

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Kathleen Hunsicker

STAFF:

Craig T. McAnally, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Carole Culbreth, Assistant Secretary
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Ken Amey, Zoning Officer
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Tom Speers, Esq., Interim Solicitor
Jim Hersh, Township Engineer
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. which is being held virtually in ZOOM and is being audio recorded. He led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. He stated the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session tonight on a personnel issue.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: July 28, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the July 28, 2020 meeting minutes. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the July 28, 2020 minutes. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Receipt of Year-to-Date Budget Report and Balance Sheet, July, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the Year-to-Date Budget Report and Balance Sheet, for July, 2020. Mr. Wilson stated revenues increased by \$592,936. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to accept the Year-to-Date Budget Report and Balance Sheet for July, 2020. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Receipt of Invoice History, July, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the Invoice History for July, 2020. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to accept the Invoice History for July, 2020 in the amount of \$462,950.29. The motion passed 4 - 0.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Ordinance No. 524: Vacating Meetinghouse Road

Petition for Road Vacation and Agreement for Vacation of Portion of Meetinghouse Road

Mr. Stein stated the Township can accept the Petition for Road Vacation and the Agreement for Vacation of Portion of Meetinghouse Road filed by Foulkeways. He stated this is a Public Hearing and the Public Notice has been advertised in the Reporter Newspaper, and the Board can hear testimony from the applicant. This road is no longer being used as a public roadway and is adjacent to Foulkeways. Ms. Pionzio stated this is the left-over portion after Meetinghouse Road had been relocated by PennDOT. She stated Foulkeways owns the property on either side of Old Meetinghouse Road. She stated Foulkeways will continue to allow access to the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company who utilizes this portion of Old Meetinghouse Road in order to get to their substation. She stated Foulkeways executed a 20-year lease with 5-year renewals guaranteeing North Penn Volunteer Fire Company's rights to the substation. Mr. Brandt stated years ago when Foulkeways did that relocation they increased their resident capacity. He stated at that time the Township wanted an agreement with Foulkeways for a piece of property next to new Meetinghouse Road for both the fire company and especially an ambulance for better coverage in that area. He asked if there is a piece of property for the Township for an ambulance and the fire building. Ms. Pionzio said that fell apart, but the idea is a positive one. She stated Foulkeways wanted to lock North Penn Volunteer Fire Company into a lease. She stated we can talk about the property on the other side of Meetinghouse Road later. Mr. Woodrow stated Foulkeways did not own the land it was leased from the Quaker Meetinghouse. Mr. McAnally stated he will set up a meeting in September with Foulkeways and the Emergency Management Services Committee to discuss land for a new firehouse. Mr. Brandt said this has been on the back burner for 15 years, but Foulkeways continues to ask the Township for building expansion for their benefit. The Chair stated we are not giving up, and Foulkeways will need an ongoing relationship with the Township. Mr. Brandt stated he is disappointed the past history is not in consideration. The Chair asked for comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to adopt Ordinance No. 524: Vacating Meetinghouse Road. The motion passed 3 Ayes (Duckett, McNeely, Grey) - 1 Nay (Brandt).

Petition for Road Vacation and Agreement for Vacation of Portion of Meetinghouse Road

Mr. Stein stated the Agreement between Foulkeways and Lower Gwynedd is appended to the Petition for Road Vacation. Ms. Duckett asked why we need to specify we will not ask for the portion of property back. Mr. Stein stated because the statute permits the Township to make this vacation permanent. Ms. Duckett stated regarding Mr. Brandt's above comments if we did not approve wouldn't this give the township leverage. Mr. Brandt said Foulkeways gets movement for development but let's get movement for safety with an ambulance and fire station. Mr. Twersky commented the next time Foulkeways comes in asking the Township for something that needs to be addressed, the Township can then address this EMS issue. Ms. Duckett stated if we process this today Foulkeways understands clearly that the next time Foulkeways come before the Board the EMS issue of an ambulance and fire station will be addressed. Ms. Pionzio stated Foulkeways is committed to the EMS issue. Ms. McNeely questioned if we still have access to the firehouse. Ms. Pionzio said yes,

North Wales Volunteer Fire Company has a guaranteed access to the fire station. Ms. Duckett asked if we do not approve this tonight, does that insure we will address the EMS issue immediately. Mr. McAnally stated he has a commitment with Foulkeways and NPVFC to meet in September to discuss this issue. Mr. Grey asked the Board to proceed with the Agreement because the issues are not connected. Mr. Brandt is disappointed the past history is not in consideration. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to enter into the Agreement for the Vacation of a Portion of Meetinghouse Road. The motion passed 3 ayes (McNeely, Duckett, Grey) - 1 nay (Brandt).

Resolution No. 2020 - 17: Foulkeways Residential "S" Unit Expansion - 4 New Buildings Consisting of 7 New Units

Mr. Amey explained that Foulkeways at Gwynedd is the owner and developer of a tract of land consisting of 117± acres situate in Lower Gwynedd Township with frontage on DeKalb Pike and Sunneytown Pike, Evans Road and Meetinghouse Road. He stated Foulkeways proposes to consolidate five (5) parcels and construct four (4) new residential buildings, which adds seven (7) additional units to the Property with improvements which include paved access drives, pervious parking areas, concrete sidewalk and re-alignment of the existing trail. He stated the runoff from the proposed improvements will be controlled utilizing the pervious pavement, and underground storage basin and rain garden. He stated the Residential "S" Unit Expansion - 4 New Buildings Consisting of 7 New Units development were reviewed by the Montgomery County Planning Commission, the Lower Gwynedd Township Planning Commission along with the Township Engineer and the Township Traffic Engineer and these reviews were incorporated into the resolution. Ms. Pionzio stated the gaps in the trail system have been connected and trees and plantings will be tracked. Ms. Duckett asked if the plantings are invasive species. Mr. Hersh stated his office will oversee and not allow invasive species. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to adopt Resolution No. 2020 - 17 Foulkeways at Gwynedd Residential "S" Units Expansion Preliminary/Final Land Development Approval. The motion passed 4 - 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of Interim Tax Collector

This item was tabled.

Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector

This item was tabled.

Authorize Approval of Road Maintenance Project - Ultra-thin Bonded Wearing Course

Mr. McAnally stated the total road program for 2020 was estimated at \$624,594, and we reduced the road program to the base bid only at \$373,009.45. He stated in the second phase of the road program, the Township planned to do more "road maintenance" in the form of ultra-thin bond wearing on several roadways to prevent cracking and deterioration on eight roadways (Llewellyn, Annasmead, Llannfair, Baker, Radcliff, Foulke, Marion, Norma). He stated there are two alternate roads (Arbor,

Foxfield) for a total of 10 roads. He stated the Ultra-thin Bonded Wearing Course will save money over 8 – 10 years before a full mill and overlay is needed. He stated the cost for the 10 roads is \$234,985.17. The total 2020 Road Program is \$607,994.62 which is \$16,599.38 under budget. He asked for a motion to include the above ten roads in the Ultra-thin Bond Wearing Course for a total of \$234,985.17. He noted this is a state contract with Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC which Whitpain Township had selected and negotiated pricing which will expire the end of 2020. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the Road Maintenance Project – Ultra-thin Bonded Wearing Course for 10 roads for a total of \$234,985.17. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Contribute to Fire Companies: North Wales Volunteer Fire Company and Wissahickon Fire Company

Mr. McAnally stated \$118,450 has been budgeted for 2020 as a contribution to the North Wales Volunteer Fire Company and the Wissahickon Fire Company. He stated the budgeted amount will be divided 30% to North Wales Volunteer Fire Company and 70% to Wissahickon Fire Company. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt asked if supervisors can explore to go beyond this contribution for any resident of Lower Gwynedd Township that is a fire volunteer of North Penn Volunteer Fire Company or Wissahickon Fire Company and give them some sort of tax incentive. The Chair asked if there is a volunteer program for active service of fire volunteers. Mr. McAnally stated Mr. Garrity’s office wrote a memo on this issue and he will include in this week’s Manager’s Report. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve \$118,450 to be disbursed 30% to North Wales Volunteer Fire Company and 70% to Wissahickon Fire Company. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Authorize Letter of Financial Support for North Penn Volunteer Fire Company (NPVFC) RCAP Grant Application

Mr. McAnally stated in 2017 and 2018 the Township provided a letter of Financial Support for North Penn Volunteer Fire Company for up to \$400,000 if they receive the RCAP Grant Application. He stated they did not receive the RCAP Grant in 2017 and 2018, but are hoping with the Township’s support they may receive RCAP Grant funding for 2020. He stated the grant is in the amount of \$1.3 million for the grant, and the Township would provide \$400,000, and the grant would be \$400,000, and NPVFC would come up with the remainder. The Chair asked for comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNelly to authorize a letter of financial support for the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company RCAP Grant Application in the amount up to \$400,000. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Authorization for Comp Plan Integration into Traisr

Brian Berdel, McMahan Associates, explained that Traisr can be used for stormwater and parcel data. He stated the Comprehensive Plan data can be integrated into Traisr. He stated the Comprehensive Plan can be viewed real time live by the supervisors and employees, and can change over time. Mr. McAnally stated the Comp Plan Integration into Traisr has been budgeted for 2020. He stated permits and the GIS will be connected. Ms. Duckett asked if it is a software tool and can the narrative be updated. Mr. Berdel replied the narrative and data can be updated. The Chair asked if there were any

comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to authorize the Integration of the Comp Plan into Traisr in the amount of \$36,900 with the option of data integration. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Authorization for Website Upgrade

Ms. Wornan stated she and Mr. McAnally met with Bill Swartz to discuss the upgrade and refresh of the website. She stated the upgrade will cost \$2,400 per year and the current website program will be phased out. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to authorize the Website Upgrade. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Approval of Master Casting Agreement

Mr. McAnally stated the Master Casting Agreement is a nine-year agreement with PennDOT for State Roads. He stated PennDOT will be responsible for replacing manholes, and the Township will pay PennDOT the cost of the replaced manholes. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the Master Casting Agreement. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Resolution No. 2020 - 18: Authorization to Sign Master Casting Agreement

Mr. McAnally stated the above resolution is for authorization to sign the above Master Casting Agreement. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to adopt Resolution No. 2020-18: Authorization to Sign Master Casting Agreement. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Approval of Hussa v. Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeal

Mr. Stein stated the above assessment appeal was turn down, but a settlement was reach, and needs the Board of Supervisors approval. He stated he will enter into a stipulation on behalf of the Township. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the Hussa v. Montgomery County Board of Assessment Appeal. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Authorization to Advertise Bids for Paving Penn Ambler Park

Mr. McAnally stated that DEP has requested the Township seal areas of the Penn Ambler Parking Lot, and he asked for authorization to go to bid. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to authorize advertisement of bids for the Paving of Penn Ambler Park. The motion carried 4 - 0.

Authorization to Purchase AV Equipment

Ms. Worman stated she contacted Delco Solutions and they answered the Boards questions regarding a service agreement which includes unlimited phone and 24-hour service technician. They emphasis the ease of use of their equipment. She stated there is a 5-year technology warranty and equipment warranties from the manufacturer and the cost is \$55,518. The budgeted amount was \$15,475. Ms. Duckett wanted to make sure this includes the Platinum Protection. Ms. Worman stated that will be under the yearly cost. The Chair asked for comments. There were none. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to authorize the purchase of AV Equipment. The motion passed 4 - 0.

EAC Request to Purchase Lithium Battery Container as Part of the Battery Recycling Program in the Amount of \$79.95

The Chair stated the Environmental Advisory Council is requesting approval of \$79.95 to Purchase a Lithium Battery Container as part of the Battery Recycling Program. He asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the purchase of a Lithium Battery Container in the amount of \$79.95. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Authorize and Approve a Pollinator Garden for the EAC

Brenda Doll, former member of the EAC, explained that a pollinator garden consists of plants and flowers for bees, birds and butterflies. She stated this is educational and provides PR for the EAC. She stated the planting of native plants will take place in late September, early October. Mr. McAnally questioned bees close to bathrooms and snack bar. Ms. Doll replied they are not stinging bees. The Chair asked for Township staff and the Park and Recreation Department to work out the safety issues. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to authorize and approve a Pollinator Garden for the EAC. The motion passed 4 - 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Joan Zeller, 420 Brookside Avenue, stated Ambler Yards met with residents on March 10, 2020 and August 7, 2020 regarding proposed apartments or a proposed medical building on their site. She has a petition in opposition to the apartment complex or medical building with many signatures. Mr. McAnally asked Ms. Zeller to send the petition to him.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager - Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally stated the Park and Recreation Board is requesting to change their monthly Board meetings from the 4th Tuesday to the 3rd Tuesday of the month which will start in October. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the change of the Park and Recreation Board meeting schedule to the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting in October. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Mr. McAnally stated the Veterans Day Subcommittee is looking for a recommendation on the Veterans Day Ceremony. The Chair stated he and Mr. McAnally will meet and come up with a recommendation.

Mr. McAnally welcomed Fred Zollers as the Public Works Director. Mr. Zollers thanked the Board for the opportunity.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Mr. Brandt asked staff to look into a proposal for an electronic sign at Bethlehem Pike and Penllyn Blue Bell Pike. The Chair asked staff for recommendations. Mr. McAnally stated the electronic sign will be budgeted for 2021.

Ms. Duckett thanked staff and those participating in tonight's meeting.

The Chair thanked Tom Speers for filling in as Interim Solicitor. Mr. Speer's thanked the Board for the opportunity.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for September 8, 2020 which will be held virtually on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth
Assistant Secretary