Township's Finance Committee. He noted that this was a way to make a property that has been vacant for many years more appealing for development.

(1) Supervisor MacFarland clarified that this would be approving the Township's portion of tax only and would hope for cooperation from both the school board and the county to make it an effective program as our portion, at 5%, is quite small.

ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) ordinance. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.

B) Chairman Duffy welcomed Supervisor Neights to the Board of Supervisors and said they are looking forward to working with him in the future.

28) Courtesy of the floor

A) Kathie Eskie, Highgate Road asked for a read back of Motion 23(A) regarding the fixing of compensation for the Zoning Hearing Board solicitor.

B) James Waters, Featherbed Lane, Audubon, explained his work in the county regarding safety concerns and dangerous electrical conditions. He discussed the floodwall construction at the former Collegeville Inn site and possible issues with the flood gauge. He offered to share his knowledge and resources with both the Board and any interested Township residents.

C) Ashley Wilkerson, Harrier Drive, congratulated Supervisor Neights and Sorgini on their election and thanked them for the work that they have done and will continue to do for the Township. She stated that Cara Coless was nominated for two positions this evening and none received a second nor was there any discussion. She expressed concern that partisan politics may be in play, keeping an engaged and qualified resident from serving the Township. Ms. Wilkerson asked that if the open space committee is created, and if Ms. Coless is willing, that she be appointed as she would be an asset and help create a diverse committee.

D) John Perrone, auditor, said he is grateful to Supervisors for what they do for the Township. He wanted to thank the Lower Providence Township residents as he received a lot of bipartisan support and wanted to let everyone know that they can work together.

29) Adjournment:

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: January 18, 2018  
February 1, 2018