

Tonight's Meeting will be a Virtual Meeting Hosted by ZOOM due to the "Social Distancing" Order by Governor Wolf: Meeting ID: 891 9843 8126

Meeting Password:

Dial:

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

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
Chuck Wilson, Finance Director
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Tom Speers, Esq., Solicitor
Chad Dixon, McMahan Associates, Traffic Engineer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM which is being held virtually in ZOOM. He led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. He stated the meeting tonight is being audio recorded. He stated the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session on May 6, 2020 on a personnel matter.

Update on COVID-19 Update by Frank Baxter, Emergency Management Coordinator

Frank Baxter gave the latest COVID-19 update to the Board for Lower Gwynedd Township from Montgomery County. He stated to date there are 114 positive cases in Lower Gwynedd with 80 cases in long term care facilities. He reported there were 19 deaths in Lower Gwynedd due to COVID. He stated 35 long term care employees were

infected with COVID. He stated the County Task Force visited the long-term care facilities in Lower Gwynedd on May 4th making sure they have support and equipment. He stated Emergency Services are doing okay and thank the Board for their support. The ambulance services are having an uptick on calls and are taking precautions. Mr. Grey stated Montgomery County is still in lockdown until June 4th. Chief Kenny stated the Police Department activity is down and retail crime is down. He stated mental health issues continue. Mr. Grey asked if the Police Department needs anything from the Board of Supervisors. Chief Kenny stated they are good for now. Mr. Grey asked Mr. Baxter how the fire companies are doing. Mr. Baxter stated okay, but funding is down. Mr. McAnally stated contractors went back to work on May 1 and permits and inspections are being handled. Mr. Grey asked about road crew. Mr. McAnally stated 2 or 3 Public Workers are maintaining the trails and the Public Works Department is on call. Mr. Grey stated he is not receiving any complaints.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Meeting Minutes:

April 14, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the April 14, 2020 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 April 14, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of Year-to-Date Budget Report, March, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the Year-to-Date Budget Report for March, 2020. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion seconded by Mr. Brandt to accept the Year-to-Date Budget Report for March, 2020. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of the Balance Sheet, March, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the Balance Sheet for March, 2020. Mr. Wilson gave a brief update on the Balance Sheet for March, 2020. Mr. Wilson stated every tax category is up; revenues are also up and expenditures are down; the General Fund balance is \$3,565,748. He noted Liquid Fuel funds have been received. He stated taxes collected were down due to the discount period being extended. Mr. Brandt thanked Mr. Wilson for the excellent report. There were no further comments. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to accept the Balance Sheet for March, 2020. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Receipt of Invoice History for March, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the Invoice History for March, 2020 in the amount of \$164,376.69. The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to accept the Invoice History for March, 2020 in the amount of \$164,376.69. The motion passed 5 - 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Authorization to Purchase Spotted Lantern Fly eradication materials including but not limited to sticky tape and chicken wire in an amount not to exceed \$1,000

The Chairman explained the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) has asked for an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to stop the Spotted Lantern Fly and also to save trees and birds. Ms. Hunsicker asked if we are behind the curve in getting this done. Mr. Grey replied that we should have started this a few weeks ago. He stated the EAC requests to get out and prepare the trees with sticky tape and chicken wire. Ms. McNeely asked what trees will be included in this process. Mr. Grey said any public areas such as Township parks and trails. Ms. Duckett asked if the EAC had a tracking system established in order to document which trees are wrapped and to monitor these trees. She questioned at what time the tape will be removed. Mr. Grey stated he would get the requested information from the EAC. Ms. Duckett asked if this system was successful in the past. Mr. Grey said it was the first time we are doing this but this system is recommended by Penn State. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to authorize the purchase of Spotted Lantern Fly eradication materials including but not limited to sticky tape and chicken wire in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Resolution No. 2020 - 09: Condemnation of 409 Old Penllyn Pike

Mr. Speers stated there are two resolutions the first is authorizing condemnation of 409 Old Penllyn Pike (39-00-03169005) and the second is authorizing the condemnation of the property for use as Township storage and for recreational and educational purposes. He stated you are authorizing me to prepare and file the condemnation. Mr. Grey asked if there are any questions. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to adopt Resolution No. 2020 - 09: Condemnation of 409 Old Penllyn Pike. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Agreement of Sale for 409 Old Penllyn Pike- contingent on favorable Phase I Study

Mr. Speers stated Part 2 is the deed in lieu of condemnation. He stated the purpose is the Township has the authority to condemn the property and take it to court if needed. He stated we are required to pay just compensation. He stated the owner agreed to

accept our appraisal value of \$560,000 as the purchase price. This authorizes the Chairman and Secretary to sign the agreement of sale and authorizes the purchase of the property and title insurance. He stated this agreement is contingent on an environmental study; and you also authorize the next resolution for the Township Engineer to obtain a Phase I Environmental Study. He stated the summary of the motion is to accept the attached Agreement of Sale in the amount of \$560,000 to the Estate of Frank McCormick. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to accept the attached Agreement of Sale in the amount of \$560,000 to the Estate of Frank McCormick. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Resolution No. 2020 - 10: Authorization for Gilmore and Associates to perform a Phase I Environmental Study on 409 Old Penllyn Pike in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.

Mr. Speers recommended the McCormick property have a Phase I Environmental Study to certify the property is free of chemicals and other conditions. He stated Gilmore and Associates will perform a Phase I Environmental Study which surveys the use of the property. If a chemical history is found, you will then go to a Phase II Study and come up with an abatement plan. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to adopt Resolution No. 2020 - 10: To authorize Gilmore and Associates to perform a Phase I Environmental Study on 409 Old Penllyn Pike in an amount not to exceed \$3,500. The motion passed 5 - 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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). There were none.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager - Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally noted the Board of Supervisors met in an executive session on May 6, 2020 for personnel issues regarding potential volunteers. He stated an executive session is scheduled for May 13, 2020 also on a personnel matter of interviewing volunteers. He spoke with the Park and Recreation Director today regarding summer camp and the concerts series. She had a webinar with the Park and Recreation Society of PA regarding holding camp. He stated it looks like we will be cancelling summer camp and the concert series this summer. He noted the next meeting is scheduled for May 26th and will be another virtual meeting.

The Chairman asked Mr. Baxter about plans for the September school opening. Mr. Baxter stated he is not sure. Ms. Duckett stated the Secretary of Education on their website stated they were going forward with in person school for the 2020 - 2021 year.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. Hunsicker stated she would like the Board to acknowledge graduates from Wissahickon High School, Gwynedd Mercy Academy and Germantown Academy. She would like to acknowledge them since they are not being recognized in the traditional manner due to COVID-19. She suggested banners on Bethlehem Pike & Norristown Road and near the BMW dealership. Ms. Duckett stated she had conversations with Ambler and Whitpain Township to coordinate a tribute for the graduates. She reported Ambler Borough is doing banners and yard signs and potentially a parade. She stated Whitpain Township was considering banners. She stated Mr. McAnally found out that Wissahickon School District has plans for their graduates. She stated Whitpain has planned a parade. Chief Kenny stated Chief Lawson, Whitpain Township, told him they planned a parade of cars on the night of graduation. Chief Kenny said he spoke with Superintendent Crisfield and Wissahickon has plans for August 2nd at the high school and possibly a prom on August 3 depending on the Governor's latest orders. He stated Lower Gwynedd will provide support and lead a parade if allowed by the Governor. Ms. Hunsicker stated Ambler Borough is going forward with banners on streetlights. She proposes Lower Gwynedd Township recognize the graduates with a banner on the intersection of Norristown Road and Bethlehem Pike and one at the BMW dealership. Mr. Brandt stated the banner should be for all graduates of Lower Gwynedd Township. Ms. Duckett stated she agrees with Mr. Brandt for a generic banner congratulating all graduates. Mr. Brandt thanked Ms. Duckett for reaching out to Ambler Borough and Whitpain Township in an effort to coordinate something for the graduates. Ms. Hunsicker stated she spoke with Ms. Feight and the banners should cost below \$1,000. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded Ms. Hunsicker to purchase, design and erect two banners one at the intersection of Norristown Road and Bethlehem Pike and one at the corner of the BMW Dealership. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Ms. McNeely stated her heart goes out to those who lost love ones in the pandemic. She stated we need to help our community understand what is happening with voting in the primary and also encourage people to complete the Census 2020. Mr. McAnally stated polling places for the June 2 primary only will be held at the Wissahickon High School. Ms. Duckett stated three precincts (1-1, 1-3, 2-1) will vote at the Wissahickon High School and three precincts (1-2, 1-4, 2-2) will vote at the Wissahickon Administration Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole B. Culbreth

Assistant Secretary