

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 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; Assistant Manager Geri Spotts; Bill Roth, Special Projects and Technology and Michael Jackson, Chief of Police.

1) Consent Agenda

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Neights made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) including moving the minutes of February 4, 2021 into the record. Supervisor Sorgini seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

2) Presentations

- A) Hometown Heroes banner program: Anne Henning Scheuring and Dennis Miller, director of Montgomery County Veterans Affairs, explained that the community program honors those serving in the military, both past and present.
 - i) The Board was receptive to the program and a preliminary plan to initiate it in the Township will be considered at the next meeting.

3) New Business

A) Consideration of review process extension request for Shannondell Phase III

- i) John Rice reviewed the request. Merle Ochach, counsel for the developer, stated that they are not ready to move forward with the phase at this time.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to approve the request for extension. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment.
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

B) Consideration of pension distribution

- i) Ms. Spotts said the pension benefit distribution had been prepared by the Township actuary for a recent retiree, William Mason.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Coless made a motion to approve the pension benefit distribution for William Mason. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment.
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

C) Consideration of Ordinance No. 672 authorizing renewal of a cable franchise agreement between the Township and Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC

- i) Mr. Delamater said the ordinance was the culmination of public meetings and a hearing and that the agreement had been negotiated by a consultant on behalf of several municipalities.
- ii) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 672 authorizing renewal of a cable franchise agreement with Verizon. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion.
- iii) There was no public comment.
- iv) The motion *passed* 5-0.

D) Continuation of discussion of political donations by consultants

- i) Chairman MacFarland explained that document had been drafted by the solicitor for the board's review.
- ii) Chairman MacFarland, Supervisors, Coless, Eckman, Sorgini and Neights all commented on the draft and participated in the discussion.
- iii) Chairman MacFarland said a statement would be drafted to reiterate the board's commitment to transparency with regard to political contributions and paid consultants and Township boards and commissions.

4) Announcements/Meetings

- A) Josephine James, Student Representative, provided an update. She reported that Methacton School District is seeking members for a 30-member Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- B) Commendation of Officer Ryan Gill: Chief Jackson noted that Officer Gill was being recognized for his successful efforts to talk a potential suicide victim off the ledge of a bridge.
- C) Recognition of outgoing board/commission members for their service:
 - i) David Atkins, Planning Commission, 2014 to 2020
 - ii) John Neilson Jr., Parks and Recreation Board, 2013 to 2020
 - iii) Joseph Clement, Parks and Recreation Board, 2018 to 2020
 - iv) Lisa Bono, Library Board, 2018 to 2020
 - v) Robert Hardt, Zoning Hearing Board, 2008 to 2020
- D) Planning Commission - Feb 24 meeting is cancelled.
- E) Virtual Zoning Hearing Board meeting - Feb 25 at 7:00pm

5) Comments and other Business

- A) Supervisor Eckman congratulated Ms. James on her selection to the National Honor Society.
- B) Supervisor Sorgini, library board liaison, said the library is operating with curbside pickup only at this time. He said a modified fundraiser is planned for March.
- C) Supervisor Coless detailed the distinguished service and accomplishments of Dr. Ione Vargas, the first African American dean at Temple University. Dr. Vargas is a resident of Shannondell.
- D) Supervisor Neights asked if the canceled Environmental Advisory Council meeting had been rescheduled. The virtual meeting has been rescheduled for Feb. 22 at 6:00 p.m.
- E) Chairman MacFarland said work is continuing on the Regional Sewer Authority's sewer line. Because of the pandemic, weather and the discovery of an eagle's nest, work was delayed. Completion is now slated for June 2022.

6) Courtesy of the Floor

- A) Kathie Eskie, Highgate Road, spoke about comments made previously by Supervisor Coless.

7) Adjournment

- A) **MOTION:** Supervisor Sorgini made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Neights seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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