

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2019**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Peter MacFarland, Vice Chair Colleen Eckman, Supervisors Patrick Duffy, Gary Neights and Jason Sorgini. Also, in attendance were: Donald Delamater, Township Manager; John Rice, Township Solicitor; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer; Casey Moore, Traffic Engineer; Geri Spotts, Assistant Township Manager; Susan Law, Finance Director; John Primus, Director of Public Works; and Police Chief Michael Jackson.

Chairman MacFarland announced that on October 30<sup>th</sup> and prior to tonight's meetings an executive session was held to discuss legal matters.

**1) Consent Agenda**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the consent agenda item 1(a) including moving the meeting minutes of October 17, 2019 into the record. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. Supervisor Neights abstained from approving the minutes.
- i) No public comment
- The motion *passed* 4-0-1.

**2) Presentations**

- A) Presentation was made by Chief Michael Jackson for the promotion of Corporal Zachary Wise to the rank of Sergeant with the Lower Providence Township Police Department.
- B) Presentation was made by Chief Michael Jackson for the promotion of Officer Ryan Singleton to the rank of Corporal with the Lower Providence Township Police Department.

**3) New Business**

- A) Discussion of Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for IROY Sports Facility, 3444 Germantown Pike.
- i) Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the Land Development for the 47,000 sq. ft. IROY Sports Facility.
- ii) Yori Andegunwa -3444 Germantown Pike and Amanda Schneider, Engineer with D.L. Howell Associates reviewed the plans for the IROY Sports Facility.
- iii) Solicitor Rice will provide a Resolution for preliminary plan approval to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the November 21, 2019 Meeting.
- B) Presentation by investor re: Buds Bar and Vaux Hill (The Fatlands).
- i) Tom Hennigan, Gambone Brothers made a presentation with regard to the restoration of Buds Bar and a rezone of the Vaux Hill property to include a more dense development.
- ii) The following residents provided comments pertaining to the presentation:
- (1) Joe Ferraro-12 Pinetree Drive
- (2) Erica Sabinske-1408 Catherine Street
- (3) Robert Dodds-3037 Walker Lane
- (4) Sheila Brassington-1236 Pawlings Road
- (5) Jennifer Maslow-987 N. Grange Avenue

- (6) Cliff Culbert-3125 Walker Lane
  - (7) Steve Avalon
  - (8) Bruce Landis-3035 Walker Lane
  - (9) Joyce Cluley-19 Vaux Lane
  - (10) Larry Laughlin-34 Vaux Lane
  - (11) Lisa Yanak-38 Summit Avenue
  - (12) Cara Coless-2015 Windsor Drive
  - (13) Marsha Atkins-29 Vaux Lane
  - (14) Keith Gibbons-1256 Pawlings Road
  - (15) Kathleen Banski-28 Vaux Lane
- iii) The Board of Supervisors made the following comments on the presentation:
- (1) Supervisor Neights noted that he liked the idea of preserving these properties, but that he has concerns of the high-density and traffic.
  - (2) Supervisor Duffy noted that he could not support the plan as presented but thought that the Fatlands property would be a good wedding venue site.
  - (3) Supervisor Eckman noted that it was a good idea to have the community hear the presentation at the same time as the Board. Supervisor Eckman noted that she liked the idea of preserving the buildings but cannot support this project as proposed based on the community input received tonight.
  - (4) Chairman MacFarland stated that he agrees with Supervisor Eckman with the preservation of the buildings. There is a need to relook at the Township's master (comprehensive) plan, to address traffic and alternative housing for seniors. Not the right answer for this property but there is a need to follow through and look at the larger scope where more dense housing might be appropriate in the Township.

Chairman MacFarland requested a 5-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:31 p.m.

C) Budget Presentation and authorization to advertise the proposed 2020 Budget.

- i) Mr. Delamater presented the proposed 2020 Budget and his recommendations to the Board via a PowerPoint presentation.
  - ii) Discussion was held regarding the Township's contribution to the Fire Department.
  - iii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Duffy made a motion to advertise the proposed 2020 Budget with an additional \$25,000 contribution to the Fire Company. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
- (1) Karen Stine – 118 Church Road asked Mr. Delamater if the revenues included revenues from the Sterling Act. Mr. Delamater responded that the state will have to pass that law, if it is passed that would be extra revenue.
  - (2) Brian Earnshaw-2513 Condor Drive inquired if there is a revenue opportunity in the budget that might cover the shortfall. Mr. Delamater noted that the 2019 additional revenues were one-time generators in the Earned Income Tax and Real Estate Transfer taxes. Mr. Earnshaw noted that the School Board voted to eliminate the Per Capita Tax and suggested that the Township consider doing the same for the upcoming budget or next year's budget.
  - (3) Michael Ryan-2759 Apple Valley Lane stated that he was in support of eliminating the Per Capita Tax and that there is no plan by the school district to raise taxes to make up the difference.

- (4) Joe Ferraro-12 Pinetree Drive inquired about the number of employees covered by the medical insurance. Ms. Spotts stated that there are currently 58 employees covered by the insurance. Mr. Ferraro also said that the Township should look at cutting Berkheimer out and just have the State do the collection. Mr. Delamater noted that State law states that Earned Income Tax must be collected at a County level.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

D) Consideration of Fire Marshal Mutual Aid Agreement with Perkiomen Township.

- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the Fire Marshal Mutual Aid agreement with Perkiomen Township noting that this agreement will provide mutual aid assistance in case of fires and emergencies and to also include other local municipalities.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Duffy made a motion to permit the Township Manager to enter into Mutual Aid Agreements with surrounding municipalities who reciprocate. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- iii) No public comment.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

E) Consideration of Resolution 2019-32 authorizing execution of a Green Light-Go grant agreement with PennDOT and submission of Grant acceptance letter.

- i) Mr. Delamater reviewed Resolution 2019-32 authorizing the Green Light-Go grant agreement with PennDOT noting that the Township received \$342,025.20 for the grant award.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to authorize the execution of Resolution 2019-32 Green Light-Go grant agreement with PennDOT and submission of a grant acceptance letter. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
- iii) No public comment.

The motion *passed* 5-0.

- F) Supervisor Duffy read into record a proclamation declaring Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> as Small Business Saturday 2019.

**4) Announcements**

- A) Sewer Authority Meeting – Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:00 p.m.
- B) Parks and Recreation Board Meeting - Nov. 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- C) The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> will be held at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Lower Providence Township residents are invited to preview the center's new museum prior to the meeting.
- D) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Tree Lighting - Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Township complex.
- E) 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)

**5) Comments and other Business**

- A) Supervisor Sorgini explained with regard to the Vaux Hill presentation that he did not expect to render any judgment on a hypothetical project.
- B) Supervisor Duffy extended congratulations to Cara Coless for her victory on Tuesday.
- C) Mr. Delamater stated that there are several positions to be filled on the various Township Boards, noting additional information can be found on the Township website.

**6) Courtesy of Floor**

- A) Jennifer Maslow – 987 N. Grange Avenue inquired about a traffic light with the IROY project.
- B) Bruce Landis-3035 Walker Lane inquired about rescinding Ordinance 660 and distributed his recommendations to the Board.

**7) Adjournment**

A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: November 21, 2019 @ The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove  
1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon, PA 19403  
December 5, 2019

**Respectfully submitted:**

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**Donald D. Delamater, Secretary**