

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 1, 2018**

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**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, MacFarland, Neights and Sorgini.
- 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, Annie Zhang, Student Representative.

1) Chairman Duffy announced that prior to the meeting an executive session was held to discuss legal matters.

**2) Consent Agenda**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a) and 1(b), including moving the October 16, 2018 budget workshop minutes and the minutes of the Board of Supervisors October 18, 2018 business meeting into the record. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**3) New Business**

- A) Consideration of waiver request to permit installation of a solid-style fence in the front yard of 101 Condor Ridge Circle.

- i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the waiver request.
- ii) Chairman Duffy confirmed that the fence had not yet been installed.
- iii) Supervisor Sorgini confirmed there were no sightline issues or issues with neighbors.
- iv) Supervisor MacFarland discussed the topography of the steep slopes on the property.
- v) Discussion was held regarding the location of the fence in relation to the property line and potential stormwater issues.
- vi) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the waiver request to permit installation of a solid-style fence in the front yard of 101 Condor Ridge Circle. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- B) Conditional use decision – 2830 Ridge Pike

- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the previously discussed conditional use decision.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Application for 2830 Ridge Pike. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- C) Conditional use decision – Audubon Square V.

- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the previously discussed conditional use decision.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Application for Audubon Square V. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- D) Budget presentation and authorization to advertise the proposed 2019 Budget.

- i) Mr. Delamater outlined the process that created the proposed budget and presented the proposed 2019 Budget to the Board via a PowerPoint presentation.

- (1) Discussion was held regarding ways to increase the General Revenue fund. Mr. Delamater said that the only line item that could be increased is the Real Estate tax millage rate. He noted that permit fees could fluctuate depending on active development; however, Lower Providence Township does not have a surplus of land to be developed.
- (2) Discussion was held regarding the costs of stormwater management and the impact of the NPDES Skippack Creek Watershed Consortium. Supervisor MacFarland noted that remediating Skippack Creek is not a discretionary act but one that is mandated by the Clean Water Act. Discussion was held regarding finding grants to assist with the costs for this project.
- (3) Discussion was held regarding cuts in discretionary costs and when those costs will need to be addressed in the future.
- (4) Discussion was held regarding the Township's contribution to the Fire Department as well as other costs associated with the proposed Emergency Services Fund.
- (5) Discussion was held regarding the recommended fund balance and how that affects the Township's credit rating.
- (6) Mr. Delamater closed the presentation saying that the challenge for next year is to fund essential services. Discussion was held regarding possible solutions going forward to address potential shortfalls.
- (7) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to advertise the budget. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
  - (a) Nancy Klein, president Board of Trustees for Lower Providence Township library, raised concerns regarding the change of millage for the library and how that will impact the library's operating budget, debt repayment and ability to meet the needs of the community including renovating the existing building. Library Director Lynn Burkholder said the Library Board needed time to discuss the Township's budget proposal with their attorney as they believe their reserve fund has specific restrictions that may not allow it to be used for operating costs. The Library's strategic plan was discussed as well as statistics concerning the community's use of the library.
    - (i) Solicitor Rice said that the budget is required to be advertised for a minimum of 20 days and will not be approved until the December 6 meeting. He noted that once it is advertised only minor changes can be made before adoption. He asked that the Library's legal counsel contact him with any concerns.

The motion *passed* 5-0.
- (8) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$425,000 from the General Fund Balance to the Unrestricted Capital Fund in 2018 as well as dissolving two unused funds (07-Solid Waste Fund and 70-Equipment Replacement Fund). Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
  - (i) Supervisor MacFarland questioned the need to transfer the funds prior to 2019. Mr. Delamater said that it was for auditing purposes.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

E) Approval of collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME.

- i) Mr. Delamater said they have completed negotiations with AFSCME employees and have come up with a contract that has been ratified by employee bargaining group. The final agreement is a five-year contract. He reviewed the particulars of the contract and what employees are covered under the contract.

- ii) Supervisor Sorgini thanked the members of the bargaining committee for their work on this as well as Township Staff and Supervisors for their work in the ongoing challenge of providing services to the Township that are fiscally responsible while still being fair to the employees of the Township. Chairman Duffy said the contract will give the Township a way to realize significant savings while still providing fair benefits to employees.
- iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

F) Authorization to advertise for residents to serve on various Township Boards and Commissions.

- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the ad that will be placed in the Times Herald seeking volunteers for the various boards and commission. He noted the information will also be on the Township website.
  - (1) Supervisor Neights confirmed that descriptions of the positions are on the Township website.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to authorize the advertisement for residents to serve on various Township Boards and Commissions. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
  - (1) Chairman Duffy said this is the most immediate and direct way that residents can affect change in the Township and have their voices be heard.
 The motion *passed* 5-0

**4) Announcements**

- A) Sewer Authority Meeting will be held November 13 at 6 p.m.
- B) Parks and Recreation Board Meeting will be held November 13 at 7 p.m.
- C) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Tree Lighting will be held Friday, December 7 at 6 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 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Details on the Tree lighting and Caring and Sharing programs can be found at [www.lptrec.com](http://www.lptrec.com).
- E) Library Fundraiser Casino Night will be held November 10 at the Lower Providence Township Library. Tickets and information about the event can be found at [www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org](http://www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org).

**5) Comments and other Business**

- A) Supervisor Neights reminded residents to vote on November 6.
- B) Supervisor MacFarland reviewed the Business Development Committee's Open House for business owners and operators in the Industrial Park including reporting on new businesses moving into the Industrial Park. He also stated that PennDOT has notified the Township about the Ridge Pike West map meeting to be held on November 7 at Methacton High School. Supervisor MacFarland also noted that Ollie's is opening on November 7 in Eagleville.
  - i) Supervisor Eckman said that at the Open House Mike Mrozinski and his staff was complimented by business owners/operators for their efforts to work with businesses in the Township.
- C) Ms. Zhang, student representative, said that spirit week and homecoming were a success at Methacton High School.

**6) Adjournment**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: November 15, 2018  
December 6, 2018