

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

Call to Order: Donald Delamater, Township Manager called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Supervisors Cara Coless, Colleen Eckman, Peter MacFarland, Gary Neights and Jason Sorgini.
- b. Also in attendance were: Donald Delamater, Township Manager; William Roth, Director of Special Projects and Technology; and Michael Mrozinski, Community Development Director.

1) Appointment of Temporary Chair

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Donald Delamater, Township Manager as Temporary Chairman. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) Election of Chair

- A) **NOMINATIONS:** Supervisor Eckman nominated Peter MacFarland. Supervisor Coless nominated Gary Neights.
- B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint Supervisor MacFarland as Chairman for 2021. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-2 with Supervisors Coless and Neights opposing.

3) Election of Vice-Chair

- A) **NOMINATIONS:** Supervisor Coless nominated Gary Neights. Supervisor Sorgini nominated Colleen Eckman.
- B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to appoint Supervisor Neights as Vice-Chair for 2021. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *was defeated* 2-3 with Supervisors Eckman, MacFarland and Sorgini opposing.
- C) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Supervisor Eckman as Vice-Chair for 2021. Chairman MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 3-2 with Supervisors Coless and Neights opposing.

4) Appointment of Township Secretary/Treasurer

- A) **MOTION:** Vice Chairwoman Eckman made a motion to appoint Donald Delamater as the Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

5) Appointment of Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to appoint Geri Spotts as the Assistant Township Secretary/Assistant Treasurer. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

6) Appointment of Open Records Officer

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Denise Walsh as the Open Records Officer. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

7) Appointment to Vacancy Board

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to appoint Mike Comroe to serve on the Vacancy Board for a one-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

- 8) Appointment to Library Board of Trustees (two (3) Three-year Terms)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to appoint Florence Li-Maldonado to serve on the Library Board of Trustees. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Arthur Miller and Shannon Chase to serve on the Library Board of Trustees. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- 9) Appointment to Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority (One (1) Five-year Term)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Robert Tschoepe to the Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority. Vice Chairwoman Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- 10) Appointment to Planning Commission (Three (3) Four-year Term)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to appoint Peter Boehl to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion was *defeated* 2-3 with Supervisors Eckman, MacFarland and Sorgini opposing.
B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to appoint Frank McDonough to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion was *passed* 3-2 with Supervisors Coless and Neights opposing.
C) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Kristina O'Donnell and William Brooke to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion was *passed* 5-0.
- 11) Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board by Resolution #2021-01 (Two (2) Five-year Terms (1 voting member, 1 alternate member))
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-01 to appoint Joseph Pucci as a voting member and Randy Kline as an alternate member to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board for five-year terms. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- 12) Appointment to Parks & Recreation Board (two (2) Five-year terms)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to appoint Michelle Brown to serve on the Parks & Recreation Board for a five-year term. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion was *passed* 5-0.
B) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to appoint Peter Boehl to the Parks & Recreation Board. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion was *defeated* 2-3 with Supervisors Eckman, MacFarland and Sorgini opposing.
C) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to appoint Ray Lotfi to the Parks & Recreation Board. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- 13) Appointment to Finance Committee (one (1) Four year term)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Amy Calamari to the Finance Committee for a four-year term. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- 14) Appointment to UCC Board of Appeals (one (1) Three-year Term)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Richard Firth to the UCC Board of Appeals. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- 15) Environmental Advisory Board (one (1) three-year term)
A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Joseph Lulis to the Environmental Advisory Board for a three-year term. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

Prior to the appointment of consultants, Supervisor Coless expressed concern with consultants donating to local political committees and candidates. Chairman MacFarland noted the Board would continue discussion later in the meeting and in a future meeting.

16) Appointment of Solicitor and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint John Rice and the firm Grim, Biehn & Thatcher as solicitor for 2021 at a rate established in their correspondence dated December 14, 2020. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

17) Appointment of Labor Attorney and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Scott Blissman of Eckert, Seamans, Cherin & Mellot as Labor Attorney for 2021 at a rate established in their correspondence dated December 5, 2020. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

18) Appointment of Consulting Engineer and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to reappoint Woodrow & Associates as the Township Consulting Engineer at a rate established in their correspondence dated December 1, 2020. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

19) Appointment of Traffic Engineer and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to reappoint McMahon & Associates, Inc. as the Township Traffic Engineer at a rate established in their correspondence dated December 1, 2020. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

20) Appointment of Landscape Architectural Consultant and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reappoint Thomas Comitta Associates as the Township Landscape Architectural Consultant at a rate established in their correspondence dated December 8, 2020. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

21) Appointment of Township Lighting Consultant and fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to reappoint Suburban Lighting as the Township Lighting Consultant at a rate established in their correspondence dated November 27, 2020. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

22) Appointment of Actuary for Township Pension Plans, Township Employees' Pension Plans, Township Employees' Pension Plan and the Defined Contribution (401(a)) Plan and Fixing of Compensation

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Charles Friedlander of Municipal Finance Partners as the Actuary for Township Pension Plans, Township Employees' Pension Plans, and the Defined Contribution (401(a)) Plan at a rate established in correspondence dated December 3, 2020. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

23) Fixing of Compensation for Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to set compensation for the solicitor selected by the Zoning Hearing Board at \$145 per hour for general business matters and \$170 per hour for litigation with the general business costs not to exceed the Township's 2021 budgeted number. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

24) Appointment of Board Liaisons

- A) Chairman MacFarland made the following Board Liaison Appointments:
- i) Business Development Committee: Chairman MacFarland and Vice Chairwoman Eckman
 - ii) Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee: Chairman MacFarland and Supervisor Coless
 - iii) Environmental Advisory Council: Vice Chairwoman Eckman
 - iv) Emergency Services Committee: Chairman MacFarland and Supervisor Sorgini
 - v) Finance Committee: Open
 - vi) Library Board: Supervisor Sorgini
 - vii) Open Space Committee: Vice Chairwoman Eckman
 - viii) Parks & Recreation Board: Supervisor Coless
 - ix) Pension Committee: Supervisor Neights
 - x) Planning Commission: Chairman MacFarland
 - xi) Sewer Authority: Supervisor Neights
 - xii) Zoning Hearing Board: Supervisor Coless

25) Resolutions: Township Manager Delamater reviewed each resolution.

- A) Resolution No. 2021-02 authorizing the appropriate Township Officials to affix signatures on checks
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-02 authorizing appropriate Township Officials to affix signatures on checks. Vice Chairwoman Eckman seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- B) Resolution No. 2021-03 designating depositories for Township funds.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-03 designating depositories for Township funds. Vice Chairwoman Eckman seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- C) Resolution No. 2021-04 establishing the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$1,000,000.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-04 to establish the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$1,000,000. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- D) Resolution No. 2021-05 establishing the Police Officers contributions to the Police Pension Plan for the Year 2021.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-05 establishing the Police Officers contributions to the Police Pension for the year 2021. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- E) Resolution No. 2021-06 establishing member contributions to the Employees' Pension Fund for the Year 2021.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-06 establishing member contributions to the Employee Pension Fund for the year 2021. Vice Chairwoman Eckman seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- F) Resolution No. 2021-07 Appointing the Certified Public Accounting Firm of BBD LLP to Serve as Auditors to Audit the Accounts of Lower Providence Township for Fiscal Year 2020.
- i) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-07. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. No public comment. The motion *passed* 5-0.

26) Certification of Delegates and Voting Delegate to PSATS Annual State Convention.

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve Supervisors Coless, Neights, and MacFarland as delegates to the PSATS Annual State Convention and nominate Supervisor Coless as the PSATS Voting Delegate for 2021. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

27) Approval and authorization to advertise 2021 meeting schedule.

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve and authorize the advertisement of the 2021 meeting schedule as presented and moving the April 1st Board of Supervisors' meeting date to March 31st. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

Update: Charles Yang, student representative, reflected on the good things of 2020, such as the appreciation of the front-line workers. He noted that Methacton teachers have been very flexible throughout the year.

28) Other Business:

Supervisor Neights congratulated Chairman MacFarland and Vice Chairwoman Eckman. Supervisor Eckman thanked the Emergency Responders for the work on the recent holiday storms. Chairman MacFarland said he appreciates the opportunity to serve as Chairman and looks forward to working with all members of the Board. Supervisor Coless proposed the creation of a policy by resolution that restricts Township consultants from donating to local political committees and individual local candidates. Supervisor Coless will prepare a memo with her proposal for the January 21 Board meeting.

29) Courtesy of the Floor

No comments.

30) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Next Business Meeting: January 21, 2021
February 4, 2021