

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Fred Zollers, Public Works Director
Chuck Wilson, Finance Director

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. virtually on ZOOM and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. The Chair welcomed everyone. He mentioned the passing of Betty Lou Yost, 82 years of age, and Township Tax Collector for 31 years. He stated Betty Lou lived in the Township since 1968.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: October 19, 2020 and October 27, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the October 19, 2020 and October 27, 2020 meeting minutes. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to approve the October 19, 2020 and October 27, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorization to Advertise Draft 2021 Budget

Mr. McAnally asked the Board for authorization to advertise the Draft 2021 Budget for public inspection. He stated it is required to be available for 20 days before the December 8, 2020 meeting when the proposed budget will be presented for adoption. He stated it will be advertised on the website and in The Reporter tomorrow. Mr. McAnally gave the following highlights of the draft 2021 Budget:

- **No tax increase**
- **No Sewer usage fee increase**
- **Revenues expected to exceed expenditures by \$186,114**
- **\$1,780,214 fund balance budget from six of the twelve funds**

Ms. Duckett had raised a few questions at the October 19, 2020 meeting and asked when she can expect follow-up. She stated she asked specifically for the Penllyn Park and the basketball court cost to be separated out. Mr. McAnally stated he had a follow-up for three items: 1) Cedar Hill trail paving costs is \$50,000, and adding more stone to the trail cost is \$20,000 with costs coming from the maintenance and

general fund; 2) after reviewing the amphitheater stone wall at Penn Ambler Park it was determined the wall was constructed with the correct high quality stone but needs support on the backside of the wall. He stated the Township can hire someone to set the stone correctly, and use the Public Works Department to complete the project 3) the basketball courts at Penllyn Park were examined by the Township Engineer and there are different opinions on the method of fixing the court repairs. He noted both the Engineer's method and the original method are at \$250,000 so we will keep that number.

Ms. Duckett questioned how many Radar Speed Signs will be purchased. Chief Kenny stated he is looking into how many we actually need. Chief Kenny spoke with Chad Dixon, Traffic Engineer who indicated there is no data, but a review of past accidents revealed the cause was not speeding. He stated distracted drivers are the cause of most accidents. He stated a report will be forthcoming. He stated there is no formula to determine how many radar speed signs the Township needs. He stated he is reluctant to buy more than two in one year because of warranties expiring at the same time. Chief Kenny stated speed signs are a temporary tool to be used for three months at a time which would cover eight streets in a year using two radar signs. The Chair asked if Chief Kenny will come back with a recommendation. He asked Chief Kenny if we can mitigate distracted drivers. Chief Kenny stated nothing is available for distracted driving. Chief Kenny stated the Police Department is constantly looking at pinpoints of accidents in the Township. Ms. Duckett asked if accidents are the barometer to measure speeding. Chief Kenny stated we are constantly battling the perception of speed. Ms. Duckett asked if the radar signs mitigate that. Chief Kenny answered no. Chief Kenny stated we do collect the data from the radar speed signs. Mr. Brandt stated heading southbound on Bethlehem Pike is an issue along with Houston Road and Dager Road. Ms. McNeely stated she agrees with Ms. Duckett in regard to bringing down speeding in Township. Ms. Duckett questioned removeable speed bumps. Chief Kenny stated he will have a report to the Board by Friday with causes and locations of accidents. Ms. Duckett also asked for data on speeding tickets issued. Chief Kenny stated speeding tickets in Pennsylvania are difficult because we cannot use radar. He stated speed bumps are a plowing issue and no one wants it in front of their house. Chief Kenny stated possibly the Township can buy two Radar Speed Signs in January and then two in June. The Chair stated we should buy two initially. Ms. Duckett stated she would like additional feedback from the community. Chief Kenny said he will work on that. Mr. McAnally asked for questions from the public. Ms. Schaeffer asked where will the speed signs go; can a speed bump be installed on Penllyn Pike? She said it is always a challenge to get to the trails because of speed on Penllyn Pike. The Chair suggested a powerline push button to cross the street. Ms. Schaeffer also suggested flashing lights as a remedy for pedestrian crossing. Ms. Hunsicker agreed. Mr. McAnally stated he will contact our Traffic Engineer and get options.

Ms. McNeely asked for feedback from Mr. Amey on the Bethlehem Baptist Church sign. Mr. McAnally stated the Zoning Hearing Board approved this sign, but he will check with Mr. Amey.

Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to authorize the advertisement of the draft 2021 Budget. The motion passed 5 - 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment for items not on the agenda. There were none.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager – Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally stated the Veterans Day Committee is having a wreath laying at Veterans Park and Wissahickon High School on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month of the eleventh day. He stated everyone is invited. He stated that will be at 11:00 o'clock tomorrow.

He stated Township offices will be closed in observance of Veterans Day.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Mr. Brandt stated Ms. Feight and Mr. Zollers do not think pickleball will work at Penn Ambler Park. He stated there's an easement. He stated Oxford Park may be an option because at Penllyn Park it would be noisy for residents

Ms. McNeely asked the Board members to review the Communications RFQ and move forward with the communications interviews. The Chair stated we will meet in Executive Committee to discuss.

Ms. Duckett received feedback from residents regarding the new trash hauler. She asked if this is the same contract as Waste Management. She heard the new service is not allowed to give out additional receptacles. She asked for clarification. Ms. Worman stated they will provide an additional trash bin; however, it may be an older receptacle. Ms. Duckett asked for a strategic plan for community development, and how we can move forward with that strategic plan.

The Chair stated he also received calls on the new hauler. He stated residents do not understand the new billing rates. Ms. Worman said most of the calls are asking when Waste Management is picking up their bins. Ms. Hunsicker thanked Ms. Worman for her great customer service on this issue.

Mr. Brandt question Mr. Stein on Ambler Water. Mr. Stein said nothing new and we have a meeting with the judge in three weeks.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on November 24, 2020 virtually on ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth
Assistant Secretary