

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
May 22, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held on Monday May 22, 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 Eric Frey, Attorney Celso Leite, Jr., Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – There were no comments at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – The April 17, 2023 minutes were presented for approval. Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by D. Waldt. D. Read asked that the minutes be corrected in the ‘Public Comment on Agenda Items’ portion of the meeting to read “appointed official”. The motion was unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023 as amended.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** – The April 17, 2023 bill list was presented for approval. Motion by D. Waldt, second by D. Read and unanimously carried to approve the payment of bills list of \$201,860.30. C. Paretti questioned an invoice from Alloy5 and Solicitor Young answered.

**REPORTS TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE** – Along with the reports submitted to the Board, Manager M. Reddick advised the Commissioners that the administrative office hours effective immediately are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The new hours are posted on the Township website and building entrance. There is a drop box at the building entrance and she advised the public to call the office to make an appointment if they need to reach her after hours. Noted in the report, the abundance of activity in planning, scheduled zoning hearings and appeals.

**CHIEF OF POLICE** – Chief J. Fisher noted in his report there is a meeting scheduled with the Civil Service Commission to certify the list for eligible police officers. He will address the Board in June to hire a full-time officer.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Director C. Davis advised that his report was submitted to the Board and the 2023 road paving projects were advertised through PennBid and will be opened on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR** – Solicitor Frey had no formal report noting there will be executive session items on real estate matters, potential litigation and personnel items.

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

**TAX COLLECTOR** - Tax Collector Diane DeLong noted her report was submitted to the Board.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION** – G. Churach advised there is no report since the Board did not meet last month. He informed the Commissioners the Township received \$200,000 in grant money from the Montco 2040 program to be used for Hollenbach Park Phase 1A improvements.

**FIRE AND AMBULANCE** – D. Raudenbush submitted his reports and spoke on billing insurance companies for accident calls. An Ordinance was adopted years ago and the department was billing for accidents at that time. However, they lost the billing provider a while ago. They now have a provider that is used by Lower Pottsgrove and Sanatoga and the department will begin to bill insurance companies again to recover some of the costs for accident calls.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE BID FOR PINE FORD ROAD STORMWATER PROJECT** – Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to authorize advertising of the bid package for Pine Ford Road Stormwater Project.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ESCROW RELEASE NO. 18 FOR POTTS GROVE HUNT ASSOCIATES** – Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve Escrow Release No. 18 for \$155,096.41 for Pottsgrove Hunt Associates.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION BY D & D COLLISION ON THE REQUEST FOR A ZONING CHANGE** - Jen Hovey from D&D Collision addressed the Board explaining the request for the zoning change. Solicitor Frey addressed current notices of violations on the property and the request for zoning relief rather than variance requests for this non-conforming property. He suggested this be discussed further in executive session for legal advice and to explore options. The Board concurred and will have the request placed on the June agenda.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISE OF THE BID FOR THE SPROGEL'S RUN TRAIL** – M. Reddick explained the Township received a grant for this project but the costs will be over the bidding threshold therefore bidding is necessary. C. Davis put the bid package together and it is ready to be advertised. Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to authorize advertising of the bid package for the Sprogel's Run Trail.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE BODY CAMERAS & NVRS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Chief Fisher applied for a grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for body-worn cameras and to replace mobile video recorders (MVRs) in the police vehicles. He is requesting approval to purchase the items through Motorola for a total cost of \$113,282.20. Once receipts are provided to PCCD the cost will be refunded. Motion by D. Read, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of body-worn cameras & MVRs for the police department for \$113,282.20.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER WAIVER REQUESTS FOR THE STERN NESTER SUBDIVISION** – M. Reddick addressed the subdivision details and the SALDO waiver requests noting LTL submitted their review letter with recommendations. John Aston, the engineer for Stern Nester was present at the meeting and reviewed the waivers for the Board. There was discussion on the five waiver requests. Motion by D. Read, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to approve the five waiver requests as presented for the Stern Nester Subdivision.



**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE A-1 TRAFFIC CONTROL TO PERFORM LINE STRIPING ALONG TOWNSHIP ROADWAYS** – C. Davis explained restriping all the double yellow center lines and single white edge lines throughout the Township. This will also include striping the new paving work that will be done. The last time the lines were painted was in 2001. The cost will be \$13,508.04. M. Reddick said the funds are allocated from the State Fund account. Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by C. Paretti and unanimously carried to authorize A-1 Traffic Control to perform line striping along Township roadways.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE NEW MOWER** – Motion by C. Paretti, second by H. Llewellyn and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a new mower for Public Works at the cost of \$15,989.78.

**CONSIDER RATIFYING THE BUILDING REPAIRS TO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE** – Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by D. Waldt and unanimously carried to ratify the building repairs to the Manager's office in the amount of \$12,889.00. M. Reddick is waiting to hear from the insurance carrier about covering these costs. D. Read suggested the Township hire an insurance broker if we do not get a resolution soon.

**DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVAL TO FORM A BUILDING SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE & AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITOR TO PREPARE PARAMETERS FOR THE COMMITTEE** – Solicitor Frey explained the process of forming a committee to research other potential site locations for the Municipal Complex and compare them to the already approved site. The process is for the board president to appoint two commissioners to spearhead the committee and then identify some residents to serve on the committee with them. His office would work with two commissioners to identify the parameters for the resident members to be selected, i.e., number to have on the committee, qualifications, people from different livelihoods and experience. Motion by H. Llewellyn, second by D. Read to approve forming a building site selection committee and authorizing the Solicitor to prepare parameters for the committee.

**OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT** – The following residents commented their various objections and concerns on building the Municipal Complex on open space and other items:

- Scott Readman, 207 Mangers Mill Road requested a roll call at the start of meetings.
- Herb Miller, 184 Mangers Mill Road commented on the Commissioner's "packets" and questioned the need for police body-worn cameras.
- Ashley Custer, 613 Mock Road commented on the Commissioner's actions and higher sewer bills.
- Keith Kehl, 1941 Gilbertsville Road commented on the Heather Place location.
- Jim Capinski, 1958 Yarnall Road commented on residents asking questions of the Board.
- Nancy Baker, 2019 Mimosa Lane agrees with a committee for researching other sites.
- Al Leach, 1466 Sweetwater Way commented on the Township website needing work, suggested using Board Docs so the public can see meeting documents and offered congratulations on the Hollenbach grant.
- Leroy Trainer, 1459 N. Adams Street questioned who would be in charge of forming the committee.
- Tyrone Robinson, 1488 Heather Place suggested resolving the lawsuits against the Township while using resident's taxes without approval or say so from all residents in making that decision.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

D. Waldt would like to rearrange the meeting room to accommodate the public for all to have a seat. He asked to have it on the agenda for a vote at tonight's meeting, however it was not.

C. Paretti commented with all the activity in the planning department noted in the Manager's report, the Township needs a Planning Commission Board.

D. Read cautioned about the level of emotions caused by misinformation. After the last meeting the Township Manager was threatened by a member of the public. People on both sides of the issue should agree that nothing in doing your job warrants being threatened. Someone on social media was giving out the Manager's phone number and telling people to call and harass her over and over. If verbal harassment doesn't work, what is next? Yes, reluctantly he agrees this can be considered 'free speech' yet that does not mean freedom from consequences. As a member of the Board of Commissioners, he feels it is his responsibility to address such matters.

D. Read also commented and complimented the members, who have been on the Board for a number of years longer than himself, on the accomplishments they have made with budgeting, under-funded pensions, the debt load, a union contract for the public works employees and serious infrastructure problems. Concerning the transition of things, without a plan in place beware of unintended consequences when asking for a Board member to step down.

H. Llewellyn commenting on his 35 years as a Township resident, he sees the Township in the best financial state since his time here. That is due to the expertise of our Board President. If the residents had to pay for this expertise it could be six figures; the Township has him for \$200 a month. In reference to J. Capinski's comment, he always felt residents should be able to ask questions. Whether the Board has an answer is another issue, however, he would get back to someone who asked him a question.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board convened in Execution Session at 8:15 PM to discuss real estate, potential litigation and personnel with no action to follow. The Board reconvened at 9:15 PM and took no action.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary