

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 7, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman Sorgini called the Zoom virtual meeting to order at 7:05 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: William Roth, Director of Special Projects, and Technology; Geri Spotts, Assistant Township Manager; John Rice, Township Solicitor; and Casey Moore, McMahon & Associates, Township Engineer.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), and 1(b), including moving the meeting minutes of April 16, 2020 into the record. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
 - i) There was no public comment
 - ii) The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) New Business

- A) Authorization to advertise an ordinance establishing the office of Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Coordinator
 - i) Solicitor Rice reviewed the information for the ordinance to establish the office of Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Coordinator; and to repeal Chapter 11, Emergencies and Chapter 40 Volunteer Police Department.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to approve advertisement of an ordinance establishing the office of Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Coordinator. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - viii) The motion *passed* 5-0.
- B) Park Avenue/Eagleville Road/Crawford Road intersection project engineering Addendum 2
 - i. Casey Moore and Stephanie Butler of McMahon Associates reviewed the intersection project and Addendum 2. Ms. Butler noted that the project began in 2016 with Preliminary Engineering, which was approved by PennDOT in February 2020. Final Design Phase should be completed by March 2021, with Final Plans designed and ready to go May 2021.
 - ii. Supervisor MacFarland noted that construction will not begin until Spring 2022 lasting two construction seasons 2022-2023.
 - iii. Supervisor Eckman noted that information pertaining to this project could be found on the Township website under "Current Projects".
 - iv. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the Project Engineering Addendum-2 for the Park Avenue/Eagleville Road/Crawford Road intersection project. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
 - v. Paul Hofgesang -1004 Skyline Circle asked what was built into the plan to slow traffic and if rumble strips could be incorporated.
 - b. Mr. Moore noted that the grade will be elevated, signs will be installed to notify motorists of the Traffic Signal and that PennDOT did not approve rumble strips.
 - i. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- C) Consideration of Ordinance No. 668 – Lower Providence Sewer Authority borrowing guaranty
- i. Fred Walker, Chairman of the Lower Providence Sewer Authority, reviewed Ordinance 668, requesting a \$10 million loan with the Township's guaranty. Mr. Walker noted that the loan would be used to address the aging sewer system, especially problematic areas where Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) have been identified.
 - ii. Chairman Sorgini inquired if Mine Run would be one of the areas to be addressed. Mr. Walker noted that the first two projects address the Trooper area, including Mine Run.
 - iii. Supervisor MacFarland noted that this is a 30-year note and questioned if there will be a need to borrow more funds before this note is retired.
 - iv. Supervisor Eckman inquired about Section 4, Maximum Rate of 15%.
 - b. Ms. Spotts noted that all DelVal loans are variable rate loans and this would be locked into a fixed rate around 1.25%. Because there is an option to convert to a variable rate, DelVal needs to disclose the variable rate.
 - c. Mr. Rice noted that these loan documents go to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for approval, any municipal debt gets approved by DCED. They require that the maximum rate be listed on the documents.
 - v. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Ordinance 668 Lower Providence Sewer Authority borrowing guaranty. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
 - vi. Supervisor Neights thanked Mr. Walker for the hard work, but his main concern is the accounting support. Supervisor Neights would like to have better accounting support to provide financial projections.
 - vii. There was no public comment.
 - viii. The motion *passed* 4-1 with Supervisor Neights opposing.

3) Announcements

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

4) Comments and other Business

- A) Supervisor Neights noted that Rep. Webster is kicking off a food distribution with the various school districts.
- B) Supervisor MacFarland thanked others for their food distribution efforts, including St. James Outreach Center. Supervisor MacFarland also noted that there will be a vote by County Commissioners to consolidate polling places for the June 2nd primary.
- C) Supervisor Coless also noted that there is still time to register to vote by mail.
- D) Supervisor Eckman noted that the Park & Recreation Open Space Committee has received six bids for the Open Space Update, all bids are being evaluated.

5). Courtesy of the Floor

- A) Chairman Sorgini again 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 to all essential employees who are continuing to work and encourage the Lower Providence Township residents to Stay Calm, Stay Home and be Safe.

6). Adjournment

- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Next Business Meetings: May 21, 2020
June 4, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Donald D. Delamater, Secretary