

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, Renee Spaide, Martin Schreiber, Cathy Paretti and Dave Waldt present. Also present were Township Manager Michelle Reddick, Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr., Police Chief James Fisher, Public Works Director Justin Bean and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

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 R. Spaide, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of December 16, 2019 with one correction on page 3 changing 3900 gallons to 39,000. Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – Motion by M. Schreiber, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$153,651.49.

REPORTS

2018 AUDIT PRESENTATION – Greg Shank, partner in the Maillie LLP CPA firm and Manager Anthony Rapp reviewed the 2018 audit for the Commissioners.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE – M. Reddick advised her report was included in the Commissioner’s packets. She noted the health insurance January payment was included in the December 2019 bills list to ensure the payment would be received on time. Chief Fisher is handling arrangements to have the roof leak repaired in the near future and has an estimate of \$3,712. The Township received an updated report from PFM on the sale of the sewer system and copies have been provided and made available to the public. The payroll has been outsourced to Express Data Systems and the first payroll of 2020 was successfully completed. The Township received a \$25,000 grant for Sunset Part trail and plans are to complete the renovations in 2020. Two other grants for open space projects are pending approval. Storm water issues at the entrance to Sprögels Run have addressed and corrected.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Chief J. Fisher submitted his report to the Board and acknowledged the personnel work in the police department. He commented there were no specific trends developing.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – J. Bean submitted his report and there were no questions.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR – C. Garner will address items later in the meeting however, he noted there is a tax assessment appeal on the fair market value of Pottstown Plaza shopping center. There are two parcels, one in Upper Pottsgrove and he’s working with the school district who has the most to lose.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING – M. Reddick stated she had nothing to add to the report in the packets.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION – D. Elliott announced that Scott Wagner is now on the Commission. The Open Space Plan update is now complete and will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The Open Space and Recreation members recommend putting four open space areas back into production and send out an RFP for farming. M. Lane suggested that if there are grants available it is time to move on them. Concerning the Pottsgroves inclusive playground program, Hoffman field was recommended along with Upper Pottsgrove being the host for the program. A fund raiser for the Veterans Memorial is being organized.

SEWER AND WATER – J. Bealer read the flow report and reported the Borough Sewer Authority was advised of the Township’s intent to purchase additional capacity to service two sewer service extensions on existing residential properties; Regal Oaks Phase IIA and Ming Drive / W. Moyer Road projects. A joint sewer meeting was held January 16, 2020 at the Borough Hall. He also spoke on the financial report from the treatment plant and the capital improvement projects.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE – D. Raudenbush submitted his report including a spreadsheet of all personnel, their positions in the fire company and contact information. M. Schreiber spoke on the ambulance report. D. Raudenbush announced Fire Police Lieutenant Ashley Rose received the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Police Association Commissioners Award.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS RFPS FOR PENSION – T. Slinkerd explained the matrix created listing the Professional Services Providers that submitted proposals. After reviewing all, two were highlighted to attend the February 3rd BOC work session to present their proposal to the Board and employees. They were CBiz InR and Conrad Siegel. All Commissioners concurred to notify all employees of the meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 275-6, SPECIFIC POLLUTANT LIMITATIONS, OF ARTICLE II, CONSTRUCTION AND CONNECTION, OF CHAPTER 275, SEWERS & SEWAGE DISPOSAL - Solicitor Garner reviewed the details and discussion from the previous BOC meeting noting all the required chemicals were added to ordinance and it was advertised. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the ordinance as stated.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS SKETCH PLAN FOR THE WEST MOYER ROAD & ROUTE 100 AGE RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT – Rich Mingey of the Kelly Group Builders briefly explained the 16 acre tract area at Route 100 and W. Moyer Road and asked for consideration of an Age 55 overlay district with commercial use. He previously had discussions with the Board and the Planning Commission on this project which will have access to public water and sewer and will be an HOA development. He asked if the Board liked the proposal and would they approve moving forward. There were discussions and questions of price point, type of ownership, deed restrictions/covenants.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE POTTSBORO INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND – M. Reddick explained that the Open Space Commission requested approval contingent upon an MOU in place. There were discussions and concerns about insurance and parking with the public pool and baseball field used throughout the seasons. R. Spaide said the committees are aware of these issues and that this is an initial approval with a lot of details to work out. M. Schreiber suggested taking a consensus and a letter sent to the committee. M. Reddick asked if the Board is acceptable to this concept and liked the location. All concurred and in favor of the concept and location.

CONSIDER PLANNING COMMISSION STATUS – There was discussion to decommission the Planning Commission. C. Garner said this is allowable under the Municipal Planning Code. Motion by R. Spaide, seconded by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to authorize the Solicitor to advertise decommissioning the Planning Commission and to move forward to set up a Planning Committee. M. Schreiber asked who will be the Planning Committee and T. Slinkerd said the Board of Commissioners can create the committee.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jim Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road, commented on the tax sale of the commercial property at Upland Square.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

C. Paretti – the Veterans Memorial fund raising effort is on the Township website.

T. Slinkerd – appointments were made at the reorganization meeting January 6th and a list of appointees will be provided. The Manager and department heads are working on the 2021 budget plan with a draft possibly available early March. Building infrastructure will be addressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – the Board convened in Execution Session at 8:21 pm to discuss personnel and possible litigation with no action taken. They reconvened at 8:55 pm

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary