

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 20, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, December 20, 2021 at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, Renee Spaide, Cathy Paretti, Dave Waldt and Martin Schreiber present. Also present were Township Manager Michelle Reddick, Solicitor Charles Garner, Police Chief James Fisher, Public Works Road Foreman Justin Bean and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The November 15, 2021 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by R. Spaide, second by D. Waldt to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021. M. Schreiber noted a correction in the November 15th minutes; he voted nay to approve the October 18th minutes. All aye votes to approve the corrected November 15th minutes. Motion carries.

The December 6, 2021 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – The December 20, 2021 bill list was presented for approval. Motion by C. Paretti, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills of \$204,454.79.

REPORTS TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE – M. Reddick advised her reports are included in the Commissioners' packets and noted the planning department is very busy. T. Slinkerd spoke on the Township's credit rating from Moody's that was raised from A2 to A1 reflecting its healthy financial position. M. Schreiber question who will be processing the employee's W2s for 2021. M. Reddick said the payroll company will be handling that process. There was discussion on the financial report which shows revenues are up with no significant impact from Covid-19 issues on the earned income tax or real estate transfer tax revenues.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Chief J. Fisher submitted his report to the Board and there were no questions. He advised the new officer will start on January 3, 2022.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN – J. Bean submitted his report and informed the Board that both new trucks are at Levans being upfitted. Chief Fisher said the grant expires January 20th and he expects the trucks to be finished in time.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR – Solicitor C. Garner said anything he had to report on will be addressed under old and new business and was available to answer any questions at this time. There were no questions.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING – T. Slinkerd noted that LTL Consultants submitted their reports for review and there were no questions from the Board. M. Reddick had nothing further to add.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION – G. Churach informed the Commissioners there was no meeting last month and had no report to submit.

SEWER AND WATER – J. Bealer submitted a report and noted the DEP renewed Pottstown Treatment Plant’s NPDES permit with a new upper limit level of a chemical compound used to eliminate harmful bacteria.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE – D. Raudenbush was called out on an incident however his reports were submitted for review. M. Schreiber said this is the first he has seen a report from the Fire Marshal and the report ended in June of 2021. He inquired if C. Ritschard is no longer needed by the company. M. Reddick verified with C. Ritschard that he did not resign his position as Fire Marshal. R. Spaide commented the report states he was still on the job on September 12th.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Approval of the 2022 Budget – The Commissioners discussed some budget details. Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti to approve the overall 2022 Budget as presented.

M. Schreiber said he has an issue with hiring another employee, a public works director for a small department, and he cannot support it. C. Paretti commented that since the public works employees have chosen to unionize it is a better business practice to have the department managed by a director. T. Slinkerd advised M. Schreiber that he has had over three months to raise budget issues but did not. T. Slinkerd further explained that the budget process was designed specifically to raise issues in an organized manner and not at the last minute. T. Slinkerd then called for the vote. The Commissioners voted on the motion as follows, ayes: R. Spaide, C. Paretti, D. Waldt, T. Slinkerd. Nay: M. Schreiber. Motion carries.

Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 517 Fixing the Tax Millage for 2022 - T. Slinkerd read the details of the ordinance which includes the Real Property (General Purpose) millage rate of 3.4 mills, the Special Purpose (Fire Protection) millage rate of 0.6 mills for a Total Real Property Millage Rate of 4.0 mills or \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Motion by C. Paretti, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve, with corrected dates on the document to be 2022, Ordinance No. 517 Fixing the Tax Millage for 2022.

Consider Approval of Resolution No. 739 Adopting the Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan – M. Reddick commented that when the original resolution was adopted in July the Township had not received comments from the County. The DEP is requiring the Township adopt the same resolution with a later date since receiving the County comments and taking them into consideration. However, there are no changes to the resolution. Motion by M. Schreiber, second by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 739 Adopting the Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan.

Consider Approval of the Revised MMO's for 2022 for the Non-Uniform & Uniform Pension Plans - T. Slinkerd explained the Township received from the actuary consultant revised 2022 MMOs based on revised January 1, 2021 actuarial valuation reports. The recalculations were due to one administration employee leaving Township employment. Motion by R. Spaide, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the Revised MMO's for 2022 for the Non-Uniform & Uniform Pension Plans.

Discuss & Consider Approval of Escrow Release No. 6 for Pottsgrove Hunt (Kummerer) Phase 1 – Motion by D. Waldt, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the Escrow Release No. 6 in the amount of \$447,942.48 for Pottsgrove Hunt (Kummerer) Phase 1.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss & Consider Approval to List Items on Municibid – J. Bean submitted a list of equipment at the public works facility that has not been used for many years. He researched current resale values and suggested the items be put up for sale on Municibid with the proceeds then used to purchase a needed rotary mower. There was discussion on reserve prices vs. opening bid prices. Motion by R. Spaide, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve advertising the public works used equipment, provided in a list from J. Bean, on Municibid with any proceeds deposited into the General Fund for consideration of future public works equipment purchases.

Discuss & Consider Approval of Annual Pond Treatment for Sunset Park – G. Church explained there are serious issues with aquatic weed and algae overgrowth in the Sunset Park pond. The past summer the pond was unusable by the public. He vetted two companies that can provide restoration and treatments and control of these issues along with inspections and water testing. A one-year services contract, with automatic annual renewal from SOLitude Lake Management was submitted for the Board's consideration. Motion by C. Paretti, second by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the 2022 services contract from SOLitude Lake Management at the cost of \$2,952.00 with an automatic one-year renewal which includes a 3% escalation in the annual contract price.

Discuss & Consider Approval of Meeting Dates for 2022 – Motion by C. Paretti, second by D. Waldt to approve advertising the meeting dates for 2022. There was discussion concerning the date for the Civil Service Commission reorganization meeting an hour before the Board of Commissioners reorganization meeting the first week in January. Solicitor Garner explained the First Class Township Code now allows in even years for the reorganization of the Civil Service to be held within 30 days of the first Monday January. M. Reddick will revise the advertisement for the Civil Service meeting to be held on January 18, 2022. Standing motion to advertise the revised meeting dates for 2022 carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

J. Bealer commented that in January Don Read will be taking a seat on the Board of Commissioners. The Sewer Committer is losing him as a representative. He asked that it be known there is a vacancy he is looking to fill.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

M. Schreiber commented first that he is disheartened to see that the library donation suggestion was not on this agenda. He commented on his time on the Board passing by so quickly. He offered suggestions that the members of the Board continue to volunteer, keep asking questions, attend all meetings, transparency of the Board is very important. He is proud of the police department and how it has improved over the years and is glad the department is now on a vehicle rotation. Public Works is set up well with new trucks coming. The debt of the Township was very serious when he first took office eight years ago and it has made good progress to turn it around in a short period of time. He hopes the Board keeps its promise to pay off debt and fix infrastructure. He plans to attend some meetings and stay involved. He wished good luck to D. Read and H. Llewellyn and thanked his family for their support of his time on the Board and the residents for their support over the years.

R. Spaide commented on her 12 years on the Board. As a team the Board made good decisions and she thanked the Board for all their help. Her decisions always were in consideration for the residents of the Township and were always up front. She is excited for the new Board members and how things are moving forward for the Township. She never would have thought a 4-year budget was possible since in the beginning of her time on the Board the Township was having to take many tax anticipation notes. She knows this will be a great budgeting tool each year. She appreciated all the hard work the Manager, Township staff, Solicitor and committees have done over the years for the Township and expressed her sincere thanks to everyone.

T. Slinkerd presented a plaque to M. Schreiber in appreciation for all his work on additional committees as well as his dedicated service in 8 years on the Board of Commissioners. Anyone who runs for public office has to answer to many folks, they deserve our thanks. The Board appreciated his thoughts on items that came before the Board. He contributed much to the fire company and public safety as well as school issues. All the Commissioners also thanked him.

T. Slinkerd recognized R. Spaide for her service on the Board of Commissioners for 12 years and her dedication to the residents of the Township. She made it known she did not want any plaques or gifts. However, T. Slinkerd presented her with a military coin of appreciation and thanked her for all her council and availability for discussions and ideas that have moved the Township forward. All the Commissioners thanked her as well.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary