

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman MacFarland 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 MacFarland, Vice-Chair Eckman, Supervisors Coless, Neights and Sorgini.
- b. Also, in attendance were: John Rice, Township Solicitor; Don Delamater, Township Manager; Mike Mrozinski, Community Development Director; Tim Woodrow, Township Engineer; Bill Roth, Special Projects and Technology, and Michael Jackson, Chief of Police.
- c. Chairman MacFarland announced that an executive session was held on January 13, 2021 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c), including moving the meeting minutes of December 17, 2020 and January 4, 2021 into the record. Supervisor Coless seconded the motion. The motion *passed 4-0* with Chairman MacFarland abstaining since he was absent from the December 17, 2020 meeting.

2) New Business

- A) Consideration of request of waiver of fence requirements, 2005 Archer Court
 - i) Mike Mrozinski reviewed the request of waiver of fence requirements at 2005 Archer Court. The property owner was also in attendance and reviewed the request.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the waiver for fence requirements. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - iv) The motion *passed 4-1* with Supervisor Neights opposing.
- B) Consideration of request of waiver of fence requirements, 900 Jode Road.
 - i) Mike Mrozinski reviewed the request of waiver of fence requirements at 900 Jode Road. The property owner was also in attendance and reviewed the request.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to approve waiver of fence requirements. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - iv) The motion *passed 5-0*.
- C) Consideration of fee schedule amendment
 - i) Mr. Delamater reviewed a requested fee schedule amendment. The Fire Marshal requested a fee of \$75 to be added for all Fire Marshal investigation reports. The fee will be waived for fire victims.
 - ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the fee schedule amendment. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion.
 - iii) There was no public comment.
 - iv) The motion *passed 5-0*.
- D) Mowing bid recommendation
 - i) Mr. Delamater reviewed the bidding process and the results of the bids received. Based on the bid results, Mr. Delamater recommends that the Board reject the bids and to perform the mowing operations in-house moving forward.

- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to reject all bids and to approve the recommendation to perform the mowing operation in-house as outlined in Mr. Delamater's memo dated January 15, 2021. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment.
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

E) Discussion of political donations by consultants

- i) Supervisor Coless discussed her concerns with local candidates receiving political donations from paid consultants and appointees to township boards that directly solicit political donations from local businesses.
- ii) Chairman MacFarland, Supervisors, Eckman, Sorgini and Neights all commented and participated in the discussion.
- iii) Chairman MacFarland asked that Solicitor Rice draft some language based on what was discussed. Further discussion by the Board will be on the agenda at a future meeting.

3) Announcements

- A) Commendation of Merit – Presented to Detective Michael Nastasi was the lead investigator on a Drug Delivery Resulting in Death investigation.
- B) Student Representative report by Irene Biju - Methacton School District started on January 11 with hybrid classes. She thanked Methacton for its support and for keep things running smoothly.
- C) Open Space Plan virtual public meeting - January 26 at 7:00pm
- D) Planning Commission meeting on January 27 has been cancelled.
- E) Zoning Hearing Board will meet on January 28 at 7:00 p.m.

4) Comments and other Business

- A) Chairman MacFarland reported that he is working on a stormwater management directive that will be discussed with the Board and ultimately provided to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC).
- B) Supervisor Sorgini provided a Library Board update.
- C) Supervisor Eckman provided an EAC update.
- D) Supervisor Coless provided a Parks and Recreation Board update.
- E) Supervisor Neights provided a Sewer Authority Board update.
- F) Supervisor Neights spoke to a resident regarding a tax bill that was received late. Mr. Delamater spoke to the process of the tax collector and county regulations.
- G) Supervisor Neights spoke to the insurrection in Washington DC on January 6th and called on the Supervisors to issue a statement condemning violence. He asked for this topic to be added to the next agenda for discussion.
- H) Township Engineer Tim Woodrow provided an update on the Skippack Creek Alliance and agreement to form a coalition. The group is working on a document to present to the respective Boards for approval consideration.

5) Courtesy of the Floor

- A) Kathie Eskie, 540 Highgate Road, commented on the discussion regarding political donations.

6) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Eckman made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Business Meetings: February 4, 2021
February 18, 2021