

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2018**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence in memory of George H.W. Bush

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; Susan Law, Accounting Manager; John Primus, Director of Public Works; Stanley Turtle, Chief of Police; and Annie Zhang, Student Representative.

1) Chairman Duffy announced that prior to the meeting an executive session was held to discuss real estate, legal matters and personnel 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 meeting minutes of November 15, 2018 into the record. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

3) New Business

- A) Consideration of Resolution 2018-32 approving S-18-02, two lot subdivision at 801 N. Park Avenue

- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the resolution.

- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-32. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.

- (1) Discussion was held regarding the installation of a sidewalk as referenced in the Woodrow review letter. Mr. Woodrow said that he visited the property and said that a sidewalk would not be feasible but a pedestrian connection could possibly be installed.

- (2) Discussion was held regarding site distances as referenced in the McMahon review letter. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- B) Consideration of Resolution 2018-33 adopting the 2019 Budget and appropriating specific use estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the municipal government.

- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the resolution.

- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-33 approving S-18-02 adopting the 2019 Budget and appropriating specific use estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the municipal government. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.

- (1) Supervisor Neights confirmed that there would not be a cut to the millage for the library.

- (2) Roll call vote:

- (a) Supervisor Neights stated that he did not feel they gave themselves enough time to review the budget and recommended they begin earlier next year. He also suggested that the township consider longer term planning as they go forward with future spending.

- (i) **Vote to approve: No**

- (b) Supervisor MacFarland discussed the revenue challenges of the Township due to the lack of land for development. He realizes any tax raises are difficult but feels they have discussed the issues and this is the best decision moving forward.
(i) **Vote to approve: Yes**
- (c) Supervisor Eckman discussed the challenges of funding emergency services and the Township's obligation to those services.
(i) **Vote to approve: Yes**
- (d) Supervisor Sorgini discussed the process of deliberating the budget and the importance of providing emergency services to residents.
(i) **Vote to approve: Yes**
- (e) Chairman Duffy stated that the budget has been in the works for six months with diligent and thoughtful staff reviews. He said the increase amounts to \$53 per year to provide necessary services to Township residents.
(i) **Vote to approve: Yes**
- (f) Resolution 2018-32 adopting the 2019 budget *passed* with a vote of 4-1.
- C) Consideration of Resolution 2018-34 establishing Emergency Services Fund.
 - i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the resolution.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-34 establishing Emergency Services Fund. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Neights questioned how the tax rate was written. Mr. Delamater said the numbering was a state requirement.
 - (2) Nancy Chomicz, Stoneybrook Drive, asked how the funds would be used, Chairman Duffy explained the funds would be used to financially assist the Township's Emergency Services operations.

The motion *passed* 5-0.
- D) Consideration of Resolution 2018-35 establishing the 2019 real estate tax millage rate.
 - i) Mr. Delamater read the Resolution into the record which included the following millage:
 - (1) Tax rate for general purposes: .905 mills per dollar/.0905 cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation.
 - (2) Tax Rate for Lower Providence Emergency Services Purposes: .320 mills per dollar/.0320 cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation.
 - (3) Tax Rate for Lower Providence Community Library Purposes: .345 mills per dollar/.0345 cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation.
 - (4) Tax Rate for Debt Services Purposes: .276 mills/.0276 cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation.
 - (5) Tax Rate for Parks & Recreation Operating Purposes: .241 mills/.0241 cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-35 establishing the 2019 real estate tax millage rate. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
 - (1) Discussion was held regarding the possible uses of the millage once the debt service is paid including the possibility of a new police station.
 - (2) Jennifer Maslow, Grange Avenue, asked why a new police station would be needed. Chairman Duffy said that the facility has been evaluated and found lacking in several areas. He noted that this was long term-planning and nothing would be considered for several years.
 - (3) Nancy Chomicz, Stoneybrook Drive, also questioned the need for a new police station.

- (4) Michael Spicer, Pechins Mill Road, expressed concerns about budget issues and the potential for future litigation in the Township. He also expressed concerns about environmental issues regarding the gun club, Providence Place and the future bridge installation as well as potential conflicts of interest regarding Township employees being employed for multiple positions.

The motion *passed* 5-0

E) Approval of resolution 2018-36 dissolving the Solid Waste Fund and the Equipment Replacement Fund.

- i) Mr. Delamater read the Resolution into record. He noted that these accounts have not been used for several years and it was recommended by the appointed auditors that they be dissolved.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-36 dissolving the Solid Waste Fund and Equipment Replacement Fund. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- (1) Supervisor Eckman confirmed that funds for solid waste will go into the General Fund.
- (a) Nancy Chomicz, Stoneybrook Drive, asked why these funds had not been dissolved earlier. Chairman Duffy said this was a housekeeping issue to clean up the accounts that Mr. Delamater recommended after reviewing the Township's financial documents.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

F) Approval of the 2019 fee schedule

- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the fee schedule.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the 2019 fee schedule. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
- (1) Supervisor MacFarland noted that Camp Perkiomy is 100% attended and that there is always a waiting list. Mr. Delamater reviewed what would be considered a special event in the Township.

The motion *passed* 5-0

G) Personnel Policy amendments

- i) Ms. Golas reviewed the five personnel policy amendments. She said these changes are part of the approved Collective Bargaining agreement with the Township's AFSCME union and this is simply memorializing those changes.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the Personnel Policy amendments. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0

H) Approval of 2019 equipment rental contract

- i) Mr. Primus reviewed the quote process and recommended that James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving Inc. be awarded the contract should any equipment be required.
- ii) Mr. Neights asked for clarification of the bid process and suggested it could be advertised more widely in the future.
- iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the 2019 equipment rental contract. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

I) Authorization to advertise traffic signals and street light maintenance.

- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the need to advertise for bids for traffic signals and street light maintenance as required by the liquid fuels fund.

- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve authorization to advertise traffic signals and street light maintenance. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed 5-0*.
 - (1) Nancy Chomicz, Stoneybrook Drive, asked for clarification of the advertising process
 - (2) Cara Coless, Windsor Dr., inquired about the possibility of converting streetlights to solar power.
 - (3) Jennifer Maslow, Grange Ave., asked for the length of the contract. Mr. Primus said the contract is three years and that they are required to go through a bidding process.The motion *passed 5-0*.

Tim Kurek was present to take a complete record of testimony

J) Conditional Use Hearing – Eagleville Hospital.

- i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the conditional use application.
- ii) Mr. Clement entered exhibits into the record. Mr. Hornich was recognized as an expert in civil engineering and land development. Eugene Ott, CEO of Eagleville Hospital was also sworn in.
- iii) Mr. Clement presented his case for the conditional use stating the applicant wished to revitalize the facility to meet the needs of their clients.
 - (1) Chairman Duffy confirmed that there would be fencing along the frontage.
 - (2) Discussion was held regarding the riparian corridor on the property and potential impact of construction.
 - (3) Mr. Clement reviewed the capacity of the facility and how these changes will positively affect their ability to treat patients.
 - (4) Supervisor Neights opened a discussion regarding outpatient services. Mr. Ott said this was something are looking at strategically for the future. Supervisor Neights expressed concerns about the type of fencing and how the drive-by effect could affect the property values in the neighborhood. He asked for clarification of what difficulties were present to prevent the construction of sidewalks and asked if another solution could be found. As waiver requests are not part of the hearing, Solicitor Rice suggested these issues be discussed during the land development process. Discussion was held regarding the appropriateness of a sidewalk for the facility. Mr. Clement said the fencing issue had already been approved in a previous construction phase.
 - (5) Supervisor Neights asked about changing the location of the SEPTA bus stop and the cost of a trail in place of sidewalks. He expressed concern that the facility not look like a prison or that the Township cede issues. Mr. Clement said that these had not yet been addressed as this was a conditional use hearing and that the uses of the facility are already conforming.
 - (6) Solicitor Rice asked if the plan conformed to dimensional standards of the Institutional Overlay District. Mr. Clement said that it did with the exception of one small area that pre-exists the standards. He said the plan does comply with the provisions of general health safety and welfare under the ordinance and said that the land development plan has been filed and they've already received review letters.
 - (7) In response to Supervisor MacFarland, Chief Turtle said he could estimate that they have several calls per week and anticipates there would be a small increase in calls if the facility expands. He offered to generate a formal report. Mr. Clement said that with the removal of an older building and improvement of aging infrastructure that they anticipate the number of false alarm and maintenance issue calls will be reduced. He anticipated

construction of Phase 1 to begin in the spring and Phase 2 to begin when that is completed in order to disrupt as few as patients as possible during the 15 months of construction.

- (8) Mr. Clement confirmed that both Mr. Hornich and Mr. Ott agreed with his testimony as stated.
- (9) Mr. Clement confirmed that the construction would not change the water patterns toward the existing stream.
- (10) Solicitor Rice said the Board will render a written decision within 45 days.
 - (a) PUBLIC COMMENT:
 - (i) Nancy Chomicz, Stoneybrook Drive, suggested that rooftops be utilized for patient uses.
 - (ii) Jennifer Maslow, Grange Avenue, said the sidewalk should be continued from Ridge Pike. She expressed concerns about construction affecting a previous sinkhole in the area. She asked how long construction process is. She said if the hospital is spending \$45 million for expansion they can afford to put in a sidewalk.
 - (iii) Cara Coless, Windsor Dr., asked about the increase of pervious to impervious. She expressed concerns about the impervious increasing erosion in the area. She expressed concerns about continuing waivers against sidewalk and would like to see the Township be more creative in meeting the goal regarding sidewalks.

4) Announcements

- A) The Township's Caring & Sharing holiday food and gift program is underway. Canned goods and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Township Building during business hours. The Angel Tree is located in the lobby.
- B) The Sewer Authority meeting will be held December 10 at 5:30 p.m.
- C) The Parks and Recreation Board has been cancelled for December.
- D) The Library Board will meet on December 17 at 6 p.m.

5) Comments and other Business

- A) Supervisor Neights acknowledge State Senator-Elect Muth in the audience. Discussion was held regarding invitations to the Township's holiday luncheon and the appropriate time for elected officials to meet with Township Staff.
- B) Chairman Duffy invited township residents to the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Eagleville Park.
- C) Mr. Delamater announced that Pinetown Road was scheduled to be closed on Monday, December 10, for two to three weeks so a stormwater pipe could be repaired
- D) Annie Zhang, student representative, reported on events and activities at Methacton High School including a gingerbread workshop, athletics and Model UN. She thanked the Township staff for their work on the budget and said she was excited for the township's possibilities in 2019.
- E) Supervisor MacFarland stated that the Township is interested in the future of Audubon school and is continuing discussions with the Methacton School District. He noted that the school is zoned only for residential or municipal use.
- F) Supervisor MacFarland announced that the Business Development Committee had met. He reviewed the business activity in the Township, stating that the committee will be focusing on the central Ridge Pike area.

6) Courtesy of the Floor

- A) Nancy Chomicz, Stoneybrook Drive, offered alternative methods, involving the youth of the Township, to raise money in lieu of raising taxes. She also expressed concern about prescription

drugs and other foreign matters entering the water system and felt the water companies should exercise more care in ensuring drinking water is safe.

- B) State Senator-Elect Katie Muth introduced herself to the Board and said her temporary office would be located in the Lewis Environmental Building in Royersford and, in January, she will be opening her permanent location in Royersford. She said residents could contact her at 717-576-0376 and she encouraged staff to reach out to her at any time, particularly as they are moving forward with grant requests as they work through budget issues in Harrisburg
- C) Chairman Duffy said that the Lower Providence Township Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Business of the Year would be announced at the next meeting.

1) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: December 20, 2018

Reorganization Meeting: January 7, 2019 @ *to be determined*