

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
January 17, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday January 17, 2023 at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, Cathy Paretti, Dave Waldt, Hank Llewellyn and Don Read present. Also present were Township Manager Michelle Reddick, Police Chief James Fisher, Public Works Director Chad Davis, Solicitor Eric Frey, Attorney Celso Leite, Jr. and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The December 19, 2022 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by D. Read, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of December 19, 2022 as presented.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** – The January 17, 2023 bill list was presented for approval. Motion by C. Paretti, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills list of \$246,749.88.

**REPORTS TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE** – Manager M. Reddick advised her reports are included in the Commissioners' packets. The December 31, 2022 financial report was submitted. A final 12/31/2022 report will be submitted after verifying general ledger entries.

**CHIEF OF POLICE** – Chief J. Fisher submitted his report to the Board and there were no questions.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Director C. Davis advised his report was submitted to the Board and would answer any questions. There were no questions at this time.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR** – Solicitor E. Frey had no formal report noting there will be executive session items on litigation and employment items among other issues.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING** – T. Slinkerd acknowledged LTL Consultants submitted their reports with the standard updates within the Township.

**TAX COLLECTOR** - T. Slinkerd acknowledged the Tax Collector's report in their packets explaining some details on the tax collections.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION** – G. Churach advised his report is in the packets and noted the committee will be requesting approval of the Hollenbach Master Plan.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR HOLLENBACH PARK** – Motion by D. Read, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the Master Plan for Hollenbach Park.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 755 APPOINTING JOHN DAHDAH TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD** - Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 755 appointing John DahDah to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ESCROW RELEASE NO. 16 FOR POTTS GROVE HUNT** – The Board discussed the delay of installation of stop signs. A request was made to the developer on several occasions and there has not been a response. Motion by D. Waldt, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve Escrow Release No. 16 in the amount of \$63,816.61 for Pottsgrove Hunt contingent on all stop signs being installed before the funds are released.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 756 APPROVING THE AFSME CONTRACT** - T. Slinkerd announced this item will be discussed at the end of the meeting in executive session. The Board will vote on it when they reconvene.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF USE AGREEMENT WITH POTTS GROVE SOCCER CLUB FOR HOLLENBACH PARK** – This is a standard agreement that has been in place for numerous years and includes the Pottsgrove School District. The dates are the only change from last year. Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve the Use Agreement with Pottsgrove Soccer Club for Hollenbach Park activities.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Reed Lindley, 283 Continental Drive, commented on tax monies used for open space and trust in government. He asked for a timeline of public sewer coming to his property.

Dave DeLong, 1527 Schwenk Road, read a statement from David Smola, a nephew of Thomas Smola, the previous owner of the open space property in question, regarding the proposed location for the municipal complex.

Tom Zeigler, 279 Continental Drive, agreed with the statement Dave DeLong read and also requested information on the sewer project on his road.

Michael Clouser, 390 Evans Road, inquired on whether 370 Evans Road will continue to be farmed. He commented that Evans Road is a ‘drag strip’ with cars daily speeding on this road.

Herbert C. Miller, Jr., 184 Mangers Mill Road, did not conduct proper protocol.

Jim Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road, suggested stop all work on Smola open space until a judge rules on the legality of building on open space.

Keith Kehl, 1941 Gilbertsville Road, commented regarding the use of open space for the new municipal complex, sewer rates and tires dumped on his property.

Scott Readman, 207 Mangers Mill Road, commented nothing should be built on open space. He suggested building on the public works/police property.



Dennis Elliott, 576 Evans Road, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and commented on the tax money, not the bond funds used to purchase open space property.

Matthew Murray, 1530 Aspen Drive, did not conduct proper protocol.

Martin Schreiber, 138 Rose Valley Road, commented on the use of the proceeds from the sewer sale being used to fund the new municipal complex.

Mark McClelland, 247 Maugers Mill Road, commented on the new municipal complex and whether it could be redesigned to save money.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

C. Paretti commented Resolution No.749 should not have been voted on without vetting the public and explaining where we were considering putting the municipal complex.

D. Read commented the land was not donated to the Township, the use of it is treated differently and he would like to discuss this more.

D. Waldt said the Board made this decision two years ago however, he now hears what the public is saying and how important open space is to them.

T. Slinkerd thanked everyone for their comments and noted there were conversations with residents addressing the plans and the Board had to take into consideration all of the Township population not just those with special interests. The search for a location and the process was discussed with the open space committee and attorneys and it is allowable to build on open space. He also explained the sewer rate hike and the PUC's involvement in it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board convened in Execution Session at 7:59 PM to discuss the public works union contract with action to follow. The Board reconvened at 9:11 PM.

### **Old Business Item D on the Agenda**

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 756 APPROVING THE AFSME CONTRACT** – Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 756 approving the AFSME contract.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary