

The workshop meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday April 2, 2020 with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, Renee Spaide, Martin Schreiber, Cathy Paretti and Dave Waldt present. Due to current events triggering the cancellation of the advertised March 16, 2020 Commissioners meeting, the meeting was a live webcast utilizing Zoom software through the internet. Also present were Township Manager Michelle Reddick, Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr., Police Chief James Fisher and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

OPENING COMMENTS – T. Slinkerd welcome the Commissioners and Township staff along with the public that logged onto the live webcast. He also announced that an Executive Session was held March 25, 2020 and no action was taken.

T. Slinkerd asked for comments from the public on the agenda items and there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of February 18, 2020 with corrections. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 2, 2020.

RATIFY PAYMENT OF BILLS - Motion by D. Waldt, second by C. Paretti to approve the payment of bills from March 16, 2020 in the amount of \$183,573.16. M. Schreiber asked if there are legal fees charged for the proposed sale of the sewer system. The Solicitor replied yes, a small amount. Votes on the motion: ayes: T. Slinkerd, D. Waldt, C. Paretti, and R. Spaide. Nays: M. Schreiber. Motion carried 4-1.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – Motion by M. Schreiber, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the Open Space Plan Update.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF OUT-LOOP TRAIL AT ALTHOUSE ARBORETUM – Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the out-loop trail extension on open space land at the Althouse Arboretum with the condition that along with this work the other trails are also cleaned up.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PLANNING ASSISTANCE CONTRACT – After a discussion of the various costs and options to contract for a community planning assistant through the Montgomery County Planning Commission there was a motion by M. Schreiber to accept the 3-year contract. There was no second motion. The motion failed due to lack of a second motion.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY – Solicitor C. Garner outlined the resolution resulting from the COVID-19 virus outbreak throughout the country. Motion by R. Spaide, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the resolution authorizing a declaration of disaster emergency.

CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF USED ROLLER – M. Reddick explained that J. Bean researched used rollers privately for sale and found one in the best condition for \$6,000. Motion by R. Spaide, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to purchase the used roller for \$6,000.00.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2020 SALARY SCHEDULE – M. Reddick explained the salary schedule is for non-uniform employees only and in the future the schedule should be approved at the end of the year so the salaries can be in place for the first payroll of the New Year. M. Schreiber commented on the salary rank chain of command. He asked if the Road Foreman salary is exempt from overtime pay and C. Garner confirmed it is. Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the 2020 salary schedule for non-uniform employees.

ZHB #01-2020 ~ MICHAEL REIGH, 1915 YARNALL ROAD – M. Reddick explained this is for informational purposes and the Board is not required to act. The Commissioners concurred to take no official action.

CONSIDER JOINT GRANT APPLICATION WITH WEST POTTSBROVE TWP. FOR PAVING OF NAGLE ROAD – M. Reddick explained that part of the road is in Upper Pottsgrove and part in West Pottsgrove. West Pottsgrove will be applying for a grant to pave the road and asked if the Board would like to join in the application. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve a joint grant application with West Pottsgrove Township for the paving of Nagle Road.

INFORMATION UPDATE – T. Slinkerd informed the meeting attendees that the bids for the sale of the sewer system were in from two companies and there will be three public meetings, April 6th, 8th and 14th, 2020 at 7:00 pm in which there will be a presentation. The residents are welcome to submit any questions to the Township prior to the meetings. Letters will be sent to all customers utilizing the sewer system.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

- T. Slinkerd discussed possible revenue flow decreases.

- M. Schreiber, in referencing the COVID-19 virus, initiated discussion on decontamination in the Township offices and consideration of split shifts for employees. Also discussed was tax payment extensions and deadlines.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary