

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - T. Slinkerd reviewed the rules of decorum. He addressed an incident involving some abusive people at a recent Open Space Committee meeting. D. Read asked that this be discussed in the Executive Session as it involved an appointed official. He would like to discuss what options there are and leave it open to act if necessary.

Joseph Gangi, 1998 Yarnall Road asked for an item to be added to the agenda, that the Board of Commissioners convene a special meeting that is strictly information about the Smola farm. He commented about asking questions of the Board and handed to the Commissioners information copied from the Township website addressing participation at public meetings.

Keith Kehl, 1941 Gilbertsville Road commented on the Pledge of Allegiance last line "and justice for all", the sewer rates and paying for Township pensions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The February 21, 2023 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by D. Read, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023 as presented. The March 29, 2023 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by D. Read and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023 as presented.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – The April 17, 2023 bill list was presented for approval. Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by D. Read and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills list of \$271,973.33. C. Paretti questioned an invoice from Alloy5 and Solicitor Young answered.

REPORTS TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE – Manager M. Reddick advised her reports are included in the Commissioners' packets including the final audited December 31, 2022 financial reports. Auditor Barb Akins will be available in June for a presentation to the Board if they so choose. She also informed the Board of the many applications received in the last two months for zoning hearings, Board of Commissioners appeals and building code appeals.

CHIEF OF POLICE – Chief J. Fisher noted in his report to the Board that he is working on a grant from PCCD for body-worn cameras and NVRs.

PUBLIC WORKS – Director C. Davis advised that his report was submitted to the Board and noted under New Business Item B for your consideration, approval to authorize advertisement for bids for the 2023 road projects. M. Reddick congratulated Director Davis for passing the exam for his Public Pesticide Applicator Certification and attending the Dirt and Gravel Roads/Low Volume Road Program seminar to receive a certification in order that the Township can apply for grants.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR – Attorney Leite had no formal report noting there will be executive session items on transactional negotiations and litigation among other issues.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEERING AND BUILDING & ZONING – T. Slinkerd acknowledged LTL Consultants submitted their reports and M. Reddick pointed out numerous zoning violations.

TAX COLLECTOR - T. Slinkerd asked the Tax Collector to address her report and she said it is in their packets.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION – G. Churach advised his report is in the packets and the committee is asking approval on two items later on the agenda.

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

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 759 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO DCED FOR HOLLENBACH PARK PHASE 1A IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 759 authorizing submitting a grant application to DCED for Hollenbach Park Phase 1A Improvements Project. D. Read asked what this phase includes and G. Churach explained it is a 1-mile stone loop trail and a 60-space parking lot.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE 2023 ROAD PROJECTS – C. Davis explained the road work planned for Chestnut Grove Road, Snyder Road and Schwenk Road. Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve authorizing advertising the bids for the 2023 Road Projects.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION ON ZHB #02-2023, RB ASHLEY CUSTOMS, LLC, 1769 GILBERTSVILLE ROAD – M. Reddick explained this property is in the R-2 Zoning District and the owners are requesting relief from zoning setbacks. The Commissioners concurred to defer to the Zoning Hearing Board.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FROM HOPEWELL COMMUNITY CHURCH TO USE HEATHER PLACE PARK FOR COMMUNITY DAY – Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve the application from Hopewell Community Church to use Heather Place Park for Community Day. D. Read said a letter was received asking the Township to support this event and wants to know what they are looking for from the Township. H. Llewellyn will follow up with the church.

DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE USE AGREEMENT FOR PGPLL TO USE KULP FIELDS – M. Reddick explained this is a standard agreement with Pottsgrove Little League who each year use the Kulp fields for their baseball practices and games. There was one change to the agreement, the name is now Pottsgrove-Pottstown Little League (PGPLL). Motion by D. Waldt, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to approve the Use Agreement for PGPLL to use Kulp Fields for their baseball practices and games. D. Read asked if the Open Space Committee approved of this and was told yes.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & DISCUSSION – T. Slinkerd explained the Board wished to include this section on the agenda to discuss projects in the Township, particularly the Municipal Complex. The Commissioners exchanged their opinions and thoughts concerning the project.

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT – The following residents commented their various objections and concerns on building the Municipal Complex on open space: Michael Clouser 390 Evans Road, Jim Capinski 1958 Yarnall Road, Keith Kehl 1941 Gilbertsville Road, Liz Bedell 1461 Farmington Avenue, Rich Borger 265 Concord Drive, Robert Sloss 1297 Needhammer Road, Barbara Borger 265 Concord Drive, Carl Specht 150 Primrose Lane, Rich Kummerer 1303 Farmington Avenue, Martin Schreiber 138 Rose Valley Road, Mike Fallon 182 Rose Valley Road, Stan McIlvee 1433 N. Hanover Street, Christie Czarick 262 Concord Drive, Jim Eiland 1445 Farmington Avenue, Joseph Gangi 1998 Yarnall Road.

Herb Miller 186 Maugers Mill Road asked for copies of all meeting reports.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

D. Waldt would like to rearrange the meeting room to accommodate the public for all to have a seat or move the meetings to Pottsgrove Middle School. He asked for a vote to get this done tonight or put it on the agenda for next month.

C. Paretti thanked the residents who attended the meeting and suggested younger folks get involved.


D. Read agreed with C. Paretti on younger people getting involved. He also agreed the Board needs to determine what is the highest and best use of the balance of the Municipal Complex property.

T. Slinkerd noted engineering reports and letters sent out to residents are posted on the Township website and will answer several of the questions brought up tonight. He spoke on the definition of “open space” and the best use of all Township open space to benefit the community. The PUC is the entity that sets the rates for the sewer. Moving forward the Board will need to decide what to do with the existing buildings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board convened in Execution Session at 8:35 PM to discuss transactional negotiations and litigation and may have action to follow. The Board reconvened at 8:59 PM and took no action.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary