

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024**

SUPERVISORS:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin
Tessie McNeely
Jimmy Chong

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Office Manager – absent (minutes completed through recording)
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Jim Hersh, Township Engineer, Gilmore
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer, Bowman Company
Melinda Haldeman – Finance Director
John Farrell – Project Manager

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting as well as on April 23, 2024, to discuss matters of real estate and litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carmina Taylor, a former resident of Lower Gwynedd Township attended via zoom to ask for an update regarding the Historic Marker for the Penllyn School. Ms. Taylor was hoping the marker would be up to honor Walter Moore, a resident of Penllyn and his family. Mr. Moore has been ill and in rehab, so she fears he will not get to see the marker. Ms. Martin replied that the language is being worked on by the Historic Advisory Committee (HAC) and they hope to be done soon. The HAC is responsible for drafting the language and then the BOS will approve it.

Ms. Taylor also wanted to know why there was no public involvement for the marker at Bethlehem Baptist Church. The supervisors explained that the marker posted is temporary. It was installed for the

Church's anniversary celebration. Once the permanent marker is ready to be installed the community will be involved.

The HAC is preparing for the Speaker Event on June 4th. They are currently meeting every other month as they research information to review with the group.

GENERAL BUSINESS

PRESENTATION: Emergency Management in Lower Gwynedd

Mr. Farrell presented the updated Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) to the BOS. Mr. Farrell discussed the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). These systems indicate who oversees supporting the emergency response. These assignments have already been done internally.

Mr. Farrell then reviewed the Basic EOP. This plan indicates the procedures that will be taken to protect the lives and property of Township residents and businesses in the event of a natural or human-caused emergency or disaster. The plan indicates all the activities that will take place in the emergency management cycle. These activities include prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery phases. Mr. Farrell explained that the BOS are responsible for allocating resources, agreements for support and declaring emergencies. The County gets involved when the emergency or disaster is beyond our resources or expands across multiple municipalities. Mr. Farrell stated that after an emergency or disaster occurs the last steps are damage reporting, debris removal and recovery.

Mr. Farrell then introduced Ready Montco, a program that sends alerts about severe weather, emergencies or disasters and other important events within Montgomery County. Residents can sign up online for the types of alerts they would like to receive. Information regarding this will be shared on the township website and social media.

Resolution #2024-16 Approval of updated Emergency Operations Plan

Resolution #2024-16 will approve, adopt, and place into immediate effect the Emergency Operation Plan that was just presented to the BOS by Mr. Farrell. The resolution requires the plan to be reviewed every two years to ensure conformity with all requirements. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve Resolution #2024-16 approving the Emergency Operations Plan. Motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATION: Stormwater Management Strategic Plan by Township Engineer

Mr. Hersh gave a presentation on a strategic plan for handling stormwater management. The township obligations are to comply with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements and Pollution Reduction Plan, maintain existing facilities and participate in the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership. The purpose of this is to study the flood prone areas, control the stormwater on township property, and design, construct and maintain new infrastructure. Mr. Hersh explained the six Minimum Control Measures the Township is responsible for complying with, as well as the DEP required Water Quality Improvements. Lower Gwynedd has a small portion of property that is in the

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Neshaminy Creek watershed. We are looking to partner with J& J for a Riparian Restoration/Enhancement and Streambank Stabilization in this Little Neshaminy Creek Watershed area. We will be applying for a DCED Watershed Restoration Protection grant. We would apply for the grant and J&J would grant us an easement for the work.

There have already been several meetings for this strategic plan with staff and the community to gather information regarding problem areas within the township. Mr. Hersh provided a map indicating eight areas with drainage issues. These areas included McKean Road, Brookside Avenue, the Penllyn area, Willow Run and Stonington Circle. Mr. Hersh reviewed the issues and possible solutions for these areas. He included the work already planned for the Brookside Avenue/Houston Creek Flood study previously completed.

There was a discussion about the flooding in the Penllyn/Ingersoll Park area. The roads in the area have no inlets, so flooding occurs during larger storms. There are grants we can apply for to complete a study in this portion of the township. Developments affect stormwater downstream from them, but all developments require stormwater agreements to be in place. We cannot change those agreements, but we can make sure they are being maintained. We can only work on one plan at a time; therefore, the BOS will need to prioritize the areas to be worked on.

The preliminary recommendations are to pursue the partnership with J&J for the Neshaminy Creek Watershed, continue implementation of the Houston Creek Study recommendations, budget money yearly for TV inspections of older storm pipes to identify potential issues, consider grant funding for a specific study of the Penllyn neighborhood, plan and design roadway drainage improvements to coincide with resurfacing schedule, incorporate stormwater management into the Park and Recreation projects, and continue the work necessary to stay in compliance with the MS4 requirements.

Review of Financial Report for March 2024

Ms. Martin had some questions regarding the ARPA funds and how they were being allocated. There was an additional question regarding the fund balance and the cash balance. They asked Ms. Haldeman to clarify the difference between the two for clarification. Ms. McNeely asked if line items are being combined, as there was a previous conversation regarding implementing this during budget conversations. Ms. Haldeman said this is being discussed with the finance committee. Ms. Duckett had questions about Recreation. Ms. Haldeman explained that this fund typically runs in the red until funds are transferred over.

Authorization to advertise an amendment to Title IV, Street and Sidewalk Areas, of the Township Code to add regulations regarding driveways, sidewalk and curb construction and repair, and road opening permits and restoration

Staff is proposing an ordinance that will create a new chapter to establish permitting requirements, construction standards, roadway drainage requirements, maintenance, restoration, repair, and other regulations pertaining to driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Staff request permission to advertise this

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ordinance amendment. Ms. Duckett made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment, seconded by Ms. Martin. Motion 5-0.

Review of Township Engineer's Report - April 2024

Mr. Hersh provided the Engineer's report for April of 2024. There were no questions or comments.

Review of Traffic Engineer's Report - April 2024

Mr. Dixon provided the traffic engineer's report for April of 2024. There were no questions or comments.

Approval of Invoice Report

The BOS was provided with the invoice report for checks totaling \$374,773.69 dated April 30, 2024. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chong, to approve the invoice warrant report. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of minutes - April 9, 2024

The BOS received the minutes from the April 9, 2024, BOS meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the meeting minutes from April 9, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

The BOS received the Liaison Reports for both the Environmental Advisory Council and the Parks and Recreation Department. There were no questions or comments.

Ms. McNeely spoke about the EAC Speaker event held on April 24th. She stated that the CACE benefits homeowners and non-profits by improving the energy used in the home. There are also tax credits for High Efficiency appliances.

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Dixon provided an update on the Spring House Intersection. The utility work is done, as well as the stormwater facilities, except for the pipe replacement previously discussed. All required excavation is complete. There has been some frustration with traffic, but adjustments have been made to the signal to address the concerns. PECO has unfortunately started utility pole work making driving more difficult. We have spoken with them and asked them not to start any work prior to 9am.

Ms. Gleason mentioned that there was a meeting with the residents of Brookside Avenue at Ambler Yards. There were questions about the flood study. Ambler Yards answered questions about upcoming events on the premises. Ambler Yards has also agreed to set up small group discussions in the future with the neighbors to discuss events.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. McNeely congratulated the Wissahickon Valley Library on their 100th anniversary. She thanked Mary Claghorn, our Representative, for all her work. Ms. McNeely mentioned she enjoys seeing all

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the posts on Instagram. She then thanked Mr. Hersh for his presentation. The EAC has been pushing for a Stormwater Strategic Plan. Last, she thanked Santino, the Assistant Public Works director for helping her neighbor the week before.

Ms. Martin thanked those that helped with the recent trail clean up events. Next year we will be looking to partner with the Wissahickon Trails.

Mr. Chong thanked Chief Kenny and the officers for handling a situation near his home involving a violent individual roaming the trails.

Mr. Twersky told residents to be careful if walking near the Ingersoll House as a snake has been spotted and it is believed to be a copperhead.

Ms. Duckett thanked staff and residents for attending the meetings for the Penllyn community and the Brookside Avenue meeting at Ambler Yards.

Adjournment

Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully

Michelle Farzetta

Office Manager