

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 19, 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 Road Foreman 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 after which T. Slinkerd performed the swearing in of Fire Police Officer Margaret Gunn.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020. Motion by R. Spaide, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve the 2021 budget meeting minutes of September 28, 2020.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – Motion by D. Waldt, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills of \$143,562.98. M. Schreiber commented on several items.

REPORTS

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE – M. Reddick advised her report was included in the Commissioners' packets. She highlighted items on the Township buildings storm damage claims and insurance payment, an EOC grant approved for technology equipment, the final draft of the 2021 budget and noted on the financial report no significant impact on earned income or real estate transfer tax revenues. M. Schreiber asked to get his meeting packet before 5:00 PM on the Friday before the Board meetings.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Chief J. Fisher submitted his report to the Board and informed the Commissioners that he is going forward with the process of hiring a part-time officer. He noted within the next couple of weeks the department will be listing the white 2007 Charger for sale on Municibid and on Facebook Marketplace. M. Schreiber asked when an officer will be back into the school building. Chief Fisher said early December.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN – J. Bean submitted his report to the Board highlighting completed projects and spoke on researching grants to replace two trucks which have the older diesel engines. The approximate cost is \$150-200K for both and the grants would cover 70%. The trucks can no longer be usable or sold, they must be destroyed if the Township receives the grant.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR – C. Garner noted his reports will be part of regular agenda. He went over items to be yet completed for the sale of the sewer system noting the PUC reviewed the Township's recent petition, which concerned the Township providing sewer service to two properties adjoining the Township boundaries, found it in order and approved all that was requested.

The Borough Authority must consent to the sale to PA American Water and they identified some issues which are being addressed. Based on information from special counsel the timeline for submission of the full petition to the PUC is later in November.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING – M. Reddick had nothing to highlight on the submitted report.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION – G. Churach submitted the Committee report highlighting that the Inclusive Playground Committee's MOU is being submitted for the Board's approval, reviewing costs to remove ash trees, expressed gratitude for the work the public works crew did repairing the roof on the Sussell park well structure and noting discussion on time management software for work Township staff does on open space.

The Members recommend the following to the Board of Commissioners:

- approve/advertise Open Space Committee meeting dates for the first Tuesday each month in 2021
- review MOU and submit to Township Solicitor for review
- transfer budgeted funds for second half of Fox Hill Trail repair to Ash Tree removal and delay second half until 2021
- keep the Sunset pavilion at current location

D. Elliott also recommended items to save money on seasonal mowing by designating areas as 'low mow' or 'no mow'. The committee has been asking for flashing lights at crosswalks at the Arboretum. There is still an issue at Sussell Park with a leaking pond causing marshy areas. Ken Hamilton is looking into it. The committee would like to know the starting date for the new trail at Sunset Park. J. Bean said the contractor is very busy and will start as soon as he can. D. Elliott noted events slated at the Arboretum.

SEWER AND WATER –J. Bealer submitted his report for October and highlighted a number of items noting in 2021 their meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE –D. Raudenbush submitted his reports and noted the elections for Fire Chief and Fire Police Captain will be held at the November meeting for a 2-year term.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SEWAGE PLANNING MODULE FOR BORTZ SUBDIVISION #02-2020 – Motion by R. Spaide, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the Sewage Planning Module for Bortz Subdivision #02-2020.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATED TO KUMMERER PARCEL SUBDIVISION #01-2019 – C. Garner explained that in an email from Attorney Michael Murray dated September 17, 2020 seven items were listed by the applicant for clarification by the Township in order to get a "clean" engineering review letter from LTL.

The items discussed were traffic study, front yard setback issue and stagger, fee in lieu of open space, legal agreements, submission of Phase 2A as a separate application, Pine Ford Road and Kummerer Road restoration detail and sewer capacity agreement finalization.

After considerable discussions on all items, there was a motion by M. Schreiber, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to extend the sewer capacity purchase agreement for 60 days conditional on the Borough authority allowing the extension of time.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 723 AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A PECO GREEN REGION GRANT FOR EASEMENT ON THE SHONTZ PROPERTY - Motion by C. Paretti, seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 723 authorizing application for a PECO green region grant for an easement on the Shontz property.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2021 – M. Reddick noted updated line items based on discussions and Board agreements at the previous budget meeting. M. Schreiber asked if funds were budgeted for public works trucks and there was a discussion considering two matching grants and current monthly payments. J. Bean noted the trucks need to be no longer usable in order to receive the grants. Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to authorize advertising the 2021 preliminary budget. Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to authorize advertising the 2021 Real Estate Tax Ordinance with the Real Property millage rate of 3.4 mills and the Fire Protection millage rate of 0.6 mills for a total of 4.0 mills.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION REGARDING CURB REPAIRS ON MERVINE STREET – T. Slinkerd explained that the road project for Mervine Street will also require curb replacement and asked for Board thoughts on who should be responsible to pay for curb replacements noting historically the Township has never paid to replace residential curbs. J. Bean said it would cost little over \$100,000 if the Township replaced all of them and some sidewalks and letters would need to be sent to the property owners if they are to be responsible. He said there would not be time to notify the owners and prepare them for the costs because he plans to have the road work bids go in February 2021. After discussions J. Bean was instructed to take measurements and research costs for each property owner on Mervine Street.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER THE PAVING OF BRUCE DRIVE – T. Slinkerd noted this Drive is shared with Douglas Township/Montgomery County and Upper Pottsgrove pays to pave its portion of the road. Stern Nester submitted a quote of \$19,600 and it is within the three-bid limit. Motion by R. Spaide, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to accept the proposal not to exceed \$19,600 from Stern Nester to pave the Township portion of Bruce Drive.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 724 ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF THE SANITARY SEWER LINE IN THE ROW OF WEST MOYER ROAD – C. Garner outlined the agreement made with the property owner at 171 W. Moyer Road to install a larger line than required to provide sewer for their property.

The owners offered the line for dedication to the Township. This resolution is for accepting the dedication of the sewer line along Moyer Road. Motion by D. Waldt, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 724 accepting dedication of the sanitary sewer line in the ROW of West Moyer Road. R. Mingy question who gave authority to tap into his sewer line he had installed for Sprogels Run development on W. Moyer Road as he was never contacted. C. Garner said he would look into it.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 725 AMENDING THE TAPPING FEE RELATED TO SANITARY SEWER & SEWAGE DISPOSAL – C. Garner explained each section of the resolution concerning amending the tapping fee. Motion by C. Paretti, second by R. Spaide to approve Resolution 725 amending the tapping fee related to sanitary sewer & sewage disposal. M. Schreiber ask if this is a family matter and was told no. R. Mingy commented that when he does the dedication of his sewer line he will be submitting for capturing from tapping into his line.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS


– M. Schreiber accused the Commissioners of recently acting cowardly during the sale of the sewer system that he saw in the Zoom meetings, not allowing the library comments into the minutes, changing the fund management so that there is not a reserve fund that the Board voted on at a meeting that was posted for budgetary thoughts, not a real Commissioner meeting. He feels this is wrong, poor business and not transparent to the residents.

- T. Slinkerd commented that on each of M. Schreiber's comments he was voted down by the Board. He also spoke on the EIT revenues curve and nothing has yet dropped; the pension funds have increased 3.5 to 4.5 since moving the investments so things are moving forward. A smart TV has been installed in the meeting room to use for showing documents where all can see a common picture of what is being discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - The Board convened in Execution Session at 8:53 pm to discuss commissioner personnel matters, real estate matters with no action to follow. They reconvened at 9:07 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary