

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Grey, Chairman
Danielle A. Duckett, Vice-Chair
Edward J. Brandt
Kathleen Hunsicker
Tessie McNeely

STAFF:

Craig T. McAnally, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Carole Culbreth, Assistant Secretary
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Ken Amey, Zoning Officer
Fred Zollers, Public Works Director
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer
Chuck Wilson, Finance Director

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. He stated the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session before the meeting on a legal matter.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: January 4, 2021

The Board of Supervisors received the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes. The Chairman asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 - 0.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Gwynedd Mercy University (GMU) and St. Charles Seminary Brief Introduction and Presentation

Christen Pionzio, Esq., GMU attorney, Deanne H. D'Emilio, GMU President, and Bishop Timothy Senior, St. Charles Seminary, gave a brief presentation on the collaboration of GMU and St. Charles Seminary. President D'Emilio stated the collaboration will enhance both GMU and St. Charles Seminary. Bishop Senior stated he is excited about the opportunity to collaborate with

GMU. He stated St. Charles Seminary in Overbrook is the fourth location and has 147 seminarians serving the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Ms. Pionzio stated she and Bohler Engineering have been hired by GMU for this project. She shared a rendering of the preliminary plans. The Chairman stated the presentation is very impressive and will be a great addition to GMU and the Township. He instructed GMU to contact staff when ready and go through the process. Ms. Pionzio stated she would like to meet with staff as soon as possible. Bishop Senior said St. Charles Seminary would like to be at GMU in 2024 – 2025. The Chairman asked for questions from the Board. Mr. Brandt welcomed Bishop Senior back to the area. Ms. Hunsicker seconded Mr. Brandt’s welcome home. She asked if there will be a capital campaign. Bishop Senior stated there will be a capital campaign for endowment and the project. The Chairman asked for public comment. Nathan Leung, Wissahickon High School graduate, asked if they will prioritize the trail system. He asked if new trails will be open under the collaboration. Ms. Pionzio stated GMU will incorporate some trail system on campus. Mark Schafer stated he is also interested in the trails.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 525: Amending EAC Code

Mr. Stein stated there are two changes being made which will comply with the State’s statute 1) the EAC is to be advisory and coordinate its activities with the Township and 2) the Board of Supervisors shall designate the chairman of the Council. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to adopt Ordinance No. 525: Amending EAC Code. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Appoint Chair to EAC

This item was tabled.

Authorize Purchase of the Toro SprayMaster Max Fertilizer/Pesticide Application

Mr. Zollers asked for authorization to purchase a Toro SprayMaster Fertilizer/Pesticide application machine. He stated the SprayMaster will apply pesticide and weed killer and will increase capability. He stated the equipment will be purchased from Turf Equipment a Costars' Vendor and the Costars' pricing is \$11,912.07. Ms. Duckett asked if the Toro SprayMaster is the same equipment the Township purchased last year. Mr. McAnally stated no, last year the Public Works Department purchased grooming equipment. The Chairman asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to authorize the purchase of the Toro SprayMaster Max Fertilizer/Pesticide Applicator. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Authorization to Update SCADA System to a Wireless System on Pump Systems

Ms. Worman stated this is an upgrade to the SCADA System which was started in 2020, and we are asking for authorization to move forward with Phase 1 by installing wireless modems in eight pump stations. She stated \$40,000 was budgeted in the 2021 budget and the quotation

for the upgrade costs \$35,802; with a deduction available of \$2,180 if two existing cell radios can be reused, reducing the price to \$33,622. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to authorize the Update to SCADA System to a Wireless System. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Acceptance of Estimate from AMO Environmental Decisions for Act 2 Closeout

Mr. McAnally stated AMO was consulted in 2005 for a closeout release of liability for non-residential use. He stated AMO will provide Lower Gwynedd Township the preparation of documents to support the Township's closure of potential environment concerns at Pen Ambler Park under Act 2. Mr. Stein stated he is preparing the environmental covenant. Mr. McAnally stated the total cost for the Final Report and Act 2 Administrative Documentation and Consultation is \$37,303. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the estimate from AMO Environmental Decisions for Act 2 Closeout in the amount of \$37,303. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorize Joint Defense Agreement among Lower Gwynedd, Upper Dublin, Whitpain, and Whitemarsh Townships

Mr. Stein stated Ambler Borough is moving to create a water authority without oversight. He stated Whitemarsh Township, Whitpain Township, Upper Dublin Township, and Lower Gwynedd Township oppose Ambler's application with the Pennsylvania Utility Commission to create a new authority. He stated cooperation in such a joint effort with regard to the Application and related matters has and will necessarily involve the exchange among the Parties of information, documents, and materials to be protected by the attorney-client privilege. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to authorize the Joint Defense Agreement among Whitemarsh, Whitpain, Upper Dublin, and Lower Gwynedd. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorize purchase of Electronic Speed Signs

Chief Kenny is requesting that the Police Department purchase two new fifteen-inch Speed Alert Signs (SAS) that we budgeted for the year 2021. He stated the SAS that we are looking to purchase is the more portable version of the speed trailer we currently utilize; and the advantage to the SAS system is the smaller size and utilization of existing signage which makes it quicker and easier to deploy and change location with ease. He stated the goal for the SAS system is two-fold: 1. To alert drivers to their speed and hopefully slow down; 2. To collect data such as speed and volume on the roadways. He stated the signs can be utilized both with speed being displayed and in stealth mode, which can lead to more accurate data collection. The Chairman asked if he wants to order any more. He recommended we start with two. He stated \$10,000 was budgeted for the SAS for 2021, but he went with the larger 15-inch sign with a cost of \$10,210. He stated the signs come with a solar battery kit that would allow them to be utilized constantly without the need for recharging. Ms. Duckett asked if

surrounding municipalities are successfully using this SAS. Chief Kenny cannot say if they are reducing speed and they cannot issue tickets not for enforcement. The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Board. Ms. Duckett asked what we are doing with the speed trailer. Chief Kenny is looking into trading the trailer. Ms. McNeely is looking for a solution to speeding and asked where the data is collected. Chief Kenny stated the police department will receive the captured data. The Chairman asked if there were any other questions from the Board. There were none. He asked for questions from the public. Mr. Brooks asked if they are clamped to a pole and can they be easily removed. Chief Kenny stated they lock and a sensor will alert officers if the unit is tampered with. There were no further questions. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to authorize the purchase of two 15-inch Electronic SAS from All Traffic Solutions in the amount of \$10,210. The motion passed 5 -0.

Authorize purchase of Two New Police Vehicles

Chief Kenny is requesting to replace the following:

1. A 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe Unit 4503 with a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe at \$41,045 with equipment and installation at \$15,000 for a total of \$56,045 within the 2021 budget.
2. A 2013 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle with a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle in the amount of \$34,697 equipment and installation at \$15,000 for a total of \$49,697 within the 2021 budget.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to authorize the purchase of the above two new police vehicles as noted above. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorize Advertisement of Bids for 2021 Road Program

Mr. McAnally stated the work to be completed under the 2021 Lower Gwynedd Mill and Overlay Project is located along the following roads:

- Brushtown Road - Gypsy Hill Road to Sumneytown Pike
- John Rotelle Drive w/ Roadway Widening - Bethlehem Pike to End
- Lloyd Road - Welsh Road to Wyndon Road
- Warren Road - 817 Warren Road to Cul-de-Sac
- Stonebridge Road - 1005 Stonebridge Road Repair Area

Mr. McAnally stated the work to be completed under the 2021 Lower Gwynedd Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course Project is located along the following roads:

- Gypsy Hill Road - Plymouth Road to Cul-de-Sac
- Gypsy Hill Circle - Gypsy Hill Road to Cul-de-Sac
- Latchstring Lane - Plymouth Road to Surry Drive

- Surrey Drive – Entire Road
- Wyndon Road – Entire Road
- Warren Road – McKean Road to 817 Warren Road

Mr. McAnally is asking for authorization to advertise bids. He stated bid results will be considered at the second Board of Supervisors meeting in March. The Chairman asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to authorize advertisement of bids for the 2021 Road Program. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Acceptance of Proposal from McMahan Associates for Traffic Signal Inventory Study

Mr. Dixon stated this is a proposal to perform a traffic signal compliance review and prepare an updated technical specification for the traffic signals in Lower Gwynedd Township. He stated the specification sets traffic-signal control standards throughout Lower Gwynedd Township in order to provide a standardization of traffic signal equipment and reduce long term maintenance costs. He noted updates are necessary due to changes in the traffic signal technology, verify that the Township is operating in compliance with the PennDOT permit on file, and check safety issues at all intersections. The Chairman asked if the battery backups on all major signals is complete. Mr. McAnally replied all but the Trewellyn and Penllyn Pike signal. The Chairman asked if the traffic signal update will be entered into Traisr and who will enter the data. Mr. McAnally stated McMahan Associates will import the information into Traisr. The Chairman asked for questions from the Board. Ms. Duckett questioned the last time the study was conducted. Mr. McAnally answered 2004. Ms. McNeely questioned if the study should be put on a regular schedule. The Chairman stated it would be a good exercise to schedule this every 5 or 10 years. There were no other questions. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the proposal for Traffic Signal Services and Traffic Signal Compliance Review. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Brandt and Ms. McNeely questioned Mr. Dixon regarding traffic issues at the main intersection of Norristown Road, Sunneytown Pike, Bethlehem Pike and Penllyn Blue Bell Pike. Mr. Dixon stated the Phase II Study is starting to work on Phase II of the Multi-Modal and will study the issue.

Acceptance of RACP Grant Awarded to NPVFC for Station Improvements and Contribution from Lower Gwynedd Township

The Chairman stated this is a matching grant for station improvements and the Township contributes \$400,000. Frank Baxter, President of North Penn Volunteer Fire Company, stated four years ago the NPVFC applied for the RACP Grant with the assistance of then Representative Kate Harper. He stated Governor Wolf just released the \$1,000,000 State matching grant. He stated NPVFC needs to come up with the \$1,000,000 match; Lower

Gwynedd Township will assist with a \$400,000 contribution. Mr. Baxter is looking to ask North Wales Borough for 10 or 15% of the match. Float a \$1,000,000 construction loan. Looking for contribution from LGT 1st quarter of 2022. Mr. Brandt asked if he would then be asking for the entire \$400,000. The Chairman asked if that includes a generator. Mr. Baxter said they are securing funding for a generator. Mr. Brandt asked if the Township committed the \$400,00 to NPVFC. Mr. McAnally stated yes for several years, and it would be available in 2022. Ms. Duckett questioned overage cost of the project. Mr. Baxter said we will not go over budget. The Chairman asked for any other questions from the Board. Ms. McNeely asked for an overview of the project. Mr. Baxter proceeded to give a description of the project. Matt Traynor, Fire Chief NPVFC, contributed to the description of the project which includes a lounge, training room, radio room, fully sprinklered and will meet ADA requirements. Ms. Hunsicker congratulated North Penn Volunteer Fire Company on the award of the RACP Grant. Mr. Baxter thanked Lower Gwynedd Township for being a great supporter of NPVFC for many years and hope to continue in that relationship. The Chairman asked for questions from the public. There were no further questions. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to accept the RACP Grant Awarded to NPVFC for Station Improvements and Contribution from Lower Gwynedd Township. The motion passed 5 - 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Brookes Britcher, 909 N. Surrey Drive, asked if there is any consideration for water issues and slopes on Surrey Drive. The Chairman asked Mr. McAnally to get together with our engineer to review this issue. Ms. McNeely confirmed this issue.

Mr. Schafer asked for an update on the intersection Sumneytown/Norristown/Bethlehem Pikes. Mr. Dixon said improvements will be in two phases. He stated an extension of the culvert on Sumneytown Pike and a widening of Sumneytown with additional lanes. He stated we are looking at a 12 -14-month process and will keep the Township up-to-date. Ms. Hunsicker stated a project was completed last year on Bethlehem Pike where improvements to the five main traffic lights on Bethlehem Pike are now able to communicate with one another and help with traffic flow.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager - Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally had no further comments.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Board of Supervisors Minutes
January 26, 2021

Mr. Brandt congratulated the Chairman and staff for the number of issues covered at tonight's executive session.

Ms. Duckett wished everyone a good night.

The Chairman stated that Phil Albright, a community philanthropist, has passed away.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on February 9, 2021 virtually on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth
Assistant Secretary