

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
October 18, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 18, 2021, at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, Cathy Paretti, Dave Waldt and Martin Schreiber present. Renee Spaide was absent. Also present were Township Manager Michelle Reddick, Solicitor Charles Garner, Police Chief James Fisher, 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** – The September 20, 2021 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of September 20, 2021.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** – The October 18, 2021 bills list was presented for approval. Motion by C. Paretti, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills of \$589,417.00.

**REPORTS TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE** – M. Reddick advised her reports are included in the Commissioners' packets. She pointed out that numerous development plans are being worked on and noted the different zoning appeals that are on file. The Pottsgrove Little League reached out to M. Reddick through M. Schreiber and she provided Michael Coxe with the agreement for completion and payment of an additional deposit for use of Kulp Fields

**CHIEF OF POLICE** – Chief J. Fisher submitted his report to the Board and there was some discussion on the 35-mph speed limit on Farmington Avenue.

**PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN** – M. Reddick noted that J. Bean has been out and will get his report to the Board on his return.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR** – The Solicitor did not have a formal report however he noted the Township had advertised a public hearing this evening 7:00 pm to take public comments with respect to a proposed cable franchise agreement with Verizon. The Township is still working out the last-minute details. Since the hearing was advertised for tonight the Solicitor suggested a motion to continue the hearing. Public comments would be taken at that time. The ordinance will be provided to the Commissioners at that meeting should they wish to adopt it. Motion by T. Slinkerd, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to continue the public hearing with respect to the proposed cable franchise agreement with Verizon to a date and time certain, which is the Board of Commissioners next meeting on November 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING** – T. Slinkerd noted reports from LTL Consultants were submitted for review and there were no questions from the Board.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION** – G. Churach submitted the report and there were no questions or comments.

**SEWER AND WATER** – J. Bealer submitted a report and noted the committee did not meet this month. He read over items in his report and there were no questions or comments.

**FIRE AND AMBULANCE** – D. Raudenbush submitted his reports and there were no questions or comments.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ESCROW RELEASE NO. 4 FOR POTTS GROVE HUNT (KUMMERER) PHASE 1** – T. Slinkerd noted the Township engineer recommended the release of the funds. Motion by D. Waldt, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve Escrow Release No. 4 for Pottsgrove Hunt (Kummerer) Phase 1 of \$344,184.80.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO REPLACE SALT SHED** - The Commissioners discussed a quote submitted for the construction of a fabric tension structure mounted on a block wall for the salt shed. M. Reddick request authorization to proceed with the project at a cost not to exceed \$21,300. Motion by C. Paretti, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to authorize M. Reddick to proceed with the project to construct a new salt shed at the Public Works facility at a cost not to exceed \$21,300. M. Reddick replied to a comment that this is a movable structure so there are no permits required by the DEP.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL TO REMOVE DEAD ASH TREES IN OPEN SPACE BEHIND VALE CIRCLE & DEERFIELD WAY** – T. Slinkerd explained the priority of removing trees that are a potential threat to homes then moving onto Open Space. The Township has been in contact with utility companies and coordinating the removal of trees around power lines. M. Reddick explained the Township has already taken down trees when property owners called and reported an immediate threat to their property. Motion by D. Waldt, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to authorize M. Reddick proceed with contracting for the removal of dead ash trees in Open Space behind Vale Circle & Deerfield Way at a cost not to exceed \$21,300.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR HIRING OF POLICE OFFICERS** - Chief Fisher said he met with the Civil Service Commission last week and they approved the eligibility list. He asked the Board for the certification of the recommended three officers and to move forward with a conditional offer of employment. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approval of the eligibility list for hiring of police officers and authorize Chief Fisher to proceed with the hiring process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road said he received a letter from Attorney Garner that the “matter is closed” and he asked to which ‘matter’ the letter was referring. He mentioned he has many matters with the Township including a safety issue in getting an address and the Highview Lane escrow. He continued explaining a timeline of the escrow matter.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

T. Slinkerd explained that he had a difficult issue to raise concerning M. Schreiber. He stated that M. Schreiber has been describing Commissioners R. Spaide, D. Waldt and C. Paretti to residents as Commissioners that do just as T. Slinkerd says and that he, M. Schreiber, is the only one that does not. T. Slinkerd stated that M. Schreiber owes R. Spaide, D. Waldt, and C. Paretti an apology. M. Schreiber initially denied the charge but then said he “might” have been using the term “puppet” in describing Commissioners R. Spaide, D. Waldt and C. Paretti to residents.

T. Slinkerd also stated that R. Spaide, D. Waldt, C. Paretti have done a great job and they discuss with him their positions on issues and add their recommendations whereas M. Schreiber does not. He further stated that M. Schreiber should stop making these comments to residents. C. Paretti added that she believes that M. Schreiber simply votes “No” on issues just because it is different from the rest of the Commissioners regardless of the issue. Both D. Waldt and C. Paretti added that they have never been asked by anyone to vote in any particular way.

T. Slinkerd thanked the residents for attending the meeting and stated there would be no Executive Session this evening.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary