

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Thursday December 21, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building, located at 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Board of Commissioners: Raymond W. Lopez, Earl E. Swavely, Robert Mohollen, and Michael McGroarty were present. William Keohane called in.

Edward C. Wagner: Manager, Jamie Ottaviano: Solicitor, and Nicole Varady: Secretary were also present.

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by President Raymond W. Lopez at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Lopez stated that the meeting will be recorded, and he asked any speakers to give their names and address for public comments.

PRESENTATION

Recognition of Retired Director of Public Works John W. Fogel

Commissioner Lopez announced that Mr. Fogel had been with Lower Pottsgrove Township for over thirty-one (31) years when he retired on November 17, 2023. He presented Mr. Fogel with a plaque from the Lower Pottsgrove Township Commissioners in recognition of his loyal service and friendship. In addition to the plaque, John received a Lower Pottsgrove jacket and shirts with the Lower Pottsgrove logo. The Commissioners all thanked Mr. Fogel and congratulated him on his retirement, stating that he will be missed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

REPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Mr. Wagner reported that PennDOT has recommended a weight restriction for the N. Adams Street Bridge, decreasing the weight limit from fifteen (15) tons to five (5) tons. All affected fire companies, police departments, bus companies, school districts and trash companies have been notified. On December 28, 36-inch Jersey barriers will be installed along each shoulder of the N. Adams Street Bridge to assist in keeping the weight of traffic off the beams. On January 5, the Snell Road Bridge weight limit will be decreased from thirty-three (33) tons to ten (10) tons also at the recommendation of PennDOT. The Route 422 M1B Project blasting will begin at the end of January. Blasting will take place primarily between 10:00am and 2:00pm and all residents within five hundred (500) feet of the blasting zone have been notified. Dallas Data has confirmed that trash and sewer bills will be mailed out later next week. Mr. Wagner announced that plans and all forms for PennDOT have been submitted, once approved, Telco will install the preemption system at Keim Street and Buchert Road.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Tom Troutman 2469 E High St asked if an update can be given to the public regarding the new Township Building. Commissioner Lopez assured him they will release information as soon as they have something concrete.

Bruce Foltz 60 Middlemarch Rd Douglassville stated that he worked with Mr. John Fogel for many years and John was always very dependable. He thanked him for his hard work and voiced how much he always appreciated him. Commissioner Lopez wholeheartedly agreed on behalf of all the Commissioners.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT:

Resolution 1330-23 Moove-In Storage 175 S. Pleasantview Road *Preliminary/Final* proposal to lift the restriction on paving in certain areas from the original approved land development plan. The parcel is in the SC Shopping Center District.

Mr. Wagner explained that this is an existing storage unit which was restricted to paving only in the front area. They would like to pave in between the buildings where there is currently gravel. The area becomes muddy so they will put a stormwater basin in the rear which was approved by the Township Engineer and the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Swavely made a motion to approve Resolution 1330-23 Moove-In Storage 175 S. Pleasantview Road *Preliminary/Final* proposal to lift the restriction on paving in certain areas from the original approved land development plan. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to award the On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Bids to Penn Petroleum Inc. of Boyertown

Commissioner Mohollen asked for confirmation that Penn Petroleum Inc. was the only bid submitted. Mr. Wagner confirmed.

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to award the On-Road and Off-Road Diesel Bids to Penn Petroleum Inc. of Boyertown. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Motion to award the Snell Road Bridge Replacement Project to CMS, LLC of Reading in the amount of \$330,615.00.

Mr. Wagner provided an update that Mr. Nick Perilli was preparing the GP11 permit application when he was notified by Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) of a possible bog turtle in the area. A wetland report will be submitted by the end of the year after which the Fish and Boat Commission has forty-five (45) days to review. The earliest work might begin is mid to late March depending on the findings.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to award the Snell Road Bridge Replacement Project to CMS, LLC of Reading in the amount of \$330,615.00. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Motion to accept the resignation of James Vlahos as a member of the Sewer Authority Board

Commissioner Swavely made a motion to accept the resignation of James Vlahos as a member of the Sewer Authority Board. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Sean Foley as a Police Officer

Commissioner Lopez read aloud the letter from Chief Richard Bell to the Lower Pottsgrove Township Commissioners requesting a conditional offer of employment for Sean Foley. Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Sean Foley as a Police Officer. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution 1329-23 amending certain sections in the Non-Uniform Employee Handbook

Mr. Wagner explained that he met with Solicitor Ottaviano regarding the changes, most of which were brought out by Michele Hogrelius to update and clean up the handbook.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to approve Resolution 1329-23 amending certain sections in the Non-Uniform Employee Handbook. Commissioner Swavely seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Ordinance No. 146-XX Adopting the Lower Pottsgrove Township Budget for 2024

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 146-XX Adopting the Lower Pottsgrove Township Budget for 2024. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Ordinance No. 133-WW Setting the Real Estate Property Tax Rate for 2024

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 133-WW Setting the Real Estate Property Tax Rate for 2024. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT #939 FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #939 for the month of November 2023. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2023. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Keohane thanked the Finance Committee, Michele Christman, Michele Hogrelius and Mr. Wagner for their efforts in developing a budget for next year that addresses the Township needs as well as ensuring the residents are protected. He also wished a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year to his fellow Commissioners, Township staff, police, and fire fighters.

Commissioner McGroarty congratulated Mr. Fogel on his retirement and thanked him for his thirty-one (31) years of friendship and dedicated service. He thanked Mr. Wagner and staff for the great work they do daily, Mr. Ottaviano for his wise council, the police and fire departments

for keeping everyone safe and the residents of the community who serve on the various boards for their service to the Township. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Mohollen thanked Mr. Fogel for everything he has done for the Township over the years. He also thanked everyone including police, administrative staff, and firefighters for everything they do daily to keep the Township running. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Swavely echoed the other Commissioners in thanking Mr. Fogel for his thirty-one (31) years of service as not only staff but as a friend, stating he will miss him.

Commissioner Lopez also echoed the Commissioners thanking Mr. Fogel for his diligence over the years, always treating the Township equipment like it was his own. He thanked everyone in Public Safety who were out on the streets protecting the community, all the Township staff and his fellow Commissioners including the past Commissioners in attendance for their diligence in making things run as smoothly as possible. Commissioner Lopez thanked Mr. Wagner for all he does for the Township, no matter what day or time it is. He also thanked Mr. Ottaviano for his consistent guidance. Lastly, he thanked the public who attend the meetings and provide helpful information.

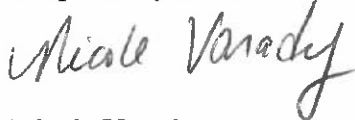
Mr. Wagner thanked Diane Fogel for sharing John with the Township for thirty-one (31) years and thanked John as well for all he has done. He stated it is an honor and privilege to be the Township Manger and thanked the Commissioners for their leadership as well as the staff, police, and fire companies for their support.

Mr. Ottaviano pointed out that it is commendable that Mr. Fogel has been with the Township for thirty-one (31) years. He thanked the Commissioners, stating how much it means to him to support Lower Pottsgrove as he grew up in the Pottstown area.

Nicole Varady thanked Mr. Fogel for everything he has taught her over the past year, stating that she will miss him. She thanked the Commissioners for their support and guidance and wished them a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Varady
Township Secretary