

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, France Krazalkovich, Renee Spaide, Martin Schreiber and Elwood Taylor present. Also present were Manager Michelle Reddick, Chief of Police James Fisher, Public Works Director Justin Bean, Township Engineer Peter Eisenbrown and Secretary Jeannie DiSante. Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr. will arrive later and Attorney Matthew Hovey is present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – The Commissioners requested a moment of silence in honor of the men and women who have served and are currently serving our country in the armed forces.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by M. Schreiber, seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of October 21, 2019.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – Motion by R. Spaide and second by T. Slinkerd and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$624,415.35.

REPORTS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE – M. Reddick advised her report was included in the Commissioner’s packets. A new boiler will be installed this week as there have been issues with no heat in the fire department. Also, there are roof leaks in the engine bay of the fire department above the electrical box and it has been repaired. The roof is in extremely poor condition and we received one estimate to replace the roof. It is over the threshold and will need to go out for bids. The Township received an update report from PFM on how they are proceeding with the proposed sale of the sewer system and as a public document it will be posted in the Township building and on the website. PFM will send monthly updates.

The final audit report has been received and copies are available at the office. The finance department is gathering necessary information to outsource payroll to Express Data Systems, a company utilized by surrounding municipalities and highly recommended by our auditors and financial consultants. The Township received an invoice for the solvency fee for 2020 of \$2,516.01 as it relates to unemployment compensation. The Township in the past has elected not to pay this annual fee as there is no guarantee of a favorable outcome for Base Period claims for unemployment. The Township is opting out this year as well.

The Township has applied for a PECO Green Region grant for Fox Hill Trail. Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Barry Kerchner has resigned and the Zoning Hearing Board appointed Robert L. Brant of Robert L. Brant & Associates as their new solicitor.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Chief J. Fisher submitted his report to the Board highlighting a few items and would answer any questions.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – J. Bean stated his report is in the packet for the Commissioners and informed the Board of working on sink holes developing in Cherry Tree development. The crew has installed the winter equipment on the trucks readying for winter.

There have been issues with the Regal Oaks pump station heater. J. Bean talk with J. Bealer and will research the service agreement.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR – Attorney Matthew Hovey had nothing to discuss at this time and C. Garner will address the Board later in the meeting.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING – M. Reddick noted the report is in the Commissioner’s packets. She noted there are on-going issues with dumping at a vacant property on Farmington Avenue. The Township is addressing it within all legal means and rights.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

PLANNING LIAISON – E. Taylor stated there was no meeting and no report to submit.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION – C. Note reported that D. Elliott was absent from the meeting therefore no action was taken on any items discussed. M. Reddick reported on the consideration to outsource mowing in the Township and submitted a spreadsheet tracking how much time public works crews are working on mowing open space and parks and the costs of their time. The costs for public works to maintain open space far exceeds the 25% of the 25% of Open Space EIT taxes the Township receives. Many complaints are received that the parks and trails are not maintained properly on a regular basis. Another option is hiring a part-time maintenance person from May through September. Open Space Board will review this at their next meeting and give their recommendation.

SEWER AND WATER – J. Bealer reported the Committee did not meet in November and he read the flow report. At the joint sewer meeting on November 14th the Borough has to renew their NPDES permit and the EPA requires the Township update our ordinance as well as the Borough before January 31st. M. Reddick said it has been forwarded to the Solicitor for review.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE – D. Raudenbush noted the Fire Chief’s report with the run numbers and training hours was submitted. He noted that elections were held and he was elected President, Stan Petrikis Vice President, Ashley Rose Treasurer and Branden Gould Secretary. Their only engine has a recall and it will be out of service a few hours tomorrow. There is a back-up company covering. There are two new members of the fire company.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF THE PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF 2020 TAX MILLAGE ORDINANCE – Motion by F. Krazalkovich, seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to authorize the advertising of the Ordinance setting the 2020 real property tax millage at 4.0 mills, of which 3.4 mills is for general purpose and 0.6 mills is for fire protection.

Motion by R. Spaide, seconded by M. Schreiber to authorize the advertising of the proposed 2020 budget. After discussion M. Schreiber rescinded his second on the motion and T. Slinkerd seconded the motion. R. Spaide, E. Taylor, T. Slinkerd: aye. M. Schreiber, F. Krazalkovich: nay. Motion carried 3-2.

Motion by F. Krazalkovich, seconded by M. Schreiber that \$612,000.00, identified on page 12 of the proposed general fund budget as operating reserve, be placed into a separate bank account with no restriction on its use. Schreiber, F. Krazalkovich, E. Taylor: aye. R. Spaide, T. Slinkerd: nay. Motion carried 3-2.

Motion by F. Krazalkovich, seconded by M. Schreiber that \$33,000.00, identified on page 2 of 2 in the proposed fire fund budget as operating fund reserve, be placed into a separate bank account with no restriction on its use. Schreiber, F. Krazalkovich, E. Taylor: aye. R. Spaide, T. Slinkerd: nay. Motion carried 3-2.

CONSIDER PRELIMINARY/FINAL PLAN APPROVAL FOR KUMMERER PARCEL SUBDIVISION #01-19 – Submitted to the Commissioners for approval is an ordinance granting preliminary/final plan approval of the Kummerer parcel. T. Slinkerd noted the draft resolution from the Board’s last meeting was updated by the developer with items discussed and reviewed by the Commissioners, Engineer Eisenbrown and the developer. The updated resolution was discussed at length by all parties. The Solicitor pointed out one new condition added, #D, that was requested by the developer in his November 7, 2019 letter to the Commissioners. He wanted to make the Board aware of this new addition. After all comments and discussions, there was a motion by E. Taylor, seconded by M. Schreiber to approve the resolution granting preliminary/final plan approval, with conditions, of the Kummerer Parcel Subdivision #01-19. The Solicitor recommended wording changes to the resolution be included in the motion and explained that conditions Y & Z in the draft resolution are intended to mean at the developer’s sole cost and expense and the wording be changed from ‘engineered’ to ‘determined’ and ‘bonded’ with ‘escrowed’. T. Slinkerd asked for a vote in favor of the motion as stated. M. Schreiber, E. Taylor, F. Krazalkovich: aye. T. Slinkerd, R. Spaide: nay. Motion carried 3-2.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorizing the Sewer Project for Ming Drive/Moyer Road & Engineering for Project – Motion by M. Schreiber, seconded by T. Slinkerd and unanimously carried to authorize engineering up to \$10K and the Resolution authorizing submission for a PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Application for Ming Drive/Moyer Road Sewer Project.

Consider Approval of Resolution Adopting the 2017 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Motion by E. Taylor, seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve Resolution adopting the 2017 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO THE STERLING ACT – Motion by F. Krazalkovich, seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the Resolution Supporting Amendments to the Sterling Act to wit: changing it to allow 1% of the taxes in the city of Philadelphia to be sent to Upper Pottsgrove Township.

Consider Approval of the Submission of a PECO Green Region Bonus Round Grant for Trees at Hollenbach Park – motion by R. Spaide, seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the large grant, for all three areas of the park, of the Submission of a PECO Green Region Bonus Round Grant for Trees at Hollenbach Park at the cost to the Township of \$4,642.77.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

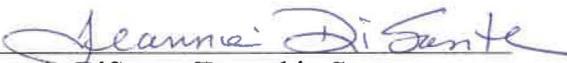
Gary Novak, 1477 N. Hanover commented that the placement of the trees at the park be spaced further apart than they were on previous park plantings.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary