

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 27, 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
Chuck Wilson, Finance Director
Fred Zollers, Public Works Director
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Lower Gwynedd Township Municipal Building and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. The Chairman stated the Board of Supervisors met in an Executive Session before the meeting on a real estate matter.

Announcement: Tonight's Board of Supervisors Meeting is being video recorded.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: June 22, 2021

The Board of Supervisors received the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no comments. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of Invoice History: June, 2021

The Board of Supervisors received the Invoice History for June, 2021 in the amount of \$1,730,074.43. There were no comments. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the Invoice History for June, 2021 in the amount of \$1,730,074.43. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of Year-to-Date Budget Reports for March, April, May, June and Balance Sheet

The Board of Supervisors received the Year-to-Date Budget Reports for March, April, and May (June was not available at that time) and Balance Sheet. There were no comments. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the Year-to-Date Budget Reports for March, April, and May and Balance Sheet. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Mid-Year Budget Update by Finance Director

Mr. Wilson presented the Mid-Year Budget Review for the General Fund – June 30, 2021. He presented the following:

	June 2021 YTD		%
	Budget	Actual	
Revenues	8,779,074	4,822,343	54.93%
Expenditures	8,607,960	4,565,373	53.04%
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	171,114	256,970	

The Chairman asked Mr. Wilson how he would characterize the Township’s fiscal status. Mr. Wilson stated the Township’s fiscal status is excellent. At the Chairman’s request, Mr. Wilson explained *Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)* which are benefits to Policemen after retirement such as medical benefits.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Authorization to Advertise Conditional Use Hearing: Cedar Hill Road 12-Lot Subdivision for 9/14/2021 Hearing

Mr. McAnally stated this is 12-lots on Cedar Hill Road and we are asking for authorization to advertise a Conditional Use Hearing for September 14, 2021. There were no comments. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to authorize the advertisement of a Conditional Use Hearing on September 14, 2021. The motion passed 5 - 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Authorize Acceptance of Bid Results for Signal Maintenance Program and Replacement of One Mast Arm

Mr. Dixon stated the Board authorized McMahon Associates, Inc. in May to bid the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract and the Bethlehem Pike/Penllyn Pike mast arm replacement in Lower Gwynedd Township. He stated two bids were received on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. He stated McMahon recommended an award to Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. in an amount of \$4,355.00 for the traffic signal maintenance contract and \$27,500 for the mast arm replacement at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Penllyn Pike. There were no comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to Award the Traffic Signal Maintenance Bid and the Bethlehem Pike/Penllyn Pike mast arm replacement at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Penllyn Pike to Armour and Sons Electric, Inc. in an amount of \$4,355.00 for the traffic signal maintenance contract and \$27,500 for the mast arm replacement at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Penllyn Pike. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorize Purchase of Wireless Modem for Fuel Management System at 917 N. Bethlehem Pike

Mr. Zollers explained that the new Fuel Management System will allow us to easily track fuel usage and produce fuel usage reports. He stated the proposal from Fuel System Services is for \$45,653.06 and this is Sourcewell pricing a pre-bid purchase program similar to CoStars. He also recommends the optional Cellular Modem for \$1,302.00 and \$65.00 per month for service for a total cost of \$46,955.06 plus \$65 per month. Ms. Duckett questioned insurance. Mr. Zollers stated the vendor is insured and there is a warranty of one year not to exceed 18 months with parts and labor included. There were no comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to authorize the purchase of the fuel management system wireless modem from Fuel System Services in the amount of \$45,653.06 and the Cellular Modem for \$1,302.00 for a total cost of \$46,955.06 and \$65 per month for service. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorize partial contribution to North Penn Volunteer Fire Company (NPVFC) for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) work underway in 2021

The Chairman stated North Penn Volunteer Fire Company (NPVFC) received a \$1,000,000 RACP Grant for improvements to their Fire House in North Wales. He stated Lower Gwynedd Township has a matching liability of \$400,000 of which \$100,000 has been budgeted in 2021. He asked for a vote on the partial contribution of \$100,000 . He asked for comments from the Board and public. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to authorize the partial contribution to NPVFC for RACP work underway in 2021. The motion passed 5 - 0. The Chairman thanked both Wissahickon Fire Company and North Penn Volunteer Fire Company volunteers for providing service to Lower Gwynedd Township residents. Mr. Brandt stated that most of the volunteers come from Ambler Borough and North Wales Borough. He stated Lower Gwynedd Township residents need to give financial support to these organizations and appreciate the work these volunteer fire companies provide.

Approval of Tennis/Pickleball Court layout recommendation by Park and Recreation Board at Penllyn Park

Mr. McAnally stated that last month Top-A-Court was awarded the contract for the Penllyn Park Court Resurfacing Project. He stated the layout for the tennis court and two pickleball courts is outstanding, and we are asking for recommendations tonight. Mr. Brandt questioned the loud sound of pickleball. Ms. Duckett stated the Park and Recreation Board recommended to place acoustic barriers to help with the sound. She questioned if Penllyn Park is the best place for the pickleball courts. Ms. Hunsicker asked for more information on the acoustic barrier and landscaping to be provided by the next meeting. Mr. McAnally stated the striping must be done before the temperature falls below 50° or wait until Spring. He stated the resurfacing will take six weeks and then the striping can follow. Ms. Duckett recommended we send this back to the Park and Recreation Board to identify where the pickleball court will be located. Ms. McNeely stated other parks have been examined and there is not a better option; and a recommendation was made for the acoustic barrier. She stated she is anxious for the results of the Park & Recreation Survey. Mr. Brandt is concerned with the sound and asked to consider Penn Ambler Park near the railroad tracks away from residential areas. Ms. Morris summarized the Park and Recreation Board recommendations. Pedro Geraldino, 955 Gladestry Lane, gave the history of pickleball.

Ms. Duckett suggested the basketball hoops be adjustable for younger children. Mr. Brandt made a motion to continue striping at Penllyn Park and then investigate acoustics. Ms. Hunsicker stated she has no idea of the acoustic cost and is more comfortable voting at our next meeting. Carol Jones asked if you need to paint the pickleball lines now. The Chairman stated tennis, basketball and pickleball lines are to be completed all at once. Clint Ehlers, 2 Beth Drive, suggested we get the cost of the acoustics, approve and move forward but not stripe. Ms. Duckett asked how we could go forward with pickleball without knowing the cost of the sound barrier. The Chairman made a motion to proceed without the sound barrier. The motion failed (two ayes (Mr. Grey and Ms. Hunsicker) (three nays (Ms. Duckett, Ms. McNeely, Mr. Brandt)).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Chairman opened the meeting for public comment for items not on the agenda.

Mr. Cameron, 1137 McKean Road, asked if the Township is considering selling or refurbishing the Ingersoll Estate. Mr. Brandt stated the building is used by the Public Works Department for storage. Ms. McNeely stated she is interested in the history of that building.

Mark Schafer, 23 Brookline Court, stated if you don't put up the nets you cannot play pickleball. He also stated they need to know where to put the post for the netting.

Debra Schaeffer, 823 Penllyn Pike, stated as a resident of Lower Gwynedd she does not want the project to go ahead without knowing the cost.

Mr. Schafer gave kudos to Jamie Worman for the camera work and presentation tonight.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager – Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally stated PSATS Centennial Celebration and Annual Business Meeting will be held on October 14 and 15 in Hershey. Our delegate to the business meeting is Ms. McNeely.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Mr. Brandt stated it's great to get back to face to face meetings. He thanked staff and residents for getting through the past year.

Ms. Hunsicker dittoed Mr. Brandt's sentiments. She stated it is Park and Recreation Month and wanted to thank our Park and Recreation Board and Park and Recreation Department Mitch Kulp, Dan Welsh, and Alex Fantini for all their work on maintaining Township parks and trails. She also thanked Sandi Feight, Parks and Recreation Director and Kathy Morris, Park & Recreation Board Chair, for all they do.

Ms. McNeely stated the Volunteer Fire Companies protect us, and asked that when they are fundraising to dig deep and give; and thank them for their services.

Ms. Duckett gave condolences to the Lower Merion Fire Department who lost two volunteer firemen. She hopes you will never need to use the Fire Department, but we need them and ask that you contribute as much as you can. She thanked the Park and Recreation Board and Department for their work.

Ms. Morris, Park and Recreation Board Chair, gave an update on the September 26th event at the Wissahickon High School. She said more information will be in the Township's e-newsletter.

The Chairman welcomed everyone tonight and said it's great to be back!

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on August 24, 2021 at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth
Assistant Secretary