

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 15, 2018**

Call to Order: Chairman Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Duffy, Supervisors Eckman, Sorgini, MacFarland and Neights.
- 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; Stanley Turtle, Chief of Police; and Jennifer Reed, Student Representative

Chairman's Comments - Chairman Duffy announced that prior to the meeting the Board met in executive session to discuss real estate and legal matters.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) including moving the minutes of March 1, 2018 into the record. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) New Business

- A) Consideration of preliminary/final land development plan for the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center Expansion project.
 - i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the project.
 - ii) Nick Feola, representing Montgomery County, was available for questions said that they will comply with all review letters and all permits have been, or are in the process of, being obtained. He reviewed a map of the property.
 - iii) Mr. Woodrow said he was satisfied with the applicant's plans and he anticipates all issues to be addressed. He said that all waivers are appropriate for the project.
 - iv) Mr. Feola reviewed the lighting design and its potential impact on neighboring properties.
 - v) Mr. Neights brought up concerns about sidewalks in the area.
 - vi) Chief Turtle expressed his support of the project.
 - vii) Solicitor Rice confirmed that the applicant would be in compliance with all review letters. He said that he will draft a resolution for approval at the next Board of Supervisors Meeting.
- B) Consideration of ordinance No. 654 establishing regulations concerning the growing, processing and sale of medical marijuana.
 - i) Solicitor Rice said this proposed zoning amendment establishes regulations for legislation the State has created regarding medical marijuana.
 - ii) Supervisor Sorgini said the State has passed medical marijuana laws and it is the Board's responsibility to dictate where these facilities can be located.
 - iii) Solicitor Rice said the businesses would be subject to the Township's sign ordinance.
 - iv) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 654 establishing regulations concerning the growing, processing and sale of medical marijuana. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - v) There was no public comment.

- C) Consideration of Ordinance No. 655 repealing and replacing Chapter 77, Drug Paraphernalia.
- i) Solicitor Rice said this is the repeal and replacement of existing regulation in the Township Code. He said this was recommended by the Police Department.
 - ii) Chief Turtle said that the existing ordinances have been in effect since the 1980's and by repealing and replacing, the Police Department will be able to issue a summary violation as opposed to a criminal charge, allowing for better community policing.
 - iii) Supervisor MacFarland clarified the Police Departments request. Chief Turtle said this will give the police department a clean, reasonable way to address drug paraphernalia issues.
 - iv) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 655 repealing and replacing Chapter 77, Drug Paraphernalia. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
 - v) There was no public comment.
- D) Revise and approval Pension Benefit Distribution.
- i) Ms. Golas reviewed the Pension Benefit Distribution request for Robert Cable.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to revise and approve the Pension Benefit Distribution. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
- E) Consideration of Municipal Building Master Planning Study
- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the Master Planning Study for the Municipal Building, administrative and police operations. Three proposals were solicited to complete the study and he recommended accepting the proposal from KCBA in the amount of \$19,650. Mr. Delamater said that, if approved, he would recommend that one member of the Board of Supervisors join a Master Planning subcommittee with the Township Manager, the Assistant Township Manager and the Chief of Police.
 - ii) Mr. Delamater explained why they selected KCB and the anticipated deliverables.
 - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to accept the proposal of KCBA in the amount of \$19,650 for the Municipal Planning Study. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
 - iv) There was no public comment.
- F) Discussion of Board of Supervisors' goals.
- i) Chairman Duffy reviewed the outline of how the Board of Supervisors' goals were decided.
 - ii) Township Goals
 - (1) Open Space/Trails/Sidewalk Study to be led by Supervisor Eckman
 - (2) Develop a proposed usage for Audubon Elementary School to be led by Supervisor MacFarland and Supervisor Neights
 - (3) Contract Negotiations with the Police and Non-Uniformed Workers to be led by Vice-Chairman Sorgini and Chairman Duffy.
 - (4) Formation of a Emergency Services Committee to be led by Vice-Chairman Sorgini and Township Manager Don Delamater
 - (5) Economic Development committee to establish Open Houses for residents and businesses to be led by Supervisors Eckman and MacFarland.
 - (6) Identification of the three most problematic traffic areas in the Township. Mr. Delamater will work with the police traffic unit and public works.
 - (7) Civic Involvement Recognition in an effort to increase civic involvement in the Township to be led by Chairman Duffy.
 - (8) Zoning code update to be led by Solicitor Rice.

(9) Five Year Goals:

- (a) Budget for and update the Township's Comprehensive Plan
- (b) Update the Township's Open Space Plan
- (c) Analyze the Township Building for proper utilization and need of police.

iii) Public Comment

- (1) Ms. Hoffman, Sunset Avenue, asked if it was permitted to bring firearms into Township Parks. Chairman Duffy said that since Pennsylvania is an Open Carry State they are permitted. He said ordinances were in place to prohibit guns but had to be repealed due to the State and Federal laws. Solicitor Rice said that since open carry is permitted under the Uniform Firearms act, the Township must allow it.

3) Announcements

- A) Annual Township Egg Hunt will be held on March 17 at Eagleville Park beginning at 10 a.m.
- B) The Library Board will meet March 19 at 7:30 p.m.
- C) Chairman Duffy announced that the Library fundraiser "Grape Expectations" will be held on March 24. Tickets may be purchased at the Library or online at lowerprovidencelibrary.org.
- D) The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on March 22 at 7 p.m.
- E) The Planning Commission will meet on March 28 at 7 p.m.
- F) The New Francisco Mascaro Memorial Park, 2750 Woodland Avenue will be dedicated on March 31 at noon with an event at the park, rain or shine. The event is hosted by the Mascaro family and will include food and events.

4) Comments and Other Business

- A) Supervisor MacFarland announced that the Business Development Committee is still working with parties interested in the Bud's Bar location. He said that the Lidl project is moving forward and paperwork has been filed with the state. Supervisor MacFarland also announced that one of the proposed craft breweries will not open due to financial issues but another commercial enterprise is interested in the property. He said that the craft brewery in the Industrial Park is on track and hopes to open this summer.
- B) Student Representative Jen Read reported on the Mr. Methacton contest as well as the upcoming Mini-thon, Methacton Film Festival and the District's String Jamboree.

5) Adjournment

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

Next Business Meeting: March 15, 2018

April 5, 2018