

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 , 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
Fred Zollers, Public Works Director
Jim Hersh, Township Engineer
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 real estate matter.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

**Receipt of Minutes: May 11, 2021
May 25, 2021**

The Board of Supervisors received the May 11, 2021 and May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. The Chairman asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the May 11, 2021 and May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of Invoice History: April and May, 2021

The Board of Supervisors received the Invoice History for April, 2021 in the amount of \$444,451.95 and for May, 2021 in the amount of \$722,433.56. The Chairman asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the Invoice History for April, 2021 in the amount of \$444,451.95 and for May, 2021 in the amount of \$722,433.56. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of Year-to-Date Budget Report and Balance Sheet: March and April, 2021

Mr. McAnally stated these reports are not ready for tonight's meeting. This item was tabled.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Mackell Assignment and Assumption of the Land Development and Stormwater Facilities Agreement

Mr. McAnally stated the above is a transfer of financial responsibilities. Mr. Stein arranged with the new buyer to take over the owner's original escrow with a new letter of credit. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the Mackell Assignment and Assumption of the Land Development and Stormwater Facilities Agreement. The motion passed 5 - 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2021 - 13: Application with the State Capital Budget Redevelopment Assistance Funding Program for the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company (NPVFC) Improvements

Mr. McAnally said the above resolution authorizes Lower Gwynedd Township to act as the grantee for the RCAP grant for the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company improvements. The Chairman stated the NPVFC is a great group of volunteers. Mr. Brandt stated Lower Gwynedd residents are blessed with two great volunteer fire companies NPVFC and Wissahickon Fire Company. The Chairman asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to adopt Resolution No. 2021 - 13: Application with the State Capital Budget Redevelopment Assistance Funding Program for the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company Improvements. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Annual Contribution to Community Ambulance Association of Ambler (CAAA)

Mr. McAnally stated Lower Gwynedd Township has contributed \$15,000 annually to the CAAA. He stated the CAAA asked the Board of Supervisors to upgrade the contribution to \$30,000 which was authorized by the Board in December, 2020. He stated the final payment of \$3,896 for the radios is also due which will bring the contribution to \$33,896. The Chairman stated the CAAA is a great organization and well deserving of the contribution. He asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mr. McAnally stated Jen Sweeney, CAAA director, has put in her resignation and her last day is July 7th. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to upgrade the CAAA annual contribution to \$30,000, and also include the final payment of \$3,896 for the radios for a total of \$33,896. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Acceptance of proposal by McMahon and Associates on the design and implementation of the crosswalk and flashers at Dager Road

Mr. Dixon stated the Township was awarded the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant award and McMahon Associates has provided a proposal for traffic signal design services for the installation of flashing warning devices for the existing Penllyn Trail crossing on Dager Road. He stated the services include topographic survey, ADA ramp designs, preparation of a flashing warning device permit plan, bid documents and construction services. The Chairman stated this is a great project since

Dager is a busy road with high use of the path with no crosswalk. Mr. Brandt said the road is difficult for pedestrians to cross. Ms. Schaeffer thanked the Board and staff for pursuing this grant and looks forward to using the crosswalk. The Chairman asked for comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to accept the proposal by McMahon and Associates on the design and implementation of the crosswalk and flasher at Dager Road. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorization to Bid Welsh Road Walking Path

Mr. McAnally stated 12 bids were received for the pedestrian bridge and walking path on Welsh Road. He stated the original bids for the Pedestrian Bridge Installation came in high so the scope of work was adjusted. The Township will rebid the trail portion of this project. The Chairman stated the bridge forges a small stream, and it took a number of years to get the project completed. The Chairman asked for comments. There were none. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to grant authorization to bid the Welsh Road Walking Path. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorize Circulating Park and Recreation Survey

Mr. McAnally stated the Park and Recreation Board subcommittee put together a survey for residents' input. He stated the final survey is ready for distribution, and the Park and Recreation Board are looking for authorization. Ms. McNeely said she is excited to get the results, and thanked Ms. Morris and Ms. Feight for getting this done. Joan Zeller said she is excited to see the next inquiry to the public. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to authorize circulating the Park and Recreation Survey. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorization to Purchase John Deere Backhoe

Mr. Zoller asked for authorization to purchase a John Deere Backhoe to replace the 2004 backhoe. He stated the John Deere Backhoe will cost \$116,900 and \$120,000 was budgeted. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to authorize the purchase of a John Deere 319SL HL Backhoe Loader in the amount of \$116,900. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Approval of Bid for Court Resurfacing at Penllyn Park

Mr. Hersh stated Gilmore & Associates has reviewed the two bids submitted for the Penllyn Park - Court Resurfacing Project. He stated after discussions with Township staff, Gilmore recommended that the Base Bid along with Option A (Court Overlay) and Court Layout Option 3 (4 Pickleball Courts with nets be awarded to Top-A-Court, LLC in the amount of \$225,038. The Chairman asked what the life expectancy is for the court. Mr. Hersh replied another 15 to 20 years. Ms. Hunsicker asked Mr. Hersh to clarify if we are voting on pickleball courts vs. tennis courts regarding the court resurfacing. Mr. Hersh stated the Board is only voting on the Top-A-Court bid, the stripping of the courts will be determined by the Park and Recreation Board. Ms. Duckett asked what is different this time? Mr. Hersh stated this is completely different because the entire surface will be resurfaced, and the park will be closed during the summer for resurfacing. The Chairman asked for comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve Top-A-Court's contract for the Penllyn Park Court Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$225,038. The motion passed 5 - 0.

2021 Lower Gwynedd Township Milling and Paving Program Payment #1 And Change Order #1

Mr. Hersh stated an application for final payment and change order No. 1 for the 2021 Lower Gwynedd Township Milling and Paving Program in the amount of \$183,327.05. He explained change order No. 1 adjust the final contract amount to reflect the actual work quantities completed by the contractor and includes the installation of two (2) ADA compliant curb ramps. The net result of this change order is an increase in the contract amount of \$2,388.90 to a final contract amount of \$183,327.05. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve final payment to Innovative Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$183,327.05. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Meetings status update by Solicitor

Mr. Stein stated Act 15 of 2020 allowed local governments to conduct fully virtual meetings while the governor’s proclamation of disaster emergency was in effect. He stated since terminated by Pennsylvania legislature townships must conduct in-person meetings and can offer a hybrid option. Mr. Stein stated this will start at the townships next public committee meeting. He stated no motion is needed for this item. Ms. Schaeffer asked that this information be added to the monthly newsletter, and she thanked everyone for making meetings as open as possible. Mr. Brandt asked staff to contact retirement communities regarding live streaming Board of Supervisors meetings in their auditoriums.

Discussion on Flying Additional Flags

The Chairman asked the Solicitor to comment on the flying of additional flags in the Township. Mr. Stein stated the Township can elect to fly an additional flag on Township property. He suggested the Board make a policy on additional flags flown in the Township. Ms. Hunsicker stated in terms of flying additional flags, in particular the rainbow flag, we can’t have a more inclusive flag than the American flag. Ms. Duckett stated since this is Pride month and individuals are fighting to live freely and in an equitable community, she recommended we approve flying the Pride flag this month. Ms. McNeely agrees with Ms. Duckett. The Chairman stated the Township Manager secured a flag and the most notable location would be at the Texaco Station. A discussion ensued regarding the proper placement of the Pride flag. Joyce Keller, Whitpain; Richard Buttacavoli, Ambler and Mr. Brooks, David Frank and Joan Zeller from Lower Gwynedd all voiced their support for flying the Pride flag in Lower Gwynedd Township.

The Chairman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to fly the Pride flag at the Texaco property. The motion passed 4 Ayes – 1 Nay (Ms. Hunsicker)

Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to place the Pride flag as a banner at the Texaco property and display until July 22, 2021. The motion passed 4 Ayes – 1 Nay (Ms. Hunsicker)

Ms. Hunsicker stated Lower Gwynedd Township is welcoming to all citizens. The Chairman stated we need a policy for flying additional flags in the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen comments, concerns, questions (For items not on the agenda; comments on agenda items will be taken when those items are discussed by the Board)

Carmina Taylor, former resident of Lower Gwynedd, voiced her concerns regarding an event on May 31, 2021 held in Penllyn Park without a permit and not following township procedures and rules. She asked the Board to have rules in place so this does not reoccur. She stated this issue needs to be addressed and was disappointed there were no consequences to the event planners.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager - Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally stated Township Offices will be closed on July 5, and trash will be collected normally on July 5 with no stoppages.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Mr. Brandt stated he had two issues: Houston Road curbing has decreased over the years; and he mentioned to Chief Kenny that speeding on Houston Road on the weekends is getting out of hand. He stated after hearing the discussion about the banner he apologized.

Ms. Hunsicker stated the Summer Concerts started last Wednesday at Oxford Park from 7 pm to 8 pm. She hopes the participation at the Board of Supervisors meetings will continue when we are back at the Township Building. She wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Ms. Duckett thanked the supervisors and those who advocated on inclusivity tonight. She said everyone should be included in our community.

Ms. McNeely raised the question of why we are not getting committee updates. She would like a policy on township updates, and receive reports from the Police Department. The Chairman responded there are always minutes to township committee meetings. Mr. McAnally stated they are included in the Managers' Report on a weekly basis.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on July 27, 2021 at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth
Assistant Secretary