

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 16, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman Sorgini called the Zoom Virtual meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Sorgini, Supervisors Eckman, Coless, Neights, and MacFarland.
- b. Also in attendance were: Don Delamater, Township Manager; William Roth, Director of Special Projects, and Technology; John Rice, Township Solicitor; and Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director.

Chairman Sorgini announced that on April 14th an executive session was held to discuss legal, personnel, and real estate matters.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c), including moving the meeting minutes of April 2, 2020 into the record. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
 - i) There was no public comment
 - ii) The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) New Business

- A) Consideration of Ordinance No. 666 repealing Article VI, section 143-36 of the Township Code (Ordinance No. 660) and revising zoning notification requirements.
 - i) Solicitor Rice reviewed Ordinance No. 666:
 - (1) Section I: Zoning amendments generated by the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, or a Landowner.
 - (2) Section II: Notification of these amendments will be sent to property owners within 500 feet of any property affected by a zoning map change, change in density, and additional principal uses in the applicable zoning district.
 - (3) Section III: Repealing Ordinance No. 660 – R2 Residential District 143-36 Village Housing Development.
 - ii) Supervisor MacFarland noted that he was in support of the Ordinance except for Section III; he rejects the removal of the Village Housing Development use.
 - iii) Supervisor Coless noted that she appreciated the changes and that the notifications would be placed on the Township's website.
 - iv) Supervisor Neights inquired about neighbors being notified within 500 feet of the affected property.
 - v) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the Ordinance No 666. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion.
 - vi) There was no public comment.
 - viii) The motion *passed* 4-1 with Supervisor MacFarland opposing.
- B) Consideration of Ordinance No. 667 eliminating the Township's Per Capita Tax
 - i. Mr. Delamater reviewed Ordinance No. 667 eliminating the Township's Per Capita Tax, following the lead of the School District repealing the Per Capita Tax. However, Mr. Delamater noted that these eliminated revenues will need to be made up in future budgets.
 - ii. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 667 eliminating the Townships Per Capita Tax. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.

- iii. Jennifer Maslow – 987 N. Grange Avenue inquired what year would this elimination go into effect. Mr. Delamater advised it would be effective with this year's billings.
- iv. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- C) Consideration of engineering approval for Green-Light-Go Project
 - i. Mr. Delamater reviewed the engineering approval for the Green-Light-Go-Project, noting that the Township received the grant from PennDOT for the project. An RFP was issued for Professional Transportation Engineering Services for this project. Proposals were received from four firms: Drive Engineering; McMahon Associates; Remington & Vernick Engineers; and Stahl Sheaffer Engineering. Staff is recommending McMahon Associates based on their qualifications.
 - ii. **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to approve the engineering services for the Green-Light-Go Project to McMahon Associates. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
 - iii. There was no public comment.
 - iv. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- D) Consideration of a waiver request to permit a six-foot high solid style fence to be installed at 338 Level Road (corner of Level and Stoughton Roads)
 - i. Mr. Mrozinski reviewed the waiver request to permit a six-foot high solid style fence to be installed at 338 Level Road.
 - ii. Chief Jackson noted that there does not appear to be any site distance issues for this project.
 - iii. Supervisor Neights inquired about neighbor notifications which Mr. Mrozinski responded that none were notified but the neighbors were aware of the fence because the applicant had started the fence prior to getting a permit. Supervisor Neights expressed his opinion about the appearance of a solid style fence.
 - iv. Supervisor MacFarland expressed his support of this request due to the unusual nature of this lot.
 - v. Chairman Sorgini noted that safety is his paramount concern and was satisfied with Chief Jackson's opinion about safety.
 - vi. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Supervisor MacFarland to approve the waiver request to permit a six-foot high fence. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
 - vii. There was no public comment.
 - viii. The motion *passed* 4-1 with Supervisor Neights opposing.
- E) Consideration of Comprehensive Plan Update consultant proposal.
 - i. Mr. Delamater reviewed the proposal from the Montgomery County Planning Commission to take the lead on the Comprehensive Plan Update. The cost would be \$13,000 over a three-year contract.
 - ii. Supervisor MacFarland noted that he and Supervisor Coless were tasked with taking up the Comprehensive Plan Update which was last updated in 2005. MCPC will be a facilitator for Open Meetings with the public. The cost appears to be much less than that of a private contractor.
 - iii. Supervisor Coless noted that they want to make sure that whatever plan comes out has prioritization; actions plans; time periods; and identifies potential funding.
 - iv. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Supervisor Neights to approve the Montgomery County Planning Commission to lead the Townships Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.

- v. Bob Garrett – 2759 Lantern Lane inquired if there was a way to delay the Comprehensive Plan due to the cost.
 - a. Mr. Delamater noted that the cost is spread out over two years starting in 2021.
 - b. Chairman Sorgini explained that the Comprehensive Plan is overdue, timing is unfortunate, but it needs to be done.

vi. The motion *passed* 5-0.

F) Chairman Sorgini read in to record an Earth Day Proclamation.

3) Announcements

- A) Park & Recreation Board April 21st meeting is cancelled.
- B) Planning Commission will hold a Virtual Public Meeting (Zoom) on Wednesday, April 22nd @ 7:00 p.m.
- C) Zoning Hearing Board April 23rd meeting is cancelled.

4) Comments and other Business

- A) Supervisor MacFarland noted that he, Mr. Delamater, and Solicitor Rice met with School District officials via a virtual meeting to continue discussions on utilizing the Audubon School.
- B) Supervisor Eckman noted that the Park & Recreation Open Space Committee has sent out the RFP for a consultant to perform the Open Space Plan Update. This information can be found on the Township website under “Current Projects.”

5). Courtesy of the Floor

- A) Jennifer Maslow–987 N. Grange Avenue inquired if the Township could post the Primary Election Date change on the website. She also wanted to know if the Township would be overseeing or providing guidelines to businesses that are opening.
 - a. Chairman Sorgini explained that the Township will rely on guidance from the State and County Officials regarding the opening of businesses.
- B) Chairman Sorgini offered gratitude to all of the first responders of Lower Providence Township; Montgomery County; the state; and the entire country for all the work that they are doing; to all of our healthcare workers who are putting their lives on the line; to all restaurant workers staying open for take-out; and all essential employees who are continuing to work and encourage the Lower Providence Township residents Stay Calm, Stay Home and be Safe.

6). Adjournment

- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Next Business Meetings: May 7, 2020
May 21, 2020