

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

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**Call to Order:** Chairman Sorgini called the hybrid live/virtual meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Sorgini, Supervisors Eckman, Coless, MacFarland, and Neights.
- b. Also in attendance were: Don Delamater, Township Manager; John Rice, Township Solicitor; Bill Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Chief Michael Jackson; and Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer.
- c. Chairman Sorgini announced that an executive session was held October 28, 2020 and prior to the meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

**1) Consent Agenda**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a) and 1(b) including the minutes of the October 15, 2020. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
  - i. There was no public comment.
  - ii. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**2) Presentations**

- A) Police Department Promotion – Cpl. Justin Hubert
  - i) Chief Jackson noted that Cpl. Hubert joined the Township police force in 2016.

**3) New Business**

- A) Consideration of Resolution 2020-20 approving the preliminary/final land development plan for Salters rebuild
  - i. Solicitor Rice explained that this a rebuild at 3130 Ridge Pike following a fire event.
  - ii. The applicant also requested that the Board waive the \$5,940.00 fee in lieu of trees that was included in the Thomas Comitta Associates review letter.
  - iii. There was consensus that the first 10 of 11 waiver requests be considered together.
  - iv. **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to grant waivers 6A through 6J. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion. There was no public comment.
  - v. The motion to approve granting waiver requests 6A through 6J *passed* 5-0.
  - vi. **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to grant waiver request 6K, waiving the payment of Parks & Recreation fee. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
    - (1) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to include a Parks & Recreation fee of \$8,000 but to waive the fee in lieu of trees. There was no second; the motion *failed*.
  - vii. There was no public comment on the original motion to approve waiver request 6K.
  - viii. The motion to waive the payment of the Parks & Recreation fee *passed* 4-1 with Supervisor MacFarland dissenting.
  - ix. There was consideration of the remainder of the resolution.
  - x. **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to accept the resolution as it stands, including payment of a fee in lieu of plantings/trees. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion.
  - xi. There was no public comment.
  - xii. The motion *failed* 2-3, with Supervisors Sorgini, Eckman and MacFarland dissenting.

- xiii. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve the resolution to include an additional waiver of payment of a fee in lieu of trees that was included in the Thomas Comitta Associates review letter.
- xiv. The motion *passed* 5-0. Supervisors Neights and Coless noted that they voted in favor despite their opposition to the granting of the waiver of a fee in lieu of plantings/trees.

B) Consideration of 2021 budget presentation and authorization to advertise the preliminary 2021 budget

- i. Mr. Delamater presented an overview of the proposed 2021 budget, noting a budget gap of approximately \$787,000 due mainly to reduced revenues and increased expenditures, specifically, salaries and benefits. A multi-year strategy was presented to address the shortfall which included real estate tax increases, utilizing General Fund reserves, transfers from Debt Service and continuing to analyze revenue trends and any impacts from the pandemic for future years.
- ii. The proposed 2021 budget includes a real estate tax increase of .22 mills (\$350,000) which equates to a \$37 per year increase for the average homeowner. Mr. Delamater noted that the Per Capita Tax was eliminated this year, saving residents \$15 per person annually.
- iii. Mr. Delamater presented a breakdown of the real estate taxes paid: 83% goes to Methacton School District, 9 percent goes to Montgomery County and 1% to Montgomery County Community College, and 6% comes to the Township.
- iv. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to advertise the preliminary 2021 budget. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- v. Public Comment: Brian Earnshaw, Condor Drive, inquired about actual versus budgeted amounts and a summary of the shortfall.
- vi. The motion to advertise the 2021 proposed budget *passed* 5-0.

C) Consideration of a fee waiver request – Lower Providence Fire Department

- i. Mr. Delamater reviewed the request for waiver of permit fees for the Lower Providence Fire Department for installation of sprinkler systems.
- ii. **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the fee waiver request for Lower Providence Fire Department. Chairman Sorgini seconded the motion.
- iii. There was no public comment.
- iv. The motion *passed* 5-0.

D) Authorize to advertise an ordinance adopting the 2015 International Fire Code

- i. Solicitor Rice said that the Township fire marshal recommends using the updated standardized code as the Township's code.
- ii. **MOTION:** Supervisors MacFarland made a motion to advertise the ordinance adopting the 2015 International Fire Code as the Township's fire code. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion.
- iii. There was no public comment.
- iv. The motion *passed* 5-0.

E) Consideration of Resolution 2020-21 authorizing the sale of Township vehicles at auction

- i. Mr. Delamater said that there are three older vehicles that are not able to be recycled into other departments. It is requested that the vehicles be sold as is at auction. They include a 2008 Ford pickup truck, 2008 Ford Edge, and 2007 Hyundai. It was noted that any funds recouped will be placed in the Capital Projects Fund.
- ii. Chairman Sorgini noted that the Sewer Authority is also retiring a vehicle and will be coordinating its sale with the Township.

- iii. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-21. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
- iv. There was no public comment.
- v. The motion *passed* 5-0.

F) Expenditure authorization for Year-in-Review video production

- i. Mr. Roth explained that the annual in-person Supervisors Open House could not be held this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, a Year-in-Review recording will be made by the supervisors. He has received a quote from the Township's video contactor of \$3395.00 to complete the recording.
- ii. **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to authorize the expenditure. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
- iii. There was no public comment.
- iv. The motion *passed* 5-0.

G) Proclamation – Small Business Saturday, November 28, 2020

- i. Chairman Sorgini read a proclamation recognizing Nov. 28, 2020 as Small Business Saturday in Lower Providence.
- ii. **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion accept the proclamation as read. Supervisor MacFarland seconded the motion.
- iii. There was no public comment.
- iv. The motion *passed* 5-0.

**4). Announcements**

- A) Student Representative, Charles Yang, reported that virtual learning has been going well at Methacton High School. He said they will be transitioning to hybrid learning.
- B) Sewer Authority meeting- Nov. 9 at 4:30 p.m.
- C) Virtual Comprehensive Plan meeting - Nov. 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- D) Zoning Hearing Board meeting - Nov. 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- E) Virtual Environmental Advisory Council meeting - Nov. 16 at 6:00 p.m.
- F) Library Board of Trustees meeting - Nov. 16 at 7:00 p.m.
- G) Virtual Parks and Recreation Board meeting - Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- H) Planning Commission - Nov. 18 meeting is cancelled
- I) The Caring & Sharing holiday food drive is underway. Supermarket gift cards, monetary donations and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Township Building weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Details on the program can be found at [www.lptrec.com](http://www.lptrec.com)

**5) Comments and other Business**

- A) Supervisors Coless and Neights commented on Election Day, recognizing the community for the polite and respectful conduct they saw at the polls.
- B) Mr. Delamater said the supervisors will receive an email to determine a date for the recording for the Year-in-Review video production.

**6) Courtesy of the Floor**

- A) No comment.

**7) Adjournment**

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor MacFarland made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Next Business Meetings: November 19, 2020  
December 3, 2020